



The Benefice of Crockham Hill and Westerham



Sunday 29th March – **Palm Sunday**

10.00am Liturgy of Palm Sunday at Crockham Hill

10.30am Holy Communion at Westerham. The service will start on The Green – weather permitting

NO Choral Evensong

| Day | Time | Church diary this week |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Tues – Sat | 9.00 – 9.30am | Morning Prayer (Westerham) in the Resurrection Chapel; a short service of prayer and readings |
| Tuesday in Holy Week | 10am – 12 noon 6.00pm | Coffee Time at Westerham Community Hub in the JFR. Join us for tea, coffee, snacks and friendship Sung Compline in the Catherine Chapel Westerham NO bellringing practice |
| Wednesday in Holy Week | 9.00am 10am 10am – 12 noon 12 noon | Churchill School Easter Service Midweek Communion (Westerham): a said service. Jigsaw Group at Westerham Community Hub in the JFR. Come along for refreshments and a chat Lent Lunch (Westerham) in the John Fryth Room – please sign up – list at back of church |
| Maundy Thursday | 10am 6.00pm | Chrism Mass at Rochester Cathedral. The clergy renew their ordination vows and collect the consecrated oils for the year ahead; everybody is welcome to attend this special service. Benefice Maundy Meal at Westerham Benefice Maundy Liturgy at Westerham – see separate notice about these events |
| Good Friday | | Services at 10am, 2pm and 5pm in both churches – see flyer at the end of the newsletter for details. |
| Holy Saturday | | Come and Sing Stainer’s Crucifixion at Westerham. See flyer at the end of the newsletter for details |

Please pray for Dame Sarah Mullally following her installation as the new Archbishop of Canterbury this week.

Whoever you are, wherever you live, whichever church you consider 'yours', whatever life is like for you and regardless of money, status, (dis)ability or anything else, you are welcome at any service in the Benefice.

Easter Day!

5th April

5.50am Lighting of the New Flame at Westerham

A beautiful sung service using the ancient *Exsultet* in which together we make the Paschal Proclamation and celebrate the first Communion of Easter. We gather in the churchyard before bringing the light of the Risen Lord back into His Church.

8am Traditional Communion at Westerham: said service

10am Easter Day Service at Crockham Hill

10am Easter Day Breakfast at Westerham. Enjoy croissants and coffee between our services. A chance to catch up with members of the other congregation.

10.30 Easter Day Service with Baptism at Westerham.

We make the Paschal Proclamation anew, bless the Easter Garden and welcome Paula into the fellowship of faith. Please come along to support her as we celebrate new life in the Risen Lord – and perhaps even get baptised yourself, if you haven't been already!.

No Choral Evensong

12th April, 2nd of Easter

8.00am Traditional Communion at Westerham: a said service

10.00am Holy Communion at Crockham Hill

10.30am 2nd Sunday at Westerham: our informal service of *word, prayer and praise* with songs, worship, craft activities and refreshments available throughout. This month our theme is *'He is Risen'*. Come along and join us.

Notices

This term, Year 6 children at **Crockham Hill CE Primary School** are studying the Second World War and would like to invite parents, grandparents and members of the local community into school on **Wednesday 1st April at 1.45pm** to share what they have been learning. We will host a VE Day style party, with some homemade dishes from the period as well as tea, biscuits and 1940s style dancing! We would also love you to share your local or family history related to the Second World War and invite you to bring in photos, artefacts or stories to show the children.

The afternoon will finish with a presentation to the whole school at 2.40pm, which you are also very welcome to stay and watch. Please do RSVP if you are able to come (tel: 01732 866374).

Benefice Maundy Meal at Westerham: *Everyone is very welcome* to come to the meal and the service, or just one or the other. If you would like to come to the meal, there is a sign up sheet in each church. Please make sure that you add your name to it, along with any dietary needs, so that Sharon knows how many to cater for. The meal starts at 6.00 sharp; the service starts at 7.00

Easter Lilies at Holy Trinity: if you would like a lily in memory of a loved one, please sign the list at the back of church. Donations can be sent to Tony Rogers on the church account or cash to Lorraine or Trish.

Foodbank gifts: any special treats for Easter gratefully received by the Edenbridge Foodbank.

Brass Cleaning at Westerham: *"We will not neglect the house of our God."* We still need volunteers to polish some brass for Easter Day. We share responsibility for caring for God's House and it's contents – that is part of our offering to Him. (*even the Vicar's had the silver polish out recently – Ed*).

In Holy Scripture, the Prophet Nehemiah writes, *"... where the vessels of the sanctuary are, and where the priests that minister, and the gatekeepers and the singers are, we will not neglect the house of our God"* (ch 10 v39).

