



*October 2025*

## Sunday Services in October

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
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship with Communion
19 <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
26 <sup>th</sup>	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship with Communion
	10am	All Saints	Morning Worship
	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)

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

### October

1 <sup>st</sup>	7pm	All Saints	Prayer gathering
3 <sup>rd</sup>	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
3 <sup>rd</sup>	8pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
4 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
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
11 <sup>th</sup>	8pm	St Mary's	Slaugham Society event
14 <sup>th</sup>	1pm	All Saints	Crochet & Handicraft 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>	7.30pm	St Mark's	Committee meeting
22 <sup>nd</sup>	8pm	St Mary's	Choir rehearsal
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
28 <sup>th</sup>	1pm	All Saints	Crochet & Handicraft Club
30 <sup>th</sup>	8pm	St Mary's	Choir rehearsal
31 <sup>st</sup>	7.30pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice

### November

1 <sup>st</sup>	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
1 <sup>st</sup>	1.15pm	St Mark's	Wedding
5 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	All Saints	Prayer gathering
6 <sup>th</sup>	8pm	St Mark's	Choir rehearsal
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)

### **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**

The next retreat spaces at St Mary's will be on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> December at 10am.

This will be a good opportunity to draw near to God quietly at the beginning of Advent.

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



The poster for 'Retreat Spaces 2025 @ St Mary's, Slaugham' features a light green background. At the top right is the 'west weald' logo, a colorful circular emblem. The title 'Retreat Spaces 2025' is written in a large, elegant script, with '2025' in bold. Below it, '@ St Mary's, Slaugham' is in a smaller, purple sans-serif font. A vertical list of retreat dates is on the left, each in a purple box with white text: 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), and 3 & 6 DECEMBER (ADVENT, 10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM). To the right of this list is a photograph of St Mary's church, a stone building with a steep roof and a small tower. The photo is framed by several vertical blue bars of varying heights. At the bottom left, text says 'To book your free place or for more info:' followed by two buttons: 'retreats@westwealdparish.org.uk' and 'www.westwealdparish.org.uk'. At the bottom right is a red location pin icon next to the text 'St Mary's Slaugham, The Green, Slaugham, RH17 6AG'.

**Retreat Spaces 2025**  
@ St Mary's, Slaugham

**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 Slaugham, The Green, Slaugham, RH17 6AG

## **Different Baptisms, Same Significance**

Last week Jen and I had the great privilege of witnessing the baptism of one of our granddaughters, and we were deeply moved by the occasion.

She was baptised along with 11 others in the sea off a Devonshire beach, with perhaps 200 or more gathered in the rain to witness the event.

This was preceded by a gathering in a school hall (there were too many to fit into the normal church venue) where each of the baptism candidates spoke publicly about their reasons for being baptised. Each, aged between about 12 and 80 years old, spoke simply and clearly about their desire to follow Jesus Christ, and to demonstrate this publicly through this act of baptism.

Many things have been going through our minds during this time - remembering our experience of church and baptisms in many different circumstances.

These range from Sunday gatherings on a verandah in hot, dry, central Tanzania, gatherings in the open air at the hospital in Western Uganda where we worked, to school halls, churches of various denominations with different traditions. There have been baptisms for infants, and for people of all ages, including that of a volunteer colleague in a river in Uganda with Christian friends, Ugandan and expatriate, gathered to witness.

We are prompted again to think through the meaning and significance of Church and baptism. Particularly in the context of a society and world which is riven with conflict, persecution of people of faith, and a country which can no longer claim to be a Christian country.

The proven historical truth of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, reflected in the act of baptism, is as significant to us personally today as it has always been, whether living comfortably in Mid Sussex, or caught in the violent chaos, malnutrition and epidemic disease of Western Uganda at war in the 1970s and 1980s.

Just as John preached (Mark chapter 1 verse 4): "...John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins."

Jesus said, "...repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached ... to all nations."

We need to learn to totally forgive, as Christ forgives us.

*Rob Morris*



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.

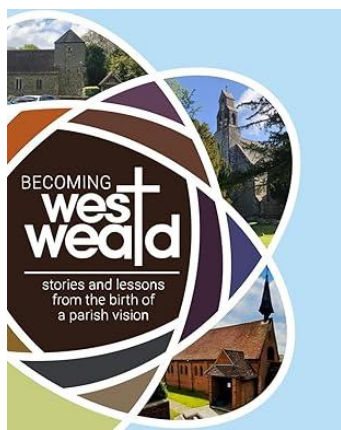
Regular assemblies are:

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).

## **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 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.

## **Dates to note in 2025**

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.



### **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](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).

## **Regular Giving**

Recently, the current account of the parish has been running close to its limit, and the PCC has needed to make the difficult decision to call upon some of our reserves to ensure that we are able to cover our costs. The monthly costs of the Diocesan Parish Share, along with paying our staff and the costs of heating and lighting our three buildings, and our desire to be generous through missional giving, are not being matched by the amount coming in through regular giving.

As a charity, 100% of our costs rely on the generosity of those who are in a position to give. At this critical time, we would like to ask of those who worship regularly with us:

- if you currently give on a regular basis, could you possibly consider raising your regular giving? If all who are currently give regularly were to raise their giving by just £10 per month, it would have a significant impact on our ability to be able to cover these costs.
- if you are part of West Weald Parish and are not yet signed up to regular giving through the Parish Giving Scheme, could you prayerfully consider signing up using the link below?

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/slaugham-haywards-heath/>

(This page says 'Slaugham' because it was set up a while ago, but it is for the whole parish.)

You can also use the link to make a one-off donation of any amount.

If you are a UK tax payer, please remember to select the Gift Aid option, to enable us to claim the tax from your donations. And if you give by other means (cash or bank transfer), please ensure you have filled in our Gift Aid form, so that we can claim the tax back on all previous and current donations.

We believe and trust in a God who provides, but we also acknowledge that financial giving is a part of our discipleship, and if you are in a position to be able to increase your support of the mission and ministry of West Weald, we would be very grateful.

Many thanks. Grace and peace,  
Carl



Thank you

**Please  
give what  
you can**

Scan to make a  
one off donation or  
to sign up for  
regular giving



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

## CONTACT

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**Phil Hawksley**

Lay Apostolic Leader, All Saints

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**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

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St Mary's

Liz Cox

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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.*