



July 2026

Selah

A quick glance through the Psalms, and you will notice a word that is repeated several times. Often hidden on the right-hand side and in italics will be the word 'Selah'. It's not a word we use in everyday language, and there are several ways to translate its meaning and purpose. It is considered by most scholars to be a musical term that is used as a marker either between movements or themes, or as a pause or rest; either way, it is a word of transition.

Recently on Tuesday mornings, we have been looking at fruits of the spirit, one of which is patience. We were exploring with the children what patience is really all about. The instant response for many is that patience is about waiting - but it must be more than that because we all know it is possible to wait impatiently (truth be told, we are all probably quite good at that). Patience, however, is about not only waiting but being satisfied in that waