



June 2026

Pentecost and Peonies

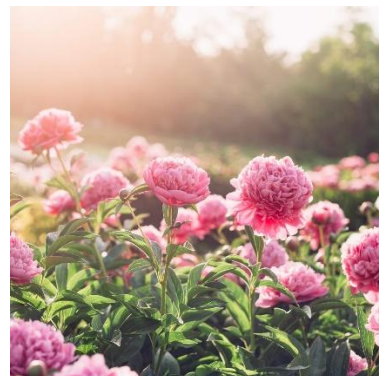
June is always a joyful time as we reach the cusp of summer, the sun is shining more, people are dusting off their barbecues, strawberries are in season, and people begin to feel the freedom of the expanse of summer! My favourite flower, the peony, blooms at this time of year. In German it is called 'the Pentecost rose' as it always blooms around the season of Pentecost.

This new hopefulness and sense of freedom and new things, that comes with the start of summer, is mirrored in the church's calendar, where we come towards the end of Eastertide – in which we have been celebrating the resurrection of Jesus for the past forty days – and then come to Jesus' ascension. His ascension into heaven brings us two-fold good news, as we know that Jesus now sits at the right hand of the Father in heaven, interceding for us, and also that he governs the world in his reign of love, mercy, compassion, truth and justice. His lordship gives us cause for great hope; how much do we see the need for these qualities in our leaders and in our world!

Before his ascension, Jesus also promised to leave us the most precious gift, the Holy Spirit, whose arrival we celebrate the following week, at Pentecost. The birthday of the Church! At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit of God falls upon the disciples, setting them ablaze with passion for the good news of Jesus, and giving them every language for communicating it to others.

So, as we dwell in this season, may you know the Holy Spirit close to you, the Spirit whom Jesus describes as the comforter and guide and as the 'one who comes alongside' us. And may you have peace in the knowledge that the resurrected and ascended Jesus prays for **you** at the right hand of the Father.

If you see a peony in bloom in the next few weeks, know that as they burst into beautiful life, the Holy Spirit is at work this Pentecost, bringing forth beautiful life in our world and in our own lives too. I hope now, like me, whenever you see one, you will think of the beautiful gift of Pentecost!



Rev Monique Mendes da Costa, Curate, West Weald Parish

Sunday Services in June

7 th	10am	Holmsted Manor	All-Age Communion (part of the Parish Weekend)
14 th	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship with Communion
	10am	All Saints	Morning Worship
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship with Communion
21 st	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship with Communion
	10am	All Saints	Morning Worship with Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship
28 th	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship with Communion
	10am	All Saints	Morning Worship
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship with Communion
	2.30pm	Woodgate Hub Café	Sundays at the Hub

Weekly services take place at our churches, and **everyone is welcome**.

Our current plans are as published here, but they are subject to change. Please look out for email communication, and keep an eye on our social media pages, website, YouTube channel and weekly notice sheet.

The St Mary's services are put onto YouTube, and we hope they will be a blessing to those who cannot attend in person. They can be found here:

https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCBQ0W4r1m39ixogQWR3TxoA?fbclid=IwAR2vLqbms97lq9StSwn8qvgX_vTF11-tg0LV7z80cVFC8BZE034WNbNHhc4

You can subscribe to the sermons as a podcast too. All links are on the website at <https://www.stmarysparish.org.uk/podcasts/>.

Other Events

June

2 nd	9.30am	St Mark's	Poppy Project group meeting
2 nd	7pm	All Saints	Prayer gathering
3 rd	10.30am	Handcross	
		Hardware Shop	Poppy Project group meeting
5 th	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
6 th	10am	All Saints	Poppy Project group meeting
6 th	3.30pm	St Mark's	Baptism
9 th	9.30am	St Mark's	Poppy Project group meeting
9 th	10am	All Saints	A Walk through the New Testament
10 th	12.30pm	Joco,	
		Pease Pottage	Poppy Project group meeting
10 th	1.30pm	All Saints	Poppy Project group meeting
10 th	7pm	All Saints	A Walk through the New Testament
12 th	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
12 th	10am	Seaforth Hall,	
		Warninglid	Poppy Project group meeting
13 th	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
13 th	10am	All Saints	Poppy Project group meeting
15 th	7.30pm	Rectory	St Mark's Standing Committee meeting
16 th	9.30am	St Mark's	Poppy Project group meeting
16 th	10am	All Saints	A Walk through the New Testament
17 th	10.30am	Handcross	
		Hardware Shop	Poppy Project group meeting
17 th	7pm	All Saints	A Walk through the New Testament
18 th	10.30am	St Mary's	Visiting bellringers
19 th	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
20 th	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
20 th	10am	All Saints	Poppy Project group meeting
20 th	tbc	St Mark's	Baptism
23 rd	9.30am	St Mark's	Poppy Project group meeting
23 rd	10am	All Saints	A Walk through the New Testament
24 th	12.30pm	Joco,	
		Pease Pottage	Poppy Project group meeting

