



## The Benefice of Crockham Hill and Westerham



### Introduction

Welcome to the Benefice Newsletter. This week is Trinity Sunday, the Patronal Festival for Crockham Hill and Revds Dave and Emma will both be in attendance there.

After receiving feedback, we have re-jigged the newsletter slightly to make it more user-friendly. There are now sections called Services, Diary, News and Notices. The organ voluntaries for both churches for the coming Sunday are listed, and readings are given as links to enable everyone who reads the newsletter electronically to find them online, and even to print them out if you wish. Please let us know what you think.

If you have not yet signed up to receive the newsletter by email, please email the [office@chwbenefice.org](mailto:office@chwbenefice.org) to be added to the mailing list. You will receive it on Saturday mornings, so you can check the readings and hymns before the service on Sunday. Reducing our paper use is good for God's earth and reduces our costs a little, too.

*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.*

### Services

#### Sunday 31st May, Trinity Sunday

**Readings:** [2 Corinthians 13:11-end](#); [Matthew 28:16-end](#)

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

**Organ Voluntary:** Dialogue on *Te Deum* by Denis Bédard 'We praise thee, O God: we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord'

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

**Organ Voluntary:** *Tuba Tune* by C. S. Lang

**12.30pm, Baptism of Finlay at Crockham Hill**

## Sunday 7th June, First after Trinity

Readings: [Romans 4:13-end](#); [Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26](#)

### **8.00am, Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion at**

**Crockham Hill:** a spoken service using the beautiful language of the Book of Common Prayer

**10.00am, Family Service at Crockham Hill:** a service of hymns and readings with an all-age talk. Please join us for refreshments and a chat afterwards.

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

**3.30pm, Choral Evensong [at Lancing College](#)** See notice later in this newsletter. **No Evensong at Church.**

**Wednesday 10th June at 11am,** Funeral of the late Joanna Lewis at Westerham

**Thursday 11th June at 1.30pm** Memorial service for the late Nina Hannah at Crockham Hill

## Diary

Day	Time	The week ahead in our churches
Tues – Sat	9.00 – 9.30am	<b>Morning Prayer (Westerham)</b> in the Resurrection Chapel; a short service of prayer and readings
Tuesday	10am – 12 noon 7.45pm	<b>Benefice Office closed from 11am</b> <b>Coffee Time</b> at Westerham Community Hub in the John Fryth Room (JFR). Join us for tea, coffee, snacks and friendship <b>Bellringing practice</b>
Wednesday	10am 10am – 12 noon	<b>Midweek Communion (Westerham):</b> a said service. <b>Jigsaw Group</b> at Westerham Community Hub in the JFR. Come along for refreshments and a chat
Thursday	7.00pm	<b>Choir practice</b> in the John Fryth Room

## News

### **Westerham Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCM)**

were held on 20th May. Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed. Anna Morris and Kevin Willcox stepped down from the PCC. We thank them for all that they've done for St Mary's and

continue to do. An updated list of Parochial Church Council members and officers is on the website and noticeboard.

## **Elections**

**Churchwardens:** David Booker and Christina Cusick were elected as Churchwardens for 1 year.

**PCC Members:** John-Paul Danaee and Kerry Johnson were elected to the PCC for 3 years.

**Deanery Synod Reps:** Catharine Boston and Lee Phillips were elected as Deanery Synod representatives for a term of 3 years.

**Joint Council:** Barbara Humphrey expressed an interest in being co-opted.

**Finances:** 2025 ended with a very slightly in surplus. Voluntary income fell and investment value were affected by global events, but work has been done on reducing expenditure. Most spending has been on maintenance and it must be remembered that the church is a listed building.

Jo Ryan (Gift Aid Officer) is working hard to bring our Gift Aid claims up to date, for which many thanks. It was agreed that mission giving needs to be reviewed. Revd Dave agreed that as a church, we need to be active in mission and supporting need, but we need people who are willing to advocate for, and champion, causes. It was suggested that we could work more closely with Holy Trinity to support mission and 'away giving' that the benefice is already engaged with through Crockham Hill.

With Anna's departure from the PCC, we need somebody to carry out payroll. This is not difficult and Anna will show you how – there are only two employees. Please speak to Revd Dave or Anna.



The work of the Joint Council will follow up the Appreciative Enquiry Exercise undertaken with both PCCs and focus on worship, welcome and community.

The full text of Revd Dave's Vicar's view can be found on the website ([click here](#)) or at the back of the church.

Revd Dave thanked everybody who volunteers to make our 'inner life' happen and noted in particular, *'From one day to the next, there never ceases to be somebody at work, doing something to help our mission to make God known in this place, and to turn hearts to Christ. In the name of Christ Jesus, thank you to you all.'*

The next **Westerham PCC meeting** will be on **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June** at 7.30pm in the John Fryth Room. Please send agenda items, to the Benefice Office by **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June**.



