



February 2025

Sunday Services in February

2 nd	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship with Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	All Saints	Informal Worship
9 th	9am	St Mark's	Morning Prayer
	10am	All Saints	Morning Worship with breakfast
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship with Communion
16 th	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship with Communion
	10am	All Saints	Morning Worship with Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship
23 rd	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

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 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

February

1 st	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
1 st	7pm	St Mary's	Slaugham Society event
3 rd	7pm	All Saints	Youth Club
4 th	1pm	All Saints	Crochet & Handicraft Group
5 th	7pm	All Saints	Prayer gathering
7 th	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
7 th	8pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
8 th	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
10 th	7pm	All Saints	Youth Club
14 th	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
14 th	8pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
15 th	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
18 th	1pm	All Saints	Crochet & Handicraft Group
21 st	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
21 st	8pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
22 nd	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
24 th	7pm	All Saints	Youth Club
28 th	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
28 th	7.30pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice

March

1 st	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
3 rd	7pm	All Saints	Youth Club
4 th	1pm	All Saints	Crochet & Handicraft Group
5 th	6pm	St Mark's	Ash Wednesday service with Communion
7 th	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
7 th	8pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
8 th	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
10 th	7pm	All Saints	Youth Club

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

Welcome Home

What does a welcome home look like to you?

What are the non-negotiables for a place to be a place of welcome?

Warmth? The kindness of others? Familiar people? Good food? Comfort?

Whether we have had experience of a good welcome, or even have had the opposite, we all have ideas of what is essential for a place to be welcoming, a place where we feel comfortable, safe and able to be our true selves.

With that picture in mind, I wonder if 'welcome' or 'home' are two words that you would typically associate with church. For so many people, a negative experience of church, or a perception of church that has been picked up from somewhere, leads them to answer "no" to this.

But let's look briefly at the life of Jesus and the early church. We know that Jesus prioritised people. Most of His time (except for His moments of solitude) was spent with people. Loving them, teaching them, caring for them, healing them and, most importantly, welcoming them. This even included Him welcoming those whom the society had rejected. Many of the Pharisees saw this as a really negative thing and used it against Jesus, but Jesus was showing how counter-cultural the Kingdom of God is.

The early church sought to continue that model, but like all things that are led by humanity, they didn't get it right all of the time. In fact, a huge proportion of the New Testament exists because Paul and others were having to write to churches to point them back to the way of Jesus. But when the church does get it right, when the church is at its best, it can become something that people look to and desire.

When communities are motivated by the love of God which they themselves have received, when they care for those God cares for, when they are led by the Holy Spirit rather than their own desires, then they can become places of welcome for all. They become places of

safety and refuge, places that meet the needs of the most vulnerable, places free of judgement, places of kindness and compassion.

The reality is, however, that they won't be perfect; but equally, no two churches are the same. If you have had a bad experience of a church in past, for example, it would be unfair to assume that all churches would be the same. Equally if you have had an amazing experience of church, it may be unfair to place similar expectations on another.

But in all churches, welcome really matters. In West Weald Parish we are committed to exploring how our churches can be safe and welcoming spaces for worship, discipleship, fellowship and encounters with the risen Jesus. Although we are still learning and growing, I hope that if you come to any of our places of worship, you would feel welcome and maybe even feel like you have come home.

Grace and Peace,

Rev'd Carl





Community Pantry

Free provisions
for the local community
(serving the residents of Handcross, Pease Pottage,
Slaugham, Staplefield & Warninglid)

Food Waste Reduction



Every weekend we partner with FareShare to help reduce food waste.

Come along to the Saturday cafe to help yourself to a selection of fresh and frozen produce.

Referrals

If you are in urgent need of food or provisions then we can help.

Referrals can be made for you to receive regular essential items for a limited time.

Referrals can be made by your GP (Ouse Valley Practice), a child's primary school, selected social & family support workers or the local churches.

Donations

If you would like to support the work of the West Weald Community Pantry then you can do so by making donations.

Non-perishable items can be donated via the wheelie bins located throughout the parish or in any of our churches.

Financial donations can be made via the churches. Please contact us for more information.

Free cafe open every Saturday 9:30am-11:30am
All Saints Church, Handcross

For more information please contact Barbara on
07853 228605
(Mon - Fri 9am - 4pm)

Changes to Handcross Community Pantry

Handcross Community Pantry was established in 2019 and seeks to offer practical support to those in the West Weald Parish (Handcross, Pease Pottage, Warninglid, Staplefield, Slaugham) who are struggling with food poverty. We are very grateful to the volunteers, members of the community and local organisations who have supported this initiative over the past five years.

Over the past few months, the Pantry project has been evolving to adapt to changing circumstances and to enable its longevity. We want to communicate the changes to everyone in the Parish as clearly as possible. The changes are as follows:

1. **Change of name** - Handcross Community Pantry will now be called **West Weald Community Pantry**. All those living within the parish or those with appropriate links to the Parish can access the services of the Pantry.
2. **Food availability** - Food can be accessed in two ways:

Saturday morning at All Saints Church, Handcross (9.30am to 11.30am)

Food is available that has been donated from a local supermarket. The food is past its sell-by date, but it is still safe to eat. We cannot guarantee what is available each week, but typically there is a range of fresh produce available. This weekly event is open to everyone. It helps alleviate food poverty, but also addresses food wastage. There is a free café and an opportunity to connect socially with others.

Urgent requests

We keep a stock of basic food and toiletries in All Saints Church (pasta, tea, coffee, tinned products, toothpaste, etc.) for those who are experiencing urgent need. This food can be accessed through a referral from a recognised agency (doctor/social worker/church leader/school). Requests will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and for a limited time period.

3. Donations

Donations towards the West Weald Community Pantry can be made via the yellow bins around the parish, the green bin at Jachin Barn, Colwood Lane in Warninglid, to Handcross Hardware shop, Warninglid coffee morning, or directly to one of the churches. Monetary donations can also be sent directly to our HSBC bank account (*account number* 22095041, *sort code* 40-24-33, *account name* Slaugham Parochial Church Council Pantry Account, with a *reference* of 'Community Pantry'). These physical and monetary donations will be set aside for the stock of food for urgent/referred cases. This will ensure that food is available to those most in need and will allow the project to be sustainable for the long term.

If you have any questions about the West Weald Community Pantry or would like to volunteer for the project, please contact us via email on pantry@westwealdparish.org.uk.

The West Weald Community Pantry Team

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.

Handcross Rosemary Club

The club warmly welcomes new members. Everyone is welcome but we particularly look out for isolated, vulnerable and older people in Handcross and the surrounding villages. We meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 2.30-4.00 in the Parish Hall, Handcross, and most months we have an entertainer for about 45 minutes followed by home-made afternoon tea. At Christmas we have full Christmas Lunch in the hall, our AGM in February has fish and chips as well, and we aim to go on an outing during the year. Visitors are always welcome. Membership is only £15 for the year! For more information please contact the Chairman, Mrs Helen Arnold at mrs Helen Arnold@gmail.com or on 07540 816170.

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.

Locations for services and events

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.

*Accept one another, then, just as
Christ accepted you, in order to
bring praise to God.*

Romans 15:7

CONTACT

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Lay Apostolic Leader, All Saints

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Parish Administrator

01444 400221

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Office hours: 9am-12pm Monday & Thursday
(term time only)

Helen Arnold

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mrsheleenarnold@gmail.com

Churchwardens

St Mary's

Colin Tomlinson

nosnilmot@virginmedia.com

St Mark's

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