24 th	1.30pm	All Saints	Poppy Project group meeting
24 th	7pm	All Saints	A Walk through the New Testament
24 th	7pm	Half Moon, Warninglid	Poppy Project group meeting
26 th	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
26 th	10am	St Mary's	Poppy Project group meeting
26 th	7.30pm	St Mary's	Bellringing practice
27 th	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
27 th	10am	All Saints	Poppy Project group meeting
27 th	10am	St Mary's	Retreat space
20 th	2pm	St Mark's	Funeral
30 th	9.30am	St Mark's	Poppy Project group meeting
30 th	10am	All Saints	A Walk through the New Testament

July

1 st	10.30am	Handcross Hardware Shop	Poppy Project group meeting
1 st	2.30pm	St Mary's	Exploring Prayer group
1 st	7pm	All Saints	A Walk through the New Testament
3 rd	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
4 th	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
4 th	10am	All Saints	Poppy Project group meeting
7 th	9.30am	St Mark's	Poppy Project group meeting
7 th	10am	All Saints	A Walk through the New Testament
7 th	7pm	All Saints	Prayer gathering
8 th	12.30pm	Joco, Pease Pottage	Poppy Project group meeting
8 th	1.30pm	All Saints	Poppy Project group meeting
8 th	7pm	All Saints	A Walk through the New Testament
9 th	tbc	St Mary's	Mustard Seed cream tea
10 th	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
10 th	10am	Seaforth Hall, Warninglid	Poppy Project group meeting

Locations for services and events

All Saints: Horsham Road, Handcross, RH17 6DF

St Mark's: Brantridge Lane, Staplefield, RH17 6EJ

St Mary's: Staplefield Road, Slaugham, RH17 6AG

Woodgate Hub: Grace Holland Avenue, Pease Pottage, RH11 9SL

Seaforth Hall: Cuckfield Lane, Warninglid, RH17 5UB

Please note that there will be no Community Pantry & Café on 6th June.

Dates to note

5-7/6 Parish weekend

8/11 Remembrance Sunday

27/6 Retreat Space

13/12 St Mark's Carol Service

27/9 Harvest

20/12 St Mary's Carol Service

Retreat Space

Our regular retreat spaces give an opportunity to give time to God, to be still, to listen, to hear what God might want to say to us.

The next retreat space will be on Saturday 27th June at St Mary's from 10am to 12 noon. For more details please contact Philip Robinson at harradine8@yahoo.co.uk.

A Walk through the New Testament

The poster features a central image of a person walking on a path that leads into an open book. The book is glowing with light, and the background shows a landscape with mountains and a sunset. The text on the poster includes the course title, a subtitle, logos for 'west weald' and 'all saints HANDCROSS', course dates, a weekly schedule, and contact information.

A Walk through the New Testament
10 Sessions walking you through the storyline of the New Testament

west weald **all saints HANDCROSS**

Course Dates
Tuesday 10-11.30am or Wednesday 7.00-8.30pm
All Saints Church Handcross

Week 1 - April 28/29	Intro & Arrival
Week 2 - May 5/6	Jesus Ministry 1
Week 3 - May 12/13	Jesus Ministry 2
Week 4 - May 19/20	Jesus Passion
Week 5 - June 9/10	New Church
Week 6 - June 16/17	Expansion 1
Week 7 - June 23/24	Expansion 2
Week 8 - June 30/July 1	Paul's Letters
Week 9 - July 7/8	Other Letters
Week 10 - July 14/15	Review

Contact Phil for more information - 07880844766

Exploring Prayer

This prayer group explores different ways of deepening our relationship with God in prayer. We will be using well trusted ways of praying that have been used in the church for centuries - Lectio Divina, contemplative gospel meditation and the Examen.

