



*January 2025*

## Sunday Services in January

5 <sup>th</sup>	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship with Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	All Saints	Informal Worship
12 <sup>th</sup>	9am	St Mark's	Morning Prayer
	10am	All Saints	Morning Worship with breakfast
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship with Communion
19 <sup>th</sup>	10am	All Saints	Parish-wide Worship
26 <sup>th</sup>	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](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

### January

3 <sup>rd</sup>	8pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
4 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
6 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	All Saints	Youth Club
7 <sup>th</sup>	1pm	All Saints	Crochet & Handicraft Group
8 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	All Saints	Prayer gathering
10 <sup>th</sup>	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
10 <sup>th</sup>	8pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
11 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
13 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	All Saints	Youth Club
17 <sup>th</sup>	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
17 <sup>th</sup>	8pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
20 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	All Saints	Youth Club
21 <sup>st</sup>	1pm	All Saints	Crochet & Handicraft Group
24 <sup>th</sup>	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
24 <sup>th</sup>	8pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
25 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
27 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	All Saints	Youth Club
31 <sup>st</sup>	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
31 <sup>st</sup>	7.30pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice

### February

1 <sup>st</sup>	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
1 <sup>st</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	St Mary's	Slaugham Society event TBC
3 <sup>rd</sup>	7pm	All Saints	Youth Club
4 <sup>th</sup>	1pm	All Saints	Crochet & Handicraft Group
5 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	All Saints	Prayer gathering
7 <sup>th</sup>	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
7 <sup>th</sup>	8pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
8 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café

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](mailto:butfoybabs@hotmail.co.uk)

**Youth Club:** Phil Hawksley at [philhawksley@westwealdparish.org.uk](mailto: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.

# Upcoming 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](mailto:pantry@westwealdparish.org.uk).

*The West Weald Community Pantry Team*



# 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)

## Letter

Dear Friends,

At Christmas time, we quite rightly thought a lot about children.

Luke's account in the Bible (chapter 2, verses 11,12) tells us of an angel announcing: "...in the town of David, a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

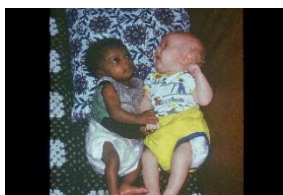
In the context of Old Testament prophecies (like Isaiah chapter 9 verses 6,7), it is clear that the Saviour of which the angel spoke was and is Jesus – born in poverty, destined to be a refugee without human status or wealth and, falsely charged, to die a criminal's death.

Well established history confirms the Biblical account that Jesus not only died, but rose again. He predicted His own death and resurrection, explaining "I have come that they may have life—and have it to the full" and stated that the life He came to give was and is conditional on receiving Him like little children.

Jen and I are grateful and proud parents of four (aged from 45 to 52 years) and grandparents of 12 (aged from 7 years to 25 years). Serving at the time in war-ravaged Uganda, for some months Jen also breastfed an orphaned baby boy (whom we later called Daniel) whose mother died in childbirth just after our own son, Stephen, was born.

There was a very strong local superstition that a woman who breastfed the infant of a mother who had died in childbirth would suffer the same fate as that mother – so none of this baby's extended family was prepared to breastfeed him. Formula feeds were unavailable.

Jen's act therefore, without doubt, made the difference between life and death for Daniel.





We have also had the great privilege of sharing in the healthcare of children both in Uganda and here in Sussex. So we are very conscious of the many references to children in the Bible (e.g. Matthew chapter 18 verses 3-5, especially verse 3: “unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven”).

Jesus also said, “I have come in order that you might have life—life in all its fullness.”

Facing a new year in a desperately troubled world, let’s embrace with faith the message of hope in our Saviour, Jesus.

Rob and Jen (Morris)

## 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](mailto: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 at mrs Helen Arnold at mrs Helen Arnold@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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

mrshelenarnold@gmail.com

### **Churchwardens**

St Mary's

Colin Tomlinson

nosnilmot@virginmedia.com

St Mark's

Helen Arnold

mrshelenarnold@gmail.com

Website: [www.westwealdparish.org.uk](http://www.westwealdparish.org.uk)

Facebook: West Weald Parish | Facebook

