





November 2026

The 2026 Poppy Display –
West Weald Parish Unites and Remembers

West Weald Parish villages have been uniting in very special ways over the last few months, to create a fabulous display of poppies for Remembrance 2026. The breathtaking display has five swathes of poppies, sweeping down from the tower at St Mary's Church Slaugham, each swathe representing one of the five villages that make up West Weald Parish. The display consists of over 10,000 poppies. Many people have been involved making them, some learning new skills along the way, knitting and crocheting poppies, and sewing on black centres or the poppies on to the display.

It has been an enormous privilege to bring together such a huge number of people of all ages across all the villages – from the youngest in our primary schools through to older people, some of whom are nonagenarians. There have been happy conversations (as well as support and prayers) over 'coffees and poppies', 'pub and poppies', 'poppies and prosecco', and many other creative ways of meeting up, with needles of one sort or another in hand! It doesn't matter if someone has made one poppy or a thousand, sewn on one centre or sewn poppies onto the swathe – every person matters and every contribution matters!

Poppies are widely recognised as the flowers of Remembrance, because so many grew on the battlefields of the First World War – a stark contrast of the majestic poppies alongside the horrors of war and conflict, when millions of men were killed. We wear poppies to remember and honour them. Sadly, there are still conflicts across the world today.

Please come and enjoy the display and rejoice in the unity it represents. As you do so, I encourage you to also to reflect on the huge sacrifice the soldiers made, ultimately bringing about peace. Christians believe Jesus was the ultimate sacrifice, giving His life that all our sins might be forgiven. As we remember the fallen, and pray for true, lasting peace and harmony in our world today, may we all find faith, hope and peace in Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.

You are warmly welcome to our Remembrance Day Service at St Mary's Slaugham, at 10am on Sunday 8 November. There will also be an Act of Remembrance at Staplefield War Memorial on Armistice Day, 11 November.

Helen Arnold, churchwarden, West Weald Parish



West Weald Parish is raising money for The Royal British Legion.

Please donate via the JustGiving page

https://www.justgiving.com/page/west-weald-parish-poppies

or using this QR code

The Poppy Displays at St Mark's Church will be in place from the end of October.

Services in November

1st	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship with Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	All Saints	Informal Worship
8th	10am	St Mary's	Remembrance Day Service with Communion
	10am	All Saints	Morning Worship
11th	10.45am	Staplefield War Memorial	Act of Remembrance
15th	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship with Communion
	10am	All Saints	Morning Worship with Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship
22nd	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship with Communion
	10am	All Saints	Morning Worship
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship
	2.30pm	Woodgate Hub Café	Sundays at the Hub
29th	10am	Seaforth Hall, Warninglid	Parish-wide Worship

Weekly services take 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

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

November

3rd	7pm	All Saints	Prayer gathering
4th	8pm	St Mary's	Choir practice
6th	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
7th	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
7th	6.30pm	St Mary's	Slaugham Society WW2 event, in aid of St Catherine's Hospice
11th	10.45am	Staplefield War Memorial	Act of Remembrance
11th	2.30pm	St Mary's	Exploring Prayer
12th	8pm	St Mary's	Choir practice – men only
13th	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
14th	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
14th	2pm	All Saints	Games afternoon
16th	7.30pm	St Mary's	PCC meeting
18th	7pm	St Mary's	Choir practice – women only
20th	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
21st	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
25th	2.30pm	St Mary's	Exploring Prayer
26th	8pm	St Mary's	Choir practice
27th	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
28th	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café

December

1st	7pm	All Saints	Prayer gathering
2nd	12.15pm	St Mary's	Mustard Seed Christmas Lunch
2nd	8pm	St Mary's	Choir practice
4th	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
5th	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
5th	10am	St Mary's	Advent Retreat Space

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 Holland Avenue, Pease Pottage, RH11 9SL

Seaforth Hall: Cuckfield Lane, Warninglid, RH17 5UB

More dates to note

In November, look out for the Christmas flyer which will give details of all our Christmas services and events!

2/12 Mustard Seed Christmas Lunch

5/12 Advent Retreat Space

8/12 Handcross Hardware Event

9/12 Carols in Warninglid

11/12 Carols at The Hub

13/12 St Mark's Carol Service

17/12 Handcross Hardware Event

19/12 All Saints Carol Service

20/12 St Mary's Carol Service

24/12 Crib Service

24/12 Midnight Communion

25/12 Christmas Day Celebration Services

Exploring Prayer

Ware running a series of Exploring Prayer meetings at St Mary's from 2.30pm to 4pm on the following Wednesday afternoons: 28 Oct, 11 Nov, 25 Nov, 9 Dec.
Do feel free to come along on any afternoon. If you would like to know more, please chat to Liz Cox or Gina Howard.

Our verses for 2026

I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one – I in them and you in me – so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

John 17:22-23



The **West Weald Community Pantry** continues strongly, as it has for the past six years.

The Saturday event is welcomed by so many people, and we call it our 'reducing food waste' event. Several stay for the free tea, coffee and biscuits, and it has become a lovely meeting place for people.

Why not come along and see for yourself?

Every week, Tesco at Broadbridge Heath donates its reduced produce, meat and bread products, as part of the FareShare scheme. We have now carried out 539 collections from Tesco, which is the equivalent of 48,768kg of food saved, as well as the saving of 140,541kg of CO_2!

On Wednesday mornings, we open a foodbank. From the very generous Harvest Thanksgiving donations from schools and churches, as well as those from the Warninglid monthly coffee mornings, we are able to help families and adults who are struggling due to the high cost of living increases and unemployment.

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!

We work with schools and the GP surgery to offer a targeted service to those in most need of food, and we have helped several people in this way. 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!

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: Monday, 11am, Brantridge, and 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).

Handcross Rosemary Club

The Handcross Rosemary Club has been bringing together the people of Handcross and its surrounding villages for 64 years. It's an informal chance to meet, chat and enjoy a variety of entertainments and talks, with a homemade afternoon tea!

We meet every third Wednesday of each month at 2.30-4.00 in the Parish Hall, Handcross. Yearly membership is just £15 , with £2 on the door at each meeting which includes tea, sandwiches and cake. As well as the monthly entertainment, we have occasional outings, a fish-and-chip treat during our AGM, and a much-anticipated Christmas Lunch.

The goal of the Rosemary Club is to keep our community connected, especially those who are less physically able or isolated. Chat, laughter and listening are powerful and welcome tonics in this increasingly complicated world.

Please come along to any of our meetings to see if you would like to become a member. We would love you to join our welcoming group.

For more information please contact our Chairman Karen Baker at klb2755@gmail.com or on 07747 741684.

Regular Notices

Safeguarding
Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility!
If you are worried about the wellbeing of a child or vulnerable person, please contact us.

- Our Parish Safeguarding Officer: Helen Arnold
- Contact: safeguarding@westwealdparish.org.uk

If you are concerned about the immediate safety of a child ring Police on 999.
Safeguarding information is in all our churches and on the website.

Hardship Fund
Financial support is available from the Hardship Fund if you or someone you know (living in the parish) is in need. Forms can be collected from the hardware shop. If you cannot go out, please email Carl (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) 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.

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 churchoffice@westwealdparish.org.uk.

Contact

During September, October and November, Carl will be on sabbatical, so please contact the churchwardens instead.

Rev'd Carl Smith
Rector, West Weald Parish 01444 400221 rector@westwealdparish.org.uk

Rev'd Monique Mendes da Costa curate@westwealdparish.org.uk
Curate, West Weald Parish – **on maternity leave**

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
Facebook: West Weald Parish | Facebook
WhatsApp:





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