



## The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Westerham

### News from St Mary's— 7 to 13 April 2024

#### Sunday 7th April, 2nd of Easter

**10.30am, Holy Communion:** in modern language with hymns. Stay for a chat and refreshments afterwards. Everybody's welcome

**Readings:** Acts 4:32-35; John 20:19-end

**NO Choral Evensong.**

#### The coming week

Tuesday to Friday	9.00 to 9.30am	<b>Morning Prayer</b> , usually in the Resurrection Chapel; a short service of prayer and readings
Tuesday	10am to 12 noon	<b>Coffee Time</b> at Westerham Community Hub in the JFR. Join us for tea, coffee, snacks and friendship
	7.45pm	Bell ringing practice
Wednesday	10am	<b>Midweek Communion:</b> a said service in the Catherine Chapel
	10am to 12 noon	<b>Jigsaw Group</b> in the John Fryth Room. Come and join us and have a natter too—all welcome
Thursday		<b>NO Choir Practice</b>

#### Next Sunday, 14th April, 3rd of Easter

**8am, Holy Communion:** a said service in traditional language

**10.30am, 2nd Sunday:** our informal service of *word, prayer and praise*. Songs, activities for children, snacks and tea/coffee. Grab a drink as you come in, take a pew and enjoy worship together. We continue our celebration of the Easter Season.



**Joining the Parishes of Crockham Hill and Westerham in a united benefice.** After a long period of informal consultation and discussion in Crockham Hill and Westerham, the Bishop of Rochester has asked the Church Commissioners to prepare a draft Pastoral Scheme affecting the two churches. Full details can be found in church and on the Church of England website: <https://www.churchofengland.org/consultation/Crockham> or you can find a summary of the plans on [St Mary's website](#).

If you want to submit any formal representations about the Scheme—for or against - these must go to the Church Commissioners. **The deadline is midnight on Monday 8th April 2024.**

#### Dates for your Diary

**Monday 15th to Friday 19th April:** Parish Office closed to all visitors. Please only contact the office in an emergency. Thank you.

**Wednesday 24th April, 7 for 7.30pm, St Mary's Quiz Night** at The Grasshopper. **RAFFLE PRIZES NEEDED—Quality prizes that you'd be pleased to receive. Please pass your donations to Christina or leave them with the Parish Office during the week.**

**Monday 6th May, 11am to 4pm, Spring Craft Fair.** Following the success of our Christmas Fair, the church will be hosting local craftspeople selling seasonal gifts again. Free entry— everybody's welcome.

**Saturday 18th May, It's Your Calling:** Easter is full of the promise of life renewed, which makes it the perfect time to ask God where's He's leading each of us. The next *It's Your Calling* day is at Christchurch Orpington. He calls us all, where will he lead you? [Visit the diocesan website to find out more](#) and speak to Revd Dave.

**Summer Organ Recitals on 25th May, 29th June and 31st August, all at 12.30pm.** An exciting series of 30 minute informal concerts on Saturday afternoons throughout the summer. Come and enjoy listening to our fabulous instrument played by local organists. Free, relaxed and suitable for the whole family. Refreshments will be available with proceeds going to church funds or you are welcome to bring your own.

**Cleaner needed urgently!** We are on the hunt for a new church cleaner. If you are able to help us out or you know of a reliable cleaner, please speak to Christina, Alyson or Revd Dave.



**Congratulations to Bertie and Alma-Rose, who celebrated First Communion on Easter Day!**

Please continue to pray for them as they continue their journey with Christ.

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Easter services. Particular thanks go to the Flower Guild for the wonderful displays they created to celebrate Easter, as they do for all special occasions and every week throughout the year.

**Using your gifts for God.** Do you ever wonder if you could use your gifts, skills and wisdom in a different way? God doesn't need our help, but he invites us *all* to get involved in making his love known to the world. **Being a Church Warden** (elected annually) **or member of the Parochial Church Council** (elected for three years) are ways of sharing in the ministry and mission of the Church. Perhaps you've done it before; maybe you never have; perhaps you're already a PCC member! As the APCM approaches, it's time to ask ourselves what call God is making on our lives at this time. Is it continuing what you're doing already? Is it returning to something you've done before? Or trying something new? More likely, it's a mix of these.

If we have more nominations than places, we will have elections; a sign of a healthy church! Please pray about whether you could do any of these important and rewarding roles and if you think God is nudging you, speak to Revd Dave or the churchwarden.



**The Pastoral Care Team** is here to help you (or someone you know). If you are unable to come to church and would like Holy Communion, need a visit or would like the prayer team - in confidence - to pray for you or somebody you know, please call the Parish Office on 01959 561330 or Barbara on 01959 561 809.

**A Prayer for Peace**

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine, Israel, Gaza and the West Bank today. We pray for all the world's war zones.

For peace and the laying down of weapons.

For all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

For those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, asking you to hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen

**Contact Us**

**Revd Dave Fox-Branch**

Priest in Charge

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westerhamparish-priest@gmail.com

**(Rest day: Monday)**

**Parish Office**

01959 561330

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

Open Mon, Tues, Wed and Fri:

9am to 1pm

**Closed Thursday**

**Revd Wendy Harvey**

07973 428683

[wendyharvey6@icloud.com](mailto:wendyharvey6@icloud.com)

**Sue Leather, Ordinand**

Please contact via the Parish Office

For weddings, funerals and baptisms, please contact the Priest in Charge or Parish Office.

St Mary's is *your* church. Everybody is entitled to have their baptism and funeral in the parish church where they live.

**Deadline for newsletter contributions: 1pm on Wednesday**