



Sunday 8th March — Lent 3

Today's Services in the Benefice

Crockham Hill:

10.00am: Holy Communion

In modern language with hymns. Please feel free to join us for refreshments afterwards.



Lent

Hymns:

202 - Let all the world in every corner sing

226 - As pants the hart for cooling streams

343 - Be thou my vision

172 - Glorious things of thee are spoken (omit v. 3; t. ii, Austria))

Organ Voluntary:

'O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig', BWV 618, by J. S. Bach

Westerham

8.00am: Holy Communion in Traditional Language

10.30am: **2nd Sunday.** Our monthly informal worship. This month we ask how we can all share in "Being Mary."

Collect *Please note that the Collect will not be included in future editions.*

Eternal God,

give us insight to discern your will for us,

to give up what harms us,

and to seek the perfection we are promised

in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Readings: *The bible is written to be heard by the assembled people of God, and by those who have not heard the Good News. Our stewardship*

of God's world calls us to consider our use of resources, and it does not make good Christian sense to print the Word for it to be immediately recycled or sent to landfill – which is the fate of most of our pewsheets every week.

With these things in mind, please note that from next Sunday the readings will not be printed, but the references still given. If you have signed up to receive the Benefice pewsheet by email, it will go out on Saturday morning. Going forward, the first lesson will be read from the large lectern bible and the reader is asked to bookmark it when they arrive in church. The Gospel is proclaimed in the normal way. A few copies of readings will be printed for those who struggle to hear but, if you prefer to read the Word as it is spoken, please bring your own bible. If you do not own, and cannot afford one, then please get in touch with Revd Dave.

Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?"

⁴So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Gospel: John 4:5-42

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was

there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)

⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans).

¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹The woman said to him,

"Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"

¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"

¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."

²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.

²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us."

²⁶Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

²⁷Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” ²⁸Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹“Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” ³⁰They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.”

³²But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” ³³So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?”

³⁴Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.”

³⁹Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of his word. ⁴²They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

Benefice Services:

Wednesday 10.00am—Midweek Communion at Westerham

Friday 5.00pm Stations of the Cross at Westerham

Sunday 15th March—Mothering Sunday

10.00am Holy Communion at Crockham Hill

10.30am Holy communion at Westerham

Readings: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; John 9

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.

NOTICES

Foodbank gifts: Any special treats for Easter gratefully received.

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

Crockham Hill Drop in Café —future dates Wednesday 18th March, 10.30am—Harris Room

ECC Lent Course: 'Calling a Wounded Earth Home'

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

Outcome of Leprosy Mission retiring collection

Following the talk given by Sue Clyde at our service on 25th January there was a retiring collection which raised the magnificent sum of £916.

Benefice Update:

PCC Secretary: Although Carole has retired from school and parish administration, she has very kindly agreed to stay on as PCC Secretary. Please do **not** use her old school or personal email address to get hold of her, but this new one:

PCCsecretarycrockhamhill@chwbenefice.org

Rotas, reading etc: If you have an active role in our worship, please note that you will no longer receive weekly reminders, so

please make sure that you have checked 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. If you swap with anybody, please make sure that you note it on the printed rota.

Pewsheets: This is the last pewsheets that will be printed for the whole congregation. A combined Benefice Newsletter will be produced and emailed out each week. This will contain news and events for the whole Benefice.

Looking 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 have access to an email address, 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, as more people sign up, the number will reduce.

Items for inclusion should be sent to the Benefice Office by 12pm on Wednesdays: office@chwbenefice.org

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. 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 concern you, friends or loved ones may have.

Pastoral Emergencies: Sometimes things come out of the blue or happen more quickly than expected. If you don't feel that you can wait, then 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 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.

The Articles of Religion, which underpin Anglican doctrine, say: "The Cup of the Lord is not to be denied to the Lay-people: for both the parts of the Lord's Sacrament, by Christ's ordinance and commandment, ought to be ministered to all Christian men alike." 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. This was done at Holy Communion on 1st March. 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.

If you do not feel able to receive in two kinds, please be assured 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

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