



*August & September 2025*

## Sunday Services in August

3 <sup>rd</sup>	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship with Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	All Saints	Informal Worship
10 <sup>th</sup>	9am	St Mark's	Morning Prayer
	10am	All Saints	Breakfast & Bible
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship with Communion
17 <sup>th</sup>	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship with Communion
	10am	All Saints	Breakfast & Bible
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship
24 <sup>th</sup>	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship with Communion
	10am	All Saints	Breakfast & Bible
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship with Communion
31 <sup>st</sup>	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship with Communion
	10am	All Saints	Breakfast & Bible
	4pm	St Mary's	Patronal Choral Evensong

## Sunday Services in September

7 <sup>th</sup>	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship with Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship
	5.30pm	All Saints	Meal & Informal Worship
14 <sup>th</sup>	9am	St Mark's	Morning Prayer
	10am	All Saints	Morning worship
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship with Communion
21 <sup>st</sup>	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship with Communion
	10am	All Saints	Morning worship with Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship
28 <sup>th</sup>	10am	St Mark's	Harvest parish-wide 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=IwAR2vLqbms97Iq9StSwn8qvgX\\_vTF11-tg0LV7z80cVFC8BZE034WNbNHhc4](https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCBQ0W4r1m39ixogQWR3TxoA?fbclid=IwAR2vLqbms97Iq9StSwn8qvgX_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

### August

1 <sup>st</sup>	8pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
2 <sup>nd</sup>	12pm	St Mark's	Wedding
5 <sup>th</sup>	1pm	All Saints	Crochet & Handicraft Club
6 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	All Saints	Prayer gathering
8 <sup>th</sup>	8pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
9 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
9 <sup>th</sup>	1pm	St Mark's	Wedding
15 <sup>th</sup>	8pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
16 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
16 <sup>th</sup>	2pm	St Mark's	Wedding
19 <sup>th</sup>	1pm	All Saints	Crochet & Handicraft Club
22 <sup>nd</sup>	8pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
29 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
30 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café

### September

2 <sup>nd</sup>	1pm	All Saints	Crochet & Handicraft Club
3 <sup>rd</sup>	7pm	All Saints	Prayer gathering
5 <sup>th</sup>	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
5 <sup>th</sup>	8pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
6 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
6 <sup>th</sup>	10am	St Mary's	Bellringers' event

12 <sup>th</sup>	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
12 <sup>th</sup>	8pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
13 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
15 <sup>th</sup>	10am	St Mary's	Retreat space
15 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	St Mary's	PCC meeting
16 <sup>th</sup>	1pm	All Saints	Crochet & Handicraft Club
18 <sup>th</sup>	4.30pm	St Mary's	Wedding
19 <sup>th</sup>	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
19 <sup>th</sup>	8pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
20 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
26 <sup>th</sup>	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
26 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
27 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
27 <sup>th</sup>	4.15pm	St Mary's	Visiting bellringers
30 <sup>th</sup>	1pm	All Saints	Crochet & Handicraft Club
1 <sup>st</sup> October	7pm	All Saints	Prayer gathering

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)

#### **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

## God speaks to us

*"God spoke to me today in flowers, and I, who was waiting on words, almost missed the conversation."* Ingrid Goff-Maidoff

This made me smile when I read it. I'm fascinated by the myriad ways God has of speaking to us, and how often we must miss them because our minds are on focussed elsewhere.

I was sitting outside at the weekend, reading and enjoying the warmth of the evening sun. At one point, I lifted my eyes from my book to ponder something, gazing absently towards the somewhat scrubby green in front of me. Then suddenly I felt my eyes refocus so that I could actually see what I was looking at - not just a general colour of green, but distinct blades of grass, gleaming in the sunlight. It was a classic moment of moving from non-awareness into seeing with clarity.

Don't you think that the busyness of life is a bit like that? Our minds are occupied with lots of things and our hearts are a bit glazed over, until something helps us refocus, and then that often helps us see and experience our lives differently.

The book I was reading was called *Nunc* - a tale set in Jerusalem (with wonderful pen and ink illustrations), imagining the story of Simeon and how he came to say his famous Nunc Dimittis (Lord now let your servant depart in peace). In it there is a character called Lysander, a depressed, as yet unpublished, elegist. He complains about no one reading his poetry and when Simeon points out that at least God sees it, he replies, "God skim-reads and always says it needs more work." I often come across people who in the recesses of their hearts have that kind of impression about God with regard to their lives.

When I refocussed on the blade of grass and really saw it, God spoke to me. Not in a flower, but in a blade of grass, and I, who was engrossed in the words of my book, nearly missed it. "I do not skim-read your life. Just as you have intently focussed on this one single blade of grass, I am deeply interested in you, and I do not pronounce that you need more work. I rejoice in your beauty and your singularity which gleams in the light of my Son."

