



March 2025

Sunday Services in March

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
30 th	10am	St Mary's	Parish-wide Worship

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

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
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
15 th	2pm	All Saints	Builder Church
15 th	7pm	All Saints	Family film night
17 th	7pm	All Saints	Youth Club
17 th	7pm	tbc	PCC meeting
17 th	7pm	St Mary's	Slaugham Society event
18 th	1pm	All Saints	Crochet & Handicraft Group
19 th	10am	St Mary's	Retreat Space
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
22 nd	7pm	St Mary's	Wedding
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
29 th	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
31 st	7pm	All Saints	Youth Club

April

1 st	1pm	All Saints	Crochet & Handicraft Group
2 nd	7pm	All Saints	Prayer gathering
4 th	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
4 th	8pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
5 th	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

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

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

Retreat Spaces 2025

@ St Mary's, Slaughtam



19
MARCH

LENT
10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

8
MAY

EASTER: Resurrection
10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

22
JUNE

SUMMER
7:00 PM TO 9:00 PM

15
SEPTEMBER

NEW TERM
10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

3 & 6
DECEMBER

ADVENT
10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

To book your free place
or for more info:

retreats@westwealdparish.org.uk

www.westwealdparish.org.uk



St Mary's Slaughtam, The Green,
Slaughtam, RH17 6AG

Seasons and Celebrations

As we approach the start of the season of Lent, I have been reflecting with the children at St Mark's on the church year. Within most churches, the year is marked with celebrations that act as signposts to the things we believe about God. Some of them, over time, have become mainstream, celebrated by those within and outside of the church, such as Christmas and Easter. Others are much more low key, not recognised by all, but are significant within the life and worship of a Christian community, such as Pentecost and Trinity Sunday.

But as well as the celebrations we also have seasons - periods of time when we pause to reflect on a particular truth as a way of preparing for the wider celebrations. Advent, for example, marks the beginning of the church year and leads us up to Christmas, and it is a time that helps us to remember the promises of God fulfilled in the coming of Jesus into this world, and also to reflect on the promise of His return.

The season of Lent is a time given to reflect on our need of God. To recognise that we need to be saved, healed, resorted, forgiven and reconciled to God, and the only thing that makes this possible is what we then go on to celebrate at Easter - the death and resurrection of Jesus. Lent then, is a season of reflection, a time to be intentional about drawing closer to God. This can be done by removing things that distract us away from Him, or that we know aren't good for us, or by taking up things that help us to draw closer - creating healthy habits that strengthen our faith.

The thing I have been struck by this week, however, is that all of these seasons, and especially the celebrations, are all reminders of what we celebrate and respond to, not only on Sundays but hopefully with our lives - the outrageous, undeserved, radical and unfailing love of God:

- Advent reminds us of the promises made in love, and fulfilled in Jesus,
- Christmas is a time to celebrate that love coming to earth as Jesus,
- Lent is a time to remember our need of God's grace, which is an act of love found in relationship with Jesus,
- Easter is of course the most front-and-centre celebration of the love of God defeating sin and conquering over death through Jesus,
- Pentecost celebrates the birth of the Church and the sending of the Holy Spirit as a gift who reveals Jesus to the world.

They are all celebrations of love, celebrations that we wouldn't even have if it wasn't for the love of God who is love itself. So when we are in any season, or at any celebration in the life of the church, it is all made possible by, and is a joyful response to, God's perfect love.

"We have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who remain in love remain in God and God remains in them"

(1 John 4:16)

Rev'd Carl Smith

Rector of West Weald Parish

Builder Church



Using Lego® to explore faith and the Bible

All Saints Church
2-4pm
February 15th
March 15th
April 19th

A Family Event

All Welcome!

Light Refreshments

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT



Movies to be announced

February 15th
March 15th
April 19th
All Saints Church - 7pm





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)

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

Romans 15:7

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 let 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 mrshelenarnold@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 slaughtam@btinternet.com.

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

CONTACT

Rev'd Carl Smith

Rector, West Weald Parish

01444 400221

rector@westwealdparish.org.uk

Phil Hawksley

Lay Apostolic Leader, All Saints

philhawksley@westwealdparish.org.uk

Fae Widdowson

Parish Administrator

01444 400221 churchoffice@westwealdparish.org.uk

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

Helen Arnold

Safeguarding Officer

07540 816170

mrshelenarnold@gmail.com

Churchwardens

St Mary's

St Mark's

Colin Tomlinson

Helen Arnold

nosnilmot@virginmedia.com

mrshelenarnold@gmail.com

Website: www.westwealdparish.org.uk

Facebook: [West Weald Parish | Facebook](#)

