



October 2024

Sunday Services in October

6 th	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship with Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	All Saints	Informal Worship
13 th	9am	St Mark's	Morning Prayer
	10am	All Saints	Morning Worship with breakfast
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship with Communion
20 th	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship with Communion
	10am	All Saints	Morning Worship with breakfast
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship with Communion
	2.30pm	Woodgate Hub Café	Sundays at the Hub
27 th	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship with Communion
	10am	All Saints	Morning Worship with breakfast
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship with Communion

Weekly services are taking place at our churches, and **everyone is welcome**. Our current plans are as published here, but they are subject to change. Please look out for email communication, and keep an eye on our social media pages, website, YouTube channel and weekly notice sheet.

The St Mary's services are put onto YouTube, and we hope they will be a blessing to those who still cannot attend in person. They can be found here:

https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCBQOW4r1m39ixogQWR3TxoA?fbclid=IwAR2vLqbms97lq9StSwn8qvgX_vTF11-tg0LV7z80cVFC8BZE034WNbNHhc4

Or search for: United Benefice of St Mary's and St Mark's.

You can subscribe to the sermons as a podcast too. All links are on the website at <https://www.stmarysparish.org.uk/podcasts/>.

Other Events

October

2 nd	10.30am	All Saints	Community Coffee Morning
2 nd	2pm	St Mark's	Ashes interment
2 nd	7pm	All Saints	Prayer gathering
3 rd	12pm	St Mary's	Burial
3 rd	2pm	St Mary's	Michaelmas retreat space
4 th	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
4 th	8pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
5 th	10am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
5 th	4pm	St Mary's	Ashes interment
7 th	7pm	St Mary's	Prayer for Loiyangalani Trust
7 th	7pm	All Saints	Youth Club
11 th	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
11 th	8pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
12 th	10am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
14 th	7pm	All Saints	Youth Club
18 th	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
18 th	8pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
19 th	10am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
19 th	1pm	St Mark's	Wedding
21 st	7pm	All Saints	Youth Club
21 st	8pm	Rectory	St Mark's Standing Committee meeting
25 th	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
25 th	7.30pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
26 th	10am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
26 th	5pm	St Mary's	Slaugham Society event
31 st	TBC	All Saints	Messy Church Light Party TBC

November

1 st	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
1 st	8pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
2 nd	10am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
4 th	7pm	All Saints	Youth Club
6 th	10.30am	All Saints	Community Coffee Morning
6 th	7pm	All Saints	Prayer gathering
7 th	4.30pm	St Mary's	Slaugham Society event
8 th	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
8 th	7.30pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
9 th	10am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
9 th	2pm	St Mark's	Ashes interment

Please contact the church office for details, or you can contact the following people about our regular events.

Community Pantry & Café: Barbara Butfoy at butfoybabs@hotmail.co.uk

Youth Club: Phil Hawksley at philhawksley@westwealdparish.org.uk

All Saints: Horsham Road, Handcross, RH17 6DF

St Mark's: Brantridge Lane, Staplefield, RH17 6EJ

St Mary's: Staplefield Road, Slaugham, RH17 6AG

Woodgate Hub: Grace Holand Avenue, Pease Pottage, RH11 9SL

All details are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change.

Harvest Reset

I do love this time of year – the beauty of the autumn colours, the tangible sense of it being a new season, the slightly cooler weather and the bringing in of the Harvest. In our church calendars, Harvest can be celebrated any time during the months of September or October, and having five primary schools in our parish means I will be singing ‘Cauliflowers Fluffy’ for many more weeks to come!

But like all the other church festivals, Harvest allows us to have a bit of a reset on some of the things that we can easily fall out of the habit of doing. The three major themes of this time of year are:

1. Giving thanks for the Harvest – acknowledging the gifts that come from God,
2. Thanking those who work hard to provide the food that we eat,
3. Being mindful of those who have less than we do.

But the reality is that these are things that we could and perhaps should be doing all the time, but sometimes life gets so busy, we get so distracted or can become so inwardly focused that we forget to do these things. I know that there are many things that I often take for granted in life, many joys that can go unnoticed or unacknowledged.

But Harvest can be a reminder to us of how important these things are – and they are all summed up in the concept of gratitude.

Gratitude is described in the dictionary as ‘the state of being grateful’. True gratitude therefore is not an occasional thing that we do but is a part of who we are. For the Christian, it’s not just about asking God to help us to remember to say ‘thank you’, but to *be* people who are grateful in our core being. To not take His gifts or His people for granted. To acknowledge that all that is good in this world comes from Him.

