



The Benefice of Crockham Hill and Westerham



Sunday 19th April, 3rd of Easter

Readings: Acts 2:14a, 36-41; John 24:13-35.

10.00am, Holy Communion at Crockham Hill: a relaxed, welcoming service in modern language with hymns

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

After the service at Westerham: 2nd Sunday Planning Meeting for our service on 10th May. If you have any ideas for songs, worship or craft activities, please come along and get involved – everybody’s welcome.

There’s still time to complete the Easter Trails at Crockham Hill and Westerham, but they end TODAY, so don’t delay!

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 will be welcome at any service in the Benefice.

Day	Time	Church diary this week
Monday		Benefice Office closed
Tues – Sat	9.00 – 9.30am	Morning Prayer (Westerham) in the Resurrection Chapel; a short service of prayer and readings
Tuesday	10am – 12 noon 7.45pm	Coffee Time at Westerham Community Hub in the JFR. Join us for tea, coffee, snacks and friendship Bellringing practice
Wednesday	10am 10am – 12 noon	Midweek Communion (Westerham): a said service. Jigsaw Group at Westerham Community Hub in the JFR. Come along for refreshments and a chat APCM postponed until 20th May
Thursday	12.15pm 7.00pm	Funeral of the late Mrs Penny Rich (Westerham) Choir practice in the John Fryth Room

Sunday 26th April, 4th of Easter

Readings: Acts 2:42-end; John 10:1-10 Everybody’s welcome.

8.00am, Traditional Communion at Westerham: a said service

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.



The **Edenbridge Foodbank** has informed us that they are currently experiencing low stock levels and would particularly appreciate the following food items: chopped tomatoes, dried pasta, pasta sauce, tinned pasta, cereals (no oats please!), pulses (tinned chickpeas, lentils, white beans, etc), long-life milk, coffee, tea and biscuits. Thank you for your continued support – it is really appreciated.

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

Wednesday 13th May, at 7.30pm, Westerham Town Council (including Crockham Hill Ward), Annual Town Meeting. If you have questions, it would help if you could send them in in advance to office@westerhamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Saturday 30th May, 10am to 4pm, A Prayer Festival at St Benedict's Centre, West Malling. Please see posters for details.

Holy Week and Easter 'thank you': Now that I'm back from leave, I would like to say a big 'Thank You' to everybody who helped to make Holy Week and Easter so special this year. Lent and Holy Week are times requiring a deep dive into my spiritual and physical resources as we confront the harsh cruelty of the road to the cross. But the remembrance of the reality of Resurrection is what it all is for.

It was great to introduce Stations of the Cross at Crockham Hill, and to have Easter Trails in our churchyards as extra spiritual input for families outside service times. The churches were beautiful; the worship profound. There were plenty of highlights: the Sunrise Service and an adult baptism on Easter Day are two that spring to mind, not to mention both the atmosphere at Crockham Hill on Good Friday and the powerful reflections during The Last Hour as we gathered before the cross in St Mary's later that same day.

People were deeply moved by our services across Lent, and that is a testimony to the devotion, discipleship and welcome that everyone in our church community brings to the Benefice. Thank you. – *Revd Dave*

Come and Sing 2026: It is invidious to pick out one event from a music-filled Holy Week. Yet 'Come and Sing' at St Mary's on Holy Saturday brought together more than 40 singers from around the district, talented young soloists and an equally youthful organist in a devotional performance of Stainer's *Crucifixion*. After just two hours of rehearsal together, this moving oratorio filled the church with sound and passion, to the obvious delight of the large congregation.

Thanks go to soloists Oliver and Josh, organist Alex, all who responded to the invitation to 'Come and Sing' and of course our magnificent organ. Old lady that she is, she puffed, whirred and grumbled at times, but in Alex's hands showed what she can be capable of: imagine her capability when restored! And all of this is due to the musical talent and passion and superb organisational ability of St Mary's Director of Music, Dan, who brought this together. Thank you! Helen Ogden

Crockham Hill Easter Flowers: Thank you to all involved in decorating our church so beautifully for the Easter celebrations. It was lovely to see the church with wonderful spring displays everywhere, and they were much admired by everyone. The list of those remembered was placed next to the Easter Lily display near the altar. Many thanks, Annie Blissett



Stamps: We know that Christmas is over but for any of you that do still receive post, please do remember to save the used stamps. These can be passed to Revd Emma for the collection envelope at the back of church, or there is a collection box in the Reception of Crockham Hill School. Many thanks.

Home Library Service: If getting to the library is difficult for you or for someone you know to be housebound, there is a service running through Edenbridge Library where books can be brought out to you. It is free, friendly and tailored to your reading tastes. For more information in the first instance please contact Carole Feakes on 07905 234023 or c.feakes@mynon.co.uk

Lost property: a bracelet was found at Westerham after the Easter weekend. If this is yours, please contact the Benefice Office.



Celebrate new life this Eastertide and have a go at growing something! April is the perfect time to try to grow something edible or, if you are a seasoned gardener, to encourage someone else to try. Salad leaves or herbs are a great place to start and will reduce your reliance on those oh-so-convenient, often air-mile ridden supermarket salad bags. For indoor space, try 'micro-greens' (vegetable leaves harvested soon after they open). For greenhouses, try sowing salad leaf seed mixes. For outdoors, beetroot, lettuce, onion and pea plants are frost-resistant, so can be planted outside in April. As you sow, thank God for the opportunity to grow food and pray for those communities that are facing food shortages and famine.

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

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