We know that time is precious but if you can give some up, it will make a real difference. People notice when God's house shines! So let's

do our best this Easter. Contact Sandra Johnson or Bruce Nuttall via the Benefice Office.

2nd Sunday The theme for our 12th April service is *'He is Risen'*. We will be thinking about 'headline' moments in the story of the Risen Christ and His Disciples, and we're in desperate need of glossy magazines, old newspapers and anything else with print and pictures (think: bread, wine, parties, people, meetings, beaches, bbq, fish, boats, nature, questions, journeys, graveyards, witnesses, journeys, - we'll take anything as long you don't mind it getting cut up)! Please leave anything you can spare on the table at the back of the coffee area.

Wheels to freedom: Can you spare a few pounds to help Jo, who sings in the choir at Westerham and is St Mary's Gift Aid Officer, to get around when her health is poor? Her target is £2800 and kind people have donated a bit over £1000 so far. If you can help, follow this link: <https://gofund.me/b8551cd11> .

Westerham Electoral Roll Revision: in preparation for the Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCM) on 22nd April, we have to revise the Electoral Roll. **The revision period runs from 25th March to 7th April.** If your name is already on the roll, you do not need to do anything. More information and application forms are available at the back of church. If you are unsure if your name is on the roll, please speak to Karen Smart or contact the Benefice Office.

Future dates:

Tuesday 7th April at 11am: Funeral of the late Mr Robin Greaves at Westerham

Thursday 23rd April at 12.15pm: Funeral of the late Mrs Penny Rich at Westerham

Bereavement Café: 2pm - 4pm at Bridges Centre in Edenbridge on the third Monday of the month.

ECC Lent Course: 'Calling a Wounded Earth Home' Every Wednesday at the Bridges Centre from 7.30pm, finishing around 8.45- 9pm. See info on the church notice board or contact David Stafford.

Organ Update: You may be wondering what has happened to the organ refurbishment project. Behind the scenes the Working Group has been concentrating on getting permissions in place, preparing the first applications for funding, and setting up the admin arrangements needed.

We thought you might like to be reminded who's who:

- Karen Smart (Chair and PCC member); her father ran a similar project for the organ in his local church.
- Alison Graham, a guest member of St Mary's choir and a former professional fundraiser (what a bonus!).
- Dan Eaton, our Director of Music, and technical expert, nursing our ailing organ until it can be fixed.
- Peter Cambridge, PCC member, whose professional life in shipping brings business and commercial expertise.
- Helen Ogden, Secretary to the Group. Managed large complex projects in her working life.

The Group is supported by St Mary's Treasurer, Ebru Walker and Administrator Alyson Coughlan on matters financial; and everything we do is subject to the guidance and agreement of the PCC.

Do speak to any of the Working Group if you are interested in learning more.

Benefice Update

Combined Benefice Rota: Weekly reminders for people who have an active role in our worship have now ceased for people in both parishes. Please be sure to check the rota and that everything is in your diary – or that you can easily access the rota online to check.

The rota will be printed before the start of each month, and put:

- In the porch at Crockham Hill
- In the Choir and Vicar's Vestries at Westerham
- On the lectern in each church.

Benefice Newsletter replaces parish pewsheets: As you see, we have combined our notice sheets. To reduce costs and help the environment, we want to send as many as possible by email, which we already do at Westerham. **If you are a member of Holy Trinity** and have access to email, please sign up by going to our

website: www.chwbenefice.org and clicking the newsletter link on the first page. We will continue to print some newsletters but over time the number will reduce.

Enquiries: Now that Revd Emma has started as the Benefice's Associate Minister, please be sure to explain to people in the wider community that she is part-time, and that she, like Revd Dave, splits her time between the parishes. **All** enquiries about worship, funerals, baptisms and weddings should go to the Benefice Office in the first instance. If somebody comes to you with an enquiry, please redirect them to Alyson in the office.

Pastoral Emergencies: Sometimes things come out of the blue or happen more quickly than expected. If you can't wait for the Pastoral Team to arrange a visit, please call the Benefice Vicarage on 01959 563127 to speak to Revd Dave. If you can't get through, there is a 24-hour answering service, so please leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible, or ask one of the other ministers to do so.

The Pastoral Care Team needs more members, **especially from Crockham Hill**. If you think that God might be calling you to this important ministry, please contact Barbara or Revd Dave.

Communion: Most churches have long since returned to the practice of the shared Cup. Advice from the Diocese of Rochester says, "research on the chalice as a possible means of transmitting infection has shown that the risk is extremely small." Guidance from the Church of England more generally is that we should all have returned to using the shared cup long before now.

