



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

### News from St Mary's— 14 to 20 April 2024

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

**8.00am, Holy Communion:** a said service in traditional language.

**Readings:** Acts 3:12-19; Luke 24:36b-48

**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. Our theme is the Easter Season. **Readings:** Luke 24:36b-48



#### The coming week

|                   |                 |  |
|-------------------|-----------------|--|
| Monday to Friday  |                 | <b>Parish Office closed to <u>all</u> visitors. Please only contact the office <u>in an emergency</u>.</b> |
| 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          | 7pm             | <b>Choir Practice</b> in the John Fryth Room   |

#### Next Sunday, 21st April, 4th of Easter: Vocations Sunday

**NB:** The 8am service is now on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month.

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

**After the service: Music practice and planning for 2nd Sunday in May**

#### Dates for your Diary

**Wednesday 24th April, St Mary's Quiz Night. 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.

**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, Sue or Revd Wendy.

**Summer Organ Recitals: 25th May, 29th June and 31st August at 12.30pm.**

An exciting series of 30 minute informal concerts on Saturday summer afternoons. Come and enjoy listening to our fabulous instrument played by local organists. Free, relaxed and suitable for the whole family. Refreshments available, with proceeds going to church funds, or you are welcome to bring your own.

**Parking charges in Westerham:** Sevenoaks District Council now charges for using its car parks **on Sundays**. If in doubt, please check the nearest machine. Information is available here: [Car parking locations and charges search | Sevenoaks District Council](#). If you are attending worship and wish to park at the Vicarage, please do: with a bit of care, 6 cars can be accommodated.

**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 3 years) are ways to share in the ministry and mission of the Church - and maybe explore vocation. As the APCM approaches, it's time to ask 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? Most 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.

**Funding: Did you know that if church members raised their personal giving each year by the rate of inflation, average giving in each parish since 2020 would have increased by over 50%?** Every year we ask you to review your regular giving: supporting the local church is a bible-based expression of discipleship. Times are still hard, we know, but can you afford to increase your giving or start a regular donation for the first time? Check the blue leaflet in church for more information or visit our new [Parish Giving Scheme web page](#), where you can sign up and automatically pass on any Gift Aid.



**St Mary's Church  
The Green, Westerham**

# Spring Craft Fair



**Bank Holiday Monday, 6th May  
11am to 4pm**

**Free entry - everybody's welcome**



**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

01959 563 127

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**