



The Benefice of Crockham Hill and Westerham



News from Westerham

Sunday 30th November, Advent

10.00am, Holy Communion at Crockham Hill

10.30am, Holy Communion at Westerham: in modern language with hymns. Please join us for refreshments and a chat afterwards.

Everybody's welcome.

Readings: Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 24:36-44

12.30pm, Baptism at Westerham. We welcome the family and friends of Aisla and Freya as they bring them to be baptised.

6.00pm, Advent Carol Service at Westerham. Come and join us as we begin our Advent journey



Day	Time	What's on at St Mary's this week?
Tues to Sat	9.00 - 9.30am	Morning Prayer in the Resurrection Chapel; a short service of prayer and readings
Tuesday	10am - 12pm	Coffee Time at Westerham Community Hub in the JFR. Join us for tea, coffee, snacks and friendship
	7.45pm	Bell ringing practice
Wednesday	10am	Midweek Communion: a said service
	10am to 12pm	Jigsaw Group at Westerham Community Hub in the JFR. Come along for refreshments and a chat
Thursday	7pm	Choir practice in the John Fryth Room

Sunday 7th December, First Sunday of Advent

8.00am, Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion at Crockham Hill

10.00am, Family (Gift/Food) Service at Crockham Hill

10.30am, Holy Communion at Westerham: in modern language with hymns. Please join us for refreshments and a chat afterwards.

Readings: Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 3:1-12

NO Choral Evensong

As announced in both churches last Sunday: The Bishop of Rochester is delighted to announce that the **Revd Emma Wylie is to be appointed the new Associate Minister (part time) for the Benefice of Crockham Hill and Westerham**, with a plan to be licensed at St Mary's Westerham, on 23 February 2026, with a Welcome Eucharist at Holy Trinity Crockham Hill on the following Sunday.

Emma was ordained in the Chelmsford Diocese and has served in rural and urban parishes in Essex and East London. She says "Having spent many of my formative years in Kent I am excited to sense God's call to return as a priest, in rural ministry. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to journey with the people of Crockham Hill and Westerham in discerning what God might be calling us to in this newly united Benefice. As Associate Minister I am looking forward to working with the other ministers and laity as we share life and ministry together, listening to God, the people and one another - hopefully over plentiful cups of tea! I look forward to meeting you all soon."

Archdeacon Nick Cornell warmly welcomes this appointment and looks forward to working with Emma in the Tonbridge Archdeaconry.

We are also delighted to announce that **Jess Spickernell, our Ordinand, will be ordained Deacon in Rochester Cathedral on 27th June 2026**, and will serve her curacy at Christ Church, Tunbridge Wells. Her final Sunday in the Benefice will probably be in early May.

Jess has been a real blessing to us in the short time she's been here, and we're confident that she will be a blessing in her new role, too, as she continues her journey towards priesthood.

Please remember to pray for Jess and Emma in the weeks and months ahead, asking for God's support, comfort and wisdom as they navigate the exciting but sometimes stressful process of preparing to finish their current ministries and move to new homes, roles and churches.

Sunday 7th December: Crockham Hill Gift Service. In the Family Service at 10am we will be collecting gifts for Friends in Need at the parish of New Cross with which, we have a long relationship. The parish has significant deprivation, and **unwrapped** gifts from the following lists would be very welcome: **Children/Young people:** Colouring pencils, pens and crayons; drawing, sketch pads and colouring books; pyjamas, slippers; blanket hoodies; journals; diaries; exam revision books (English and maths); scientific calculators.

Elderly and lonely adults: Crossword and game books; puzzles; slippers; socks; scarves; gloves and blankets. **Come along to the 10am service at Holy Trinity, or leave gifts at the Vestry at St Mary's by 11am on 6th December.**

Saturday 13th December at 6pm, Carol Concert: Don't forget to buy your tickets (£10 each) for the concert for a wonderful evening of festive music with St Mary's Choir and the Oxted Brass Band. Available from the Benefice Office or No 21 The Green.

Christmas Craft Market: Thank you so much to everyone who helped before, during or after last weekend's Christmas Craft Market, and also to everyone who supported the event by attending or promoting the event to friends and family. We have had wonderfully positive feedback from both stallholders and attendees.

We would like to give a special thank you to our Flower Guild, whose wonderful raffle on the day raised £250, that they generously and kindly donated to the Christmas Market profits. Thank you.

Plus, we would like to give a special thank you to our Musical Director, Dan, and our Church Choir, for performing twice at the Christmas Market, giving a wonderful seasonal boost to shoppers and stallholders alike in the afternoon. Thank you.

As well as a special thank you to Christina, Alyson and Catharine for running the refreshments stall so brilliantly all day. Thank you.

Thank you to Ibbett Mosley for their sponsorship of advertising boards around the town.

Finally to husbands, Steve and Jonno for completing a very long list of Christmas Market tasks on both the Friday and Saturday! Thank you.

We are very pleased that the Christmas Craft Market has raised over £1,000 profit, which will be used to support the day-to-day running of our Church across Advent and Christmas. *(Did you know that it costs £2,300 a week to keep the church running?).*

Next year's Christmas Craft Market will be on Saturday 21st November. Please do put the date in your diary. Thank you, Christina, Anna and Kerry



Christmas Lights! Once again this year, Peter Cambridge is brightening London Road with his display of Christmas lights, and once again there's an opportunity to donate to Porchlight, a local Kent charity working with the homeless. The lights will be on **until Monday 5th January**. If you would like to donate, you can follow the link to the Just Giving page or use the QR code : [Christmas Lights for Porchlight \(London Rd, Westerham\) - JustGiving](#)

Rotas for December are now online to view. All rota people, please check to see if you are available for the duties listed. If you need to swap duties, please let Bruce know asap so he can amend the online Services Planner. Any problems, again contact Bruce. Rotas for January and February to follow soon.

Organ Update. The Working Group has examined the quotes from the organ builders that had been approached about the restoration, and has reported to the PCC. The Diocese has advised that we need a single faculty, which Churchwarden David is working on with the Group. The Group is now planning the necessary fundraising which will be needed from grants and by approaching the community. We will keep you updated with progress.

A Prayer for Peace: God of peace and justice, we lift up to you the peoples of Ukraine, Gaza and Sudan today. We pray for all the world's war zones, for the laying down of weapons and end to calls of violence; 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, protect and provide for them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Whoever you are, wherever you live, whatever life is like for you and however you experience yourself; regardless of money, status, (dis)ability or anything else, you are welcome to every service in both our churches.

Deadline for newsletter items: 12 noon on Wednesday

Contact Us: Benefice Office: 01959 561 330 / office@chwbenefice.org

Open Mon, Tues, Wed and Fri, 9am to 1pm. **Closed Thursday**

Website: www.chwbenefice.org