It is part of our heritage and identity as confessing Christians, and is both an obedience to Our Lord and reenactment of his actions at the Last Supper, when he blessed the cup and shared it with his disciples saying 'do this in remembrance of me'. It is interesting that he says more about the wine than about the bread, in his Gospel: sharing it, we participate in the sealing of the New Covenant, and in the forgiveness of the sins of many.

We realise that some people will feel uncomfortable letting go of intinction but it is not the norm. The ministry team discussed this during our recent meeting and we decided that it is time, as we start

a new chapter in the life of the Church in this place to reintroduce the shared cup.

At Crockham Hill, we invite you all to partake but until Easter, the wafers will continue to be intincted so that you have a choice. From Easter, will return fully to the practice of receiving in two kinds.

At Westerham, the invitation to share the cup has been made for some time now. From Easter, so that we are doing the same in both places, we will cease intincting at main services. Intinction will continue to be offered at the Wednesday Eucharist.

If you are not able to receive in two kinds, please be assured that when received reverently and in faith, we fully partake in the Body and Blood of Christ whether we receive bread or wine or both. So please feel free to receive just the bread, if you prefer.

Please do not dip your host in the wine. Research tells us that this is a much higher infection risk than sharing the cup.

Eucharistic Assistants (aka Chalice Assistants/Eucharistic Ministers): If, in the past, you exercised this ministry among us – of assisting in the distribution of Communion during services - then Revd Dave will be in contact to renew your authorisation to do so. If you would like to help with this for the first time, or you used to do it but would like a refresher in how it's done, please speak to Revd Dave or contact the office.

A Prayer for Peace: God of peace and justice, we lift up to you the peoples of Ukraine, the Middle East, DR of Congo 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.

**Newsletter items should be sent to the Benefice Office
by 12pm on Wednesdays: office@chwbenefice.org**

Contact Us

Benefice Office 01959 561330; office@chwbenefice.org

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

Website: www.chwbenefice.org

COME AND SING STAINER'S CRUCIFIXION

ST MARY'S CHURCH, WESTERHAM

SATURDAY 4TH APRIL 2026

Devotional Performance 6pm

Choir Rehearsal 4pm

Conducted by Daniel Eaton

Tenor: Joshua Gahan

Bass: Oliver Davis

Organ: Alex Trigg

Admission free for singers and audience

Suggested donation £5

Dress code for singers: 'Suitably Sombre'

Please bring your own scores if you can although we can provide these if necessary

Singers sign up by sending an email to office@chwbenefice.org
or by phoning 01959 561330

Please indicate your voice part when you sign up

**Generously supported by
The Dronsfield Trust**





Outdoor Easter Trails

*Two exciting Easter Story trails for you and your family
to enjoy over the Easter season!*

Crockham Hill Church Easter Trail and Mystery Word

Find all 10 checkpoints hidden in our beautiful
churchyard to discover
why the Easter story is such good news.

Trail starts in the church porch.

Available from Friday 27th March to Sunday 19th April

Westerham Church Easter Trail and Quiz

Visit our much-loved historic church, hunt for 10 hidden
checkpoints around the churchyard, and uncover the
super-cool story of Jesus, and why Easter is so
awesome. Trail begins in the church porch.

Available from Thursday 2nd April to Sunday 19th April





Benefice Services for Holy Week

PALM SUNDAY – 29th March

10.00am: Liturgy of Palm Sunday Holy Communion Service (Crockham Hill)
10.30am: Holy Communion (Westerham)

TUESDAY – 31st March

6.00pm: Sung Compline (W)

WEDNESDAY – 1st April

10.00am Weekday Communion (W)

MAUNDY THURSDAY – 2nd April

6.00pm Benefice Maundy Meal followed by the Maundy Liturgy (W)
(The sign-up list will be in church. Please feel free to come to both or either).

GOOD FRIDAY – 3rd April

10.00am: All Age Morning Service (CH)
2.00pm: **The Last Hour**—a Benefice Service of music, readings and prayer (W)
5.00pm: **Stations of the Cross** followed by Compline (W)

HOLY SATURDAY – 4th April

'Come and Sing': Join the pop-up choir or come along to enjoy the devotional performance of Stainer's *Crucifixion* (email office@chwbenefice.org or call 01959 561330 if you would like to join the choir - all welcome) (W)
4.00pm: Rehearsal starts
6.00pm Devotional Performance

EASTER SUNDAY – 5th April

5.50am **Lighting of the New Flame**: A beautiful service of the Paschal Proclamation featuring sung Exsultet and First Communion of Easter (W)
8.00am: **Holy Communion in Traditional Language** (W)
10.00am: Easter Communion Service (CH)
10.30am: Easter Communion Service (W)

Everybody's welcome at all our services