



November 2024

Sunday Services in November

3 rd	10.30am	St Mary's	Parish-wide Worship with Communion, followed by bring-&-share lunch
	6.30pm	All Saints	Informal Worship
10 th	10am	St Mark's, then Staplefield War Memorial	Remembrance Service
	10am	All Saints	Morning Worship with breakfast
17 th	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship with Communion
	10am	All Saints	Morning Worship with breakfast
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship
	2.30pm	Woodgate Hub Café	Sundays at the Hub
24 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/UCBQ0W4r1m39ixogQWR3TxoA?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

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
8 th	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
8 th	8pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
9 th	10am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
9 th	2pm	St Mark's	Ashes interment
11 th	10.45am	Staplefield	Act of Remembrance at War Memorial
11 th	7pm	All Saints	Youth Club
12 th	1pm	All Saints	Crochet & handicraft group
15 th	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
15 th	8pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
16 th	10am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
17 th	3pm	Chichester Cathedral	Evensong (Great is Thy Faithfulness parishes)
18 th	7pm	All Saints	Youth Club
18 th	8pm	St Mary's	PCC meeting
22 nd	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
22 nd	8pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
23 rd	10am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
24 th	3pm	St Mary's	Concert in aid of St Catherine's Hospice
25 th	7pm	All Saints	Youth Club
26 th	1pm	All Saints	Crochet & handicraft group
29 th	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
29 th	7.30pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
30 th	10am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café

December

2 nd	7pm	All Saints	Youth Club
4 th	tbc	St Mary's	Mustard Seed lunch
4 th	7pm	All Saints	Prayer gathering
6 th	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
6 th	7.30pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
7 th	10am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
7 th	4.30pm	St Mary's	Slaugham Society event

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.

Music for St Catherine's

an eclectic mix of lighthearted, romantic, thought provoking, humorous and seasonal

*at St Mary's Church, Slaugham
The Green, Slaugham, West Sussex, RH17 6AG
on Sunday 24th November 2024 at 3pm*

*Tickets - £15 on the door (refreshments included)
with all proceeds going to St Catherine's Hospice*

Performers - Helen Arnold, Philip Harradine Robinson, Helen Hardwick, Warren Shattles

IN AID OF
ST CATHERINE'S
HOSPICE



Registered charity number 281362 and as a company in England 1525404

Hope of the Nations

As we enter the season of remembrance, we remember those who have given their lives for our freedom. In our own small villages, I am always struck by the sheer number of names that we read out every Remembrance Day – and it's important that we do, so that they are not forgotten, that their sacrifice is remembered, and we remain thankful.

I always find it amazing when hearing stories from those two world wars of people holding on to their faith, of showing kindness and compassion to others, of choosing to hold on to God in the midst of their despair – Jesus was their source of **hope** in the past!

The world seems to be in a mess today. Every day in the news there seem to be stories of wars that are rolling on and on with no obvious signs of them ending and no obvious human solution to them, and these are just the ones that are still reported in our news. We know there are many conflicts happening in the world today that we don't even hear about, and some countries that have been at war for longer than we can imagine – it can be far too easy to feel overwhelmed by this – to struggle to find hope – but yet, if we look for them, we find that there are still amazing stories in these places of people holding on to faith and hope in the person of Jesus Christ. Still there are those who love Jesus who are risking their lives to help others where they can, of churches growing and people coming to faith. Jesus is their source of **hope** in the present.

And as we look to the future it's hard to know what may come. There is so much fear spread through the media through rumours, conspiracy theories and speculations. And the truth is we don't know what the future holds but we can know the one who holds that future – Jesus will continue to be our source of **hope** in the future.

What you see in all of this, the past, the present and the future – is that Jesus is the only one true constant in life. The only one who can provide true, lasting, life changing **hope**, even in the midst of the worst of circumstances. Or as the author of Hebrews puts it:

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

The world around us will change, will always seem to be in flux, will seem broken, and lacking in **hope**, as it groans and eagerly awaits the revealing of the sons and daughters of God (Romans 8:18-24) – but there is a **hope**, which isn't found in the changing of circumstances but in the person of Jesus. Keep your eyes on Him. Learn to listen to His voice. Read His word. Ask to see and love others the way that He does. Remind yourself regularly of what He says about the future of those who choose Him, and remind yourself of the times you have seen His faithfulness in the past because if He has been faithful before, He is still the same God today so will be faithful again. Hold on to Him, even if just by your fingernails, because without Him there is no **hope**, but in Him is all the **hope** we or a broken world could ever need, and Paul reminds us in Romans that it is in that **hope** that we are saved!

All my hope on God is founded

He doth still my trust renew.

Me through change and chance He guideth

Only good and only true.

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 Jane Moss (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 Jane 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.

Notice sheet distribution

If you do not already receive the notice sheet and other notices by email and you would like to do so, please email Fae at slaugham@btinternet.com.

CONTACT

Rev'd Carl Smith

Rector, West Weald Parish

01444 400221

handcrossrectory@gmail.com

Phil Hawksley

Lay Apostolic Leader, All Saints

philhawksley@westwealdparish.org.uk

Fae Widdowson

Parish Administrator

01444 400221

slaugham@btinternet.com

Office hours: 9am-12pm Monday & Thursday

(term time only)

Helen Arnold

Safeguarding Officer

07540 816170

mrs Helen Arnold@gmail.com

Churchwardens

St Mary's

St Mark's

Colin Tomlinson

Helen Arnold

Website: www.westwealdparish.org.uk

Facebook: West Weald Parish | Facebook

