



*May 2025*

## Sunday Services in May

4 <sup>th</sup>	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship with Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship
	5.30pm	All Saints	Community meal & worship
11 <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
18 <sup>th</sup>	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship with Communion
	10am	All Saints	Morning Worship with Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship
25 <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=IwAR2vLqbm97lq9StSwn8qvgX\\_vTF11-tg0LV7z80cVFC8BZE034WNbNHhc4](https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCBQ0W4r1m39ixogQWR3TxoA?fbclid=IwAR2vLqbm97lq9StSwn8qvgX_vTF11-tg0LV7z80cVFC8BZE034WNbNHhc4)

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

### May

2 <sup>nd</sup>	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
2 <sup>nd</sup>	8pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
7 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	All Saints	Prayer gathering
8 <sup>th</sup>	10am	St Mary's	Retreat space
8 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	All Saints	Annual Parochial Church Meeting
9 <sup>th</sup>	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
9 <sup>th</sup>	8pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
10 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
10 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	All Saints	Quiz night
12 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	All Saints	Youth club
13 <sup>th</sup>	1pm	All Saints	Crochet & handicraft group
16 <sup>th</sup>	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
16 <sup>th</sup>	8pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
17 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
18 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm	St Mary's	Ashes interment
19 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	All Saints	Youth club
19 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	St Mary's	PCC meeting
23 <sup>rd</sup>	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
23 <sup>rd</sup>	8pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
24 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
24 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	St Mary's	Slaugham Society event
27 <sup>th</sup>	1pm	All Saints	Crochet & handicraft group
28 <sup>th</sup>	3.30pm	Handcross Parish Hall	Messy Church
30 <sup>th</sup>	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
30 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
31 <sup>st</sup>	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café

## June

2 <sup>nd</sup>	7pm	All Saints	Youth club
4 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	All Saints	Prayer gathering
6 <sup>th</sup>	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
6 <sup>th</sup>	8pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
7 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
7 <sup>th</sup>	1pm	St Mary's	Wedding

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)

### **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](mailto:retreats@westwealdparish.org.uk)

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



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

## Is it true?

It was a few days since Jesus had risen from the dead, and rumours were going around amongst those who knew Him, that His tomb had been found empty. Some were saying that it must have been grave robbers – but if that was the case then why leave the most valuable item (the grave clothes) in the grave? And besides, the stone that covered the tomb was massive and there's no way a couple of robbers could move that on their own.

But those closest to Him were claiming that they had seen Him...in the flesh...face to face! How can that possibly be?! He was definitely dead. He'd died in the most brutal and public way that the Romans could have thought of. How could He possibly be alive?

The minds of those who had followed Him must have been racing, thinking back on all the things they had seen Him do, and all the things He had taught them about God. He'd even said that He was going away. He also said this unusual thing about destroying and rebuilding the temple in three days – could it have been that He was talking about Himself?

Two of those disciples were walking along a road, talking about all these things, when a man they didn't recognise joined them (Jesus had opted to hide his identity). He could see they were grieving and asked why. When He found out they were mourning 'the death of the Messiah' He began to talk to them about what the scriptures said about the promised one. He did it in a way that was so captivating to them. Stories that they were familiar with were coming to life. He pointed out that the promised one had to suffer, that it was all part of the plan.

After some persuasion, Jesus stayed at their house for a meal. During that meal there was a moment: this person who was in front of them lifted some bread to give thanks, and something about the way He did it made it impossible for them to not recognise Him – it was Him! It was Jesus! But before they could say anything, He was gone!

They ran as fast as they could back to Jerusalem (about 7 miles away). They had to share the news. The rumours were true! Jesus was alive and they had seen Him!

Jesus began to appear to more and more people in the days that followed, leaving no doubt in their minds (well, Thomas needed a little persuading) that Jesus was in fact the Son of God, the promised one, the saviour of the world, their Lord!

Either this is just a made-up story in the Bible, or it's true.

Those same disciples went on to give their lives in the claim that it was true – why would anyone do that for a made-up story?

If it's just a story, it changes nothing.

If it's true, it changes everything!

He is Risen!

Grace and Peace

Rev'd Carl (Rector of West Weald)





# 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

Staplefield Village Fete  
Car Show & Dog Show



**Bank Holiday Monday  
26th May  
12-4pm**

To book a stall contact Di  
[binleyhowe@gmail.com](mailto:binleyhowe@gmail.com)

To exhibit a car contact Sam  
[sbutler4970@yahoo.com](mailto:sbutler4970@yahoo.com)



follow us on facebook

## 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 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:rector@westwealdparish.org.uk)

### **Phil Hawksley**

Lay Apostolic Leader, All Saints

[philhawksley@westwealdparish.org.uk](mailto:philhawksley@westwealdparish.org.uk)

### **Fae Widdowson**

Parish Administrator

01444 400221 [churchoffice@westwealdparish.org.uk](mailto:churchoffice@westwealdparish.org.uk)

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

### **Helen Arnold**

Safeguarding Officer

07540 816170

[mrsheleenarnold@gmail.com](mailto:mrsheleenarnold@gmail.com)

### **Churchwardens**

St Mary's

St Mark's

Colin Tomlinson

Helen Arnold

[nosnilmot@virginmedia.com](mailto:nosnilmot@virginmedia.com)

[mrsheleenarnold@gmail.com](mailto:mrsheleenarnold@gmail.com)

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

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