May God speak to you in flowers this summer - it's a good season for that!

*Liz Cox*

## Patronal choral evensong

There will be a special service at St Mary's Church at 4pm on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August: a Choral Evensong to celebrate our Patronal Festival.

The music will be led by local choir Coro Nuovo, and the service will be followed by refreshments at 5pm.

Join us for this special time of praise.

(There will be no morning service at St Mary's that day.)

More details can be found on our website: [www.westwealdparish.org.uk/evensong](http://www.westwealdparish.org.uk/evensong)



*St Mary's Slaughterham*  
Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> August  
4.00–5.00pm

PATRONAL & FESTIVAL

# CHORAL EVENSONG

Join us on **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August at 4.00pm** for a special summer Choral Evensong as we celebrate our Patronal Festival and the 950-year history of St Mary's as a place of worship and inspiration.

We're delighted to welcome local choir *Coro Nuovo*, who will lead the music for what we hope will be a beautiful and uplifting service.

Refreshments will follow the service, with time to enjoy our historic church on a summer evening.

All are warmly welcome.

[www.westwealdparish.org.uk/evensong](http://www.westwealdparish.org.uk/evensong)  
Event sponsored by the Choral Evensong Trust

Coro  
nuovo

west  
weald



## Retreat spaces

The next retreat space at St Mary's will be on 15<sup>th</sup> September at 10am.

This will be a good opportunity to create a breathing space at the start of the new term and to spend some time in God's presence.

Speak to Liz Cox for more details (mobile 07813 933134).



*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

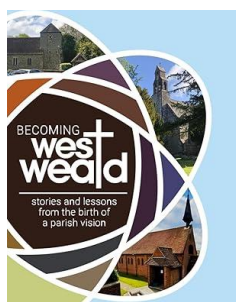
**3 & 6** DECEMBER ADVENT 10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

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

## West Weald Parish book published

The book *Becoming West Weald: Stories and Lessons from the Birth of Parish Vision*, written by some members of our church family, is now available on Amazon.



In 2023, a former United Benefice of two parishes in Mid Sussex united to form one parish. This reflection recounts what led to that unity, the vision that has emerged, and what God has been doing as a result of it, featuring stories of lives changed and lessons learned, as those in and leading the churches discovered a fresh way of being and doing church.





The Community Pantry has been running for six years, and in early June we passed a very important milestone - we have now carried out 500 collections of food from Tesco via the FareShare scheme!

FareShare has calculated that this adds up to 45,316kg of food which would have been put into landfill – that's the equivalent of 114,602 meals, which is staggering to think about! For those who know about CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, it is 134,233kg of CO<sub>2</sub> savings too, and it all goes to show that as well as sharing the food with local families, our

Saturday Community Café is providing an important role in reducing food waste locally.

We want to say a huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who has been involved in collecting food, sorting food, helping run the café, chatting to those who come on Saturdays, and generally spreading the message about what we are doing!

Since January, we have also been working with schools and the GP surgery to offer a targeted service to those in most need of food. We have been able to help 24 people so far (adults and children) and would like to say a huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who has donated food or money, or who has helped with this aspect of the Pantry.

The Pantry is a key ministry for our church, and we are seeing God at work in many ways!

We would like to increase our team of helpers so if you would like to **JOIN IN** and can spare an hour on a Friday evening to help with food collections, time on a Saturday morning to help in the café and chat to those attending, or an hour on Wednesday mornings to help with our targeted service, please talk to Barbara, Phil or the church office, and find out how you can become part of this amazing team!

*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).

### **Dates to note in 2025**

31 <sup>st</sup> August	Patronal Choral Evensong at St Mary's
15 <sup>th</sup> September	Retreat Space at St Mary's
28 <sup>th</sup> September	Parish Sunday for harvest
9 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Day united service
11 <sup>th</sup> November	Act of Remembrance
3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Retreat Space at St Mary's
6 <sup>th</sup> December	Retreat Space at St Mary's
14 <sup>th</sup> December	Carol service at St Mark's
21 <sup>st</sup> December	Carol service at St Mary's

## 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 ([rector@westwealdparish.org.uk](mailto:rector@westwealdparish.org.uk)) 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 our treasurer Jane Moss ([treasurer@westwealdparish.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@westwealdparish.org.uk)) 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](mailto:slaugham@btinternet.com).



## CONTACT

**Rev'd Carl Smith**

Rector, West Weald Parish

01444 400221

rector@westwealdparish.org.uk

**Rev'd Monique Mendes da Costa**

Curate, West Weald Parish

curate@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 safeguarding@westwealdparish.org.uk

**Churchwardens**

St Mark's

Helen Arnold

mrshelenarnold@gmail.com

St Mary's

Liz Cox

lizcox1@gmail.com

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

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



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