**Jess' last service in the Benefice** was on 17th May. Thank you to everyone who contributed to her leaving gift, which now totals just over £500. This has paid for her ordination stole, which will be placed on her at her ordination at Rochester Cathedral on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June. She described the design on her stole as being the potential source of many sermons. The money left over will help

her to settle into her new parish. Thank you to everyone who attended the service and organised the refreshments afterwards. Please continue to pray for her and her family.

**Congratulations to Westerham Churchwarden David Booker** for finishing the 'Hunnypot 100' 100 hundred mile walk over the bank holiday weekend. This was organised by the Long Distance Walkers Association and involved walking 100 miles, with 3,400 metres (11,000ft) of ascent within 48 hours along a route through Ightham, Sevenoaks Weald, Cowden, Ashdown Forest and back via Felbridge, Edenbridge, Ide Hill and Kemsing. Well done, David!

### **A big boost for the Westerham organ refurbishment fund:**

The fundraising effort for the organ fund received a huge boost in the last couple of weeks: the Heritage Trust pledged £50,000 to the appeal. This generous sum raises the fund to a level where we can apply to other grant-awarding organisations for help. The Working Group has high hopes of another substantial pledge soon and has two further grant applications on the go.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the Heritage Trust, for whom this is the largest allocation of the funds which their hard work has raised over the last few years.

The Working Group moves forward feeling positive - and confident - both that the remaining funds needed will be achieved and that we can remove or reduce to an absolute minimum anything which might possibly get in the way of completing the refurbishment!

## Notices

**Westerham rotas for June, July and August** are now complete and ready to view online **Please check your email Inbox for the link sent by Bruce** and check to see when you are on duty, arranging any swaps in good time and letting Bruce or Revd Dave know of swaps so we can update the online planner.

Paper copies for the current month can be found underneath the Bible on the eagle lectern and on the Choir Vestry noticeboard.

**A big thank you** to everyone who volunteers for these duties **in both churches**.

**Not on a rota?** We welcome new members to these important ministries.

**At Westerham** - just speak to Revds Dave or Emma, Christina, David or Bruce.

**At Crockham Hill** – speak to Carole Feakes on 0790 5234023 for more information. We're especially seeking sidespeople and intercessors and planning some training for Intercessors, so help is at hand!

**WATCH – Women's Association at Crockham Hill** Come along to find out more about the group and activities – a warm welcome awaits you. First meeting Wednesday 3rd June in The Harris Room at Crockham Hill Village Hall at 2.30pm. A talk on "The Disgraceful Sons of George III".

**Choral Evensong at Lancing College Chapel:** The augmented St Mary's choir will be singing Evensong at Lancing College Chapel on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June. This promises to be a wonderful event and a great way to hear the choir in a completely different setting. We have hired a coach and the cost per head is £20. At the time of writing there a few places still available on the coach, so please email the Benefice Office if you would like a seat on the coach.

**Drop in Café – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June:** 10.30 – 12.30 in The Harris Room at the Village Hall. Future dates: 15th July, (August Break), 16th September. Deborah Coen 866221 & June Davies 866350

**Our Benefice supports Westerham and Edenbridge Foodbanks.** (Westerham at St Mary's and both at Holy Trinity). Donations are gratefully received. Current items on request for Edenbridge are: cereals, tea, coffee, biscuit and long-life milk.

**Waitrose Green Tokens** – If you shop at the Edenbridge branch, don't forget to support Edenbridge Christian Trust and Bridges, who are named charities this month.

**Crockham Hill Fete – Saturday 27th June.** See flyers at the end of this newsletter.

**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.

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**Please send news and notices to the Benefice Office  
by 12pm on Wednesdays**

## **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)

**Vicar: Revd David Fox-Branch**  
**Associate Priest: Revd Emma Wylie TSSF**

**Advance notice:** the Benefice Office will be closed to all visitors from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June inclusive. The only exception will be emergencies. Thank you.



*Join Us For*

**CROCKHAM HILL**  
**SUMMER**  
**FETE**

Crockham Hill Playing Fields  
**Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> June**

**2PM - 5PM**

Entry £2  
per car

**Live Music • Bake off • Dog Show • Art Competition •  
Classic Cars • Silent Auction • Raffle • Tombola •  
Bric-a-Brac • Arts & Crafts • Games • Obstacle Course •  
BBQ • Beer Tent • Pimms • Tea & Cakes •  
AND MUCH MORE!**

*All Proceeds go to Local Charities & Village Fund to support the community*

# CHUFTS

CROCKHAM HILL FETE FAMILY DOG SHOW  
CROCKHAM HILL PLAYING FIELDS  
SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2026



REGISTRATION FROM 2 P.M.  
CLASSES START AT 3.10 P.M.

ENTRY £1 PER CLASS



## CLASSES

1. BEST GROOMED
2. WAGGIEST TAIL
3. BEST 6 LEGS
4. DOG MOST LIKE ITS HANDLER
5. BEST RE-HOMED DOG
6. GOLDEN OLDIE
7. DOG THE JUDGE WOULD MOST LIKE TO TAKE HOME

