



## Sunday 22nd March – Lent 5

Today's Services in the Benefice

8.00am Traditional Communion at Westerham

10.00am Holy Communion at Crockham Hill

10.30am Holy Communion at Westerham

Readings: Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 11:1-45

*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.*

Day	Time	Church Diary this week
Tues to Sat	9.00 - 9.30am	<b>Morning Prayer (Westerham)</b> in the Resurrection Chapel; a short service of prayer and readings.
Tuesday	10am - 12pm	<b>Coffee Time</b> at Westerham Community Hub in the JFR. Join us for tea, coffee, snacks and friendship
	7.45pm	<b>Bell ringing practice</b>
Wednesday	10am	<b>Midweek Communion (Westerham)</b> : a said service
	10am to 12pm	<b>Jigsaw Group</b> at Westerham Community Hub in the JFR. Come along for refreshments and a chat
Thursday	12pm	<b>Funeral of the late Mrs Rita Hensley (Westerham)</b>
	7pm	<b>Choir practice</b> in the John Fryth Room
Friday	5pm	<b>Stations of the Cross (Crockham Hill)</b>

## 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**



Please remember that the clocks **GO FORWARD** by one hour at 1am on Sunday 29th March.

## 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).

We were saddened this week to learn of the death of **Penny Rich**, well-loved member of the Westerham congregation. Her funeral will be at St Mary's on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 12.15pm. Please remember her family in your prayers.

Please come along and join us at the **Lent lunches**, where we will meet with the other churches in Westerham. Details and sign-up sheet at the back of the church or contact the Benefice Office.

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

**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.

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

### **ECC Lent Course: 'Calling a Wounded Earth Home'**

This is being held every Wednesday evening at the Bridges Centre starting at 7.30pm and finishing around 8.45- 9pm. For further information please see the poster on the church notice board or contact David Stafford.

**Rotas for April and May** have now been completed online for Westerham people. Please take a look, especially at the extra services during Holy Week. Any changes to your availability, please contact Bruce.

## **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](http://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.

**General Enquiries:** Now that Revd Emma has started as the Benefice's new 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 Concerns:** If you are aware of anybody in need or who would like prayer or a home visit, please contact Barbara, our Pastoral Team Leader: [barb54humphrey@gmail.com](mailto:barb54humphrey@gmail.com). All of the members have received training from the Diocese. Barbara will arrange for somebody to visit or otherwise get in touch. The team also has a dedicated group of intercessors who are available to pray confidentially about any concerns you, friends or loved ones may have.

**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.

**New Members:** 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 contacting 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](mailto:office@chwbenefice.org)**

## **Contact Us**

**Benefice Office** 01959 561330; [office@chwbenefice.org](mailto:office@chwbenefice.org)  
Open Mon, Tues, Wed and Fri, 9am to 1pm. **Closed Thursday**  
**Website: [www.chwbenefice.org](http://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](mailto:office@chwbenefice.org)  
or by phoning 01959 561330

Please indicate your voice part when you sign up

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The Benefice of Crockham Hill  
and Westerham



## Benefice Services for Holy Week

### **PALM SUNDAY – 29<sup>th</sup> March**

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

10.30am: Holy Communion (Westerham)

### **TUESDAY – 31<sup>st</sup> March**

6.00pm: Sung Compline (W)

### **WEDNESDAY – 1<sup>st</sup> April**

10.00am Weekday Communion (W)

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 – 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 – 5<sup>th</sup> 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**