[continued overleaf]

It's funny how often scientific discoveries seem to reveal what God has always known. Recent studies have shown that being intentional about gratitude actually makes changes to our brain and the way we think, which in turn makes a difference to who we become. Or in other words:

'Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with **thanksgiving**, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.'

(Philippians 4:6-7)

So, may this Harvest be a reset for you, if you need one, to remind you to not only be thankful but to live with an attitude of gratitude in your everyday life – even when the songs about fluffy cauliflowers come to an end for another year.

Grace and Peace,

Rev'd Carl (Rector of West Weald Parish Churches)

West Weald Community Pantry and Café

The Pantry was set up and is run by the churches in our Parish: All Saints in Handcross, St Mary's in Slaugham and St Mark's in Staplefield. Pease Pottage, Woodgate and Warninglid are also in the parish. We offer weekly provisions of food to those within the parishes who are in need of help and support.

We invite anyone in need to get in touch via our rector Rev'd Carl Smith at handcrossrectory@gmail.com or on 01444 400221. You are very welcome to call in to All Saints on a Saturday morning between 10 and 11.30am. Stay for free tea, coffee and biscuits, and chat to someone on our friendly team.

You can donate non-perishable items at:

- Handcross Hardware & Craft in the High Street.
- All Saints Church on a Saturday morning.
- St Mark's Church in Staplefield.
- St Mary's Church in Slaugham.
- The Victory Inn in Staplefield.

Financial donations can also be made: cash, marked 'Pantry', to the hardware shop, or by BACS (sort code 40-24-33, account 22095041, account name Slaugham Parochial Church Council Pantry Account).

If you would like to be a donation point for collection, or need any other information, then please get in touch. For any Pantry questions, please contact Barbara Butfoy at butfoybabs@hotmail.co.uk or on 07853 228605. Thank you.

Our Bible verses for 2024

When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats.

Luke 5:6-7

West Weald Schools Team

Please pray for Carl and the team as they undertake the vital work in our schools, as well as for the staff and pupils.

Regular assemblies are:

Mondays 11am Brantridge

Tuesday 9am St Mark's Primary

Our local schools and headteachers are: Brantridge (Mr Dafydd Roberts), Handcross Park (Mr Jonnie Besley), Handcross Primary (Mrs Sharon Bondonno), St Mark's CofE Primary (Mrs Laura Kelsey) and Woodgate Primary (Mrs Sarah Neller).

Regular Notices

Hardship Fund

Financial support is available from the Hardship Fund if you or someone you know (living in the benefice) is in need. Forms can be collected from the hardware shop. If you cannot go out, please email Carl (handcrossrectory@gmail.com) and he will send a form electronically.

Gift Aid

Claiming Gift Aid on donations to our churches provides an important contribution to our income. If you are eligible under Gift Aid rules, please make sure Jan (our treasurer) know. Regular giving is most efficient via the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) so please consider using that if you do not so do already. Please speak to Jan or Fae to know more.

Sunday service refreshments

At St Mark's, drinks are available after the service on the second Sunday of the month (and also sometimes the fourth).

At St Mary's, drinks are available after the service on most Sundays.

Parking at St Mary's

If you park in the car park for a Sunday morning service and are blocking in another car, please put a note in your car window to say who you are and that you are in church. This will make it easier (and much less stressful!) to identify who needs to move if anyone's car is trapped. Thank you.

New Sunday Service Pattern

As the ministry at All Saints is becoming more established, we are in the process of reviewing the services we offer at All Saints for people in Handcross and the wider parish.

From September, we will be trying out a new service pattern at All Saints, plus a monthly evening service, which will be as follows.

1st Sunday of each month:

No morning service at All Saints.

6.30pm Parish-Wide Informal Worship (open to all, and venue will change each month to allow all churches to host).

2nd, 3rd and 4th Sunday of each month:

10am Breakfast Church / Morning Worship at All Saints.

5th Sunday (where applicable)

Parish-Wide Sunday (venues to be arranged each time).

Sundays at the Hub in Pease Pottage will continue to take place once a month on Sunday afternoons (see dates above).

All other services across the parish remain the same.

Our aim is to trial this new pattern until Christmas and then review again before the start of the new year.

CONTACT

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(term time only)

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Churchwardens

St Mary's

St Mark's

Colin Tomlinson

Helen Arnold

Website: www.westwealdparish.org.uk

Facebook: West Weald Parish | Facebook