Dates for the next four sessions are: 27 May, 1 July, 15 July, 22 July. Time: 2.30pm to 4pm at St Mary's.

Everyone is welcome to come to any or all of the sessions.

For more information, contact Liz Cox (lizcox1@gmail.com) or Gina Howard (ginajobscastle@gmail.com).



You're invited to join our poppy project creating a five-stranded waterfall of crocheted and knitted poppies on the tower of St Mary's, Slaugham! We are looking for people to sew, crochet and knit!

All red wool is provided but we are taking donations of black wool or buttons - please get in touch if you would like to get involved, either to join from home, join a group or donate to the project:
**poppies@westweald
 parish.org.uk or
 call: 07746015594**



Meeting dates:

Pease Pottage

2nd and 4th Weds 12.30 at Joco

Handcross

1st and 3rd Weds of the month
 10.30am at the Hardware Store
 2nd and 4th Tues of the month
 1.30pm at All Saints
 Every Sat 10am-12 at All Saints

Slaugham

4th Friday 10am at St Mary's

Staplefield

Every Tues 9.30am at St Mark's

Warninglid

2nd Friday 10am at Seaforth Hall
 4th Weds 7-9pm at the Half Moon

Our verses for 2026

I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one – I in them and you in me – so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

John 17:22-23



west weald
Community Pantry

Free provisions for the local community
(serving the residents of Handcross, Pease Pottage, Slaughton, Staplefield & Warminglid)

Food Waste Reduction	Referrals	Donations
 Every weekend we partner with FareShare to help reduce food waste. Come along to the Saturday cafe to help yourself to a selection of fresh and frozen produce.	If you are in urgent need of food or provisions then we can help. Referrals can be made for you to receive regular essential items for a limited time. Referrals can be made by your GP (Ouse Valley Practice), a child's primary school, selected social & family support workers or the local churches.	If you would like to support the work of the West Weald Community Pantry then you can do so by making donations. Non-perishable items can be donated via the wheelex bins located throughout the parish or in any of our churches. Financial donations can be made via the churches. Please contact us for more information.

Free cafe open every Saturday 9:30am-11:30am
All Saints Church, Handcross

For more information please contact Barbara on
07853 228605
(Mon - Fri 9am - 4pm)

The **West Weald Community Pantry** continues strongly, as it has for the past six years.

The Saturday event is welcomed by so many people, and we call it our 'reducing food waste' event. Several stay for the free tea, coffee and biscuits, and it has become a lovely meeting place for people.

Why not come along and see for yourself?

Every week, Tesco at Broadbridge Heath donates its reduced produce, meat and bread products, as part of the FareShare scheme. We have now carried out 539 collections from Tesco, which is the equivalent of 48,768kg of food saved, as well as the saving of 140,541kg of CO₂!

On Wednesday mornings, we open a foodbank. From the very generous Harvest Thanksgiving donations from schools and churches, as well as those from the Warminglid monthly coffee mornings, we are able to help families and adults who are struggling due to the high cost of living increases and unemployment.

We want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has been involved in collecting food, sorting food, helping run the café, chatting to those who come on Saturdays, and generally spreading the message about what we are doing!

We work with schools and the GP surgery to offer a targeted service to those in most need of food, and we have helped several people in this way. Thank you to everyone who has donated food or money, or who has helped with this aspect of the Pantry.

The Pantry is a key ministry for our church, and we are seeing God at work in many ways!

We would like to increase our team of helpers so if you would like to join in and can spare an hour on a Friday evening to help with food collections, time on a Saturday morning to help in the café and chat to those attending, or an hour on Wednesday mornings to help with our targeted service, please talk to Barbara, Phil or the church office, and find out how you can become part of this amazing team!

Handcross Rosemary Club

The Handcross Rosemary Club has been bringing together the people of Handcross and its surrounding villages for 64 years. It's an informal chance to meet, chat and enjoy a variety of entertainments and talks, with a homemade afternoon tea!

We meet every third Wednesday of each month at 2.30-4.00 in the Parish Hall, Handcross. Yearly membership is just £15 , with £2 on the door at each meeting which includes tea, sandwiches and cake. As well as the monthly entertainment, we have occasional outings, a fish-and-chip treat during our AGM, and a much-anticipated Christmas Lunch.

The goal of the Rosemary Club is to keep our community connected, especially those who are less physically able or isolated. Chat, laughter and listening are powerful and welcome tonics in this increasingly complicated world.

Please come along to any of our meetings to see if you would like to become a member. We would love you to join our welcoming group.

For more information please contact our Chairman Karen Baker at klb2755@gmail.com or on 07747 741684.

West Weald Schools Team

Please pray for Carl and the team as they undertake the vital work in our schools, as well as for the staff and pupils.

Regular assemblies are: Monday, 11am, Brantridge, and Tuesday, 9am, St Mark's Primary.

Our local schools and headteachers are: Brantridge (Mr Dafydd Roberts), Handcross Park (Mr Jonnie Besley), Handcross Primary (Mrs Sharon Bondonno), St Mark's CofE Primary (Mrs Laura Kelsey) and Woodgate Primary (Mrs Sarah Neller).

Books

Grace and Peace: Lessons of Love from Paul's letters

This book, written by our rector, Rev'd Carl Smith, is out now and available from Amazon.

Paul knew how to encourage people when he wrote to or about them. In this book, Carl looks at some of the times that Paul did this well and explores how we can learn how to write to and speak of others with love and encouragement by using Paul's example.

Becoming West Weald: Stories and Lessons from the Birth of Parish Vision

In 2023, a former United Benefice of two parishes in Mid Sussex united to form one parish. This reflection recounts what led to that unity, the vision that has emerged, and what God has been doing as a result of it, featuring stories of lives changed and lessons learned, as those in and leading the churches discovered a fresh way of being and doing church. This book, written by some members of our church family, is available on Amazon.

Regular Notices

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility!

If you are worried about the wellbeing of a child or vulnerable person, please contact us.

- Our Parish Safeguarding Officer: Helen Arnold
- Contact: safeguarding@westwealdparish.org.uk

If you are concerned about the immediate safety of a child ring Police on 999.

Safeguarding information is in all our churches and on the website.

Hardship Fund

Financial support is available from the Hardship Fund if you or someone you know (living in the parish) is in need. Forms can be collected from the hardware shop. If you cannot go out, please email Carl (rector@westwealdparish.org.uk) and he will send a form electronically.

Gift Aid

Claiming Gift Aid on donations to our churches provides an important contribution to our income. If you are eligible under Gift Aid rules, please let our treasurer Jane Moss (treasurer@westwealdparish.org.uk) know. Regular giving is most efficient via the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), so please consider using that if you do not so do already. Please speak to Jane or Fae to know more.

Parking at St Mary's

If you park in the car park for a Sunday morning service and are blocking in another car, please put a note in your car window to say who you are and that you are in church. This will make it easier to identify who needs to move if anyone's car is trapped. Thank you.

Notice sheet distribution

If you do not already receive the notice sheet and other notices by email and you would like to do so, please email Fae at churchoffice@westwealdparish.org.uk.

Contact

Rev'd Carl Smith

Rector, West Weald Parish

01444 400221

rector@westwealdparish.org.uk

Rev'd Monique Mendes da Costa

Curate, West Weald Parish

curate@westwealdparish.org.uk

Phil Hawksley

Lay Apostolic Leader, All Saints

philhawksley@westwealdparish.org.uk

Fae Widdowson

Parish Administrator

01444 400221 churchoffice@westwealdparish.org.uk

Office hours: 9am-12pm Monday & Thursday
(term time only)

Helen Arnold

Safeguarding Officer

07540 816170 safeguarding@westwealdparish.org.uk

Churchwardens

St Mark's

Helen Arnold

mrshelenarnold@gmail.com

St Mary's

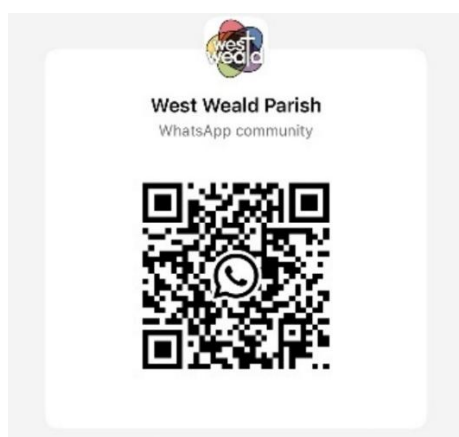
Liz Cox

lizcox1@gmail.com

Website: www.westwealdparish.org.uk

Facebook: [West Weald Parish | Facebook](#)

WhatsApp:



All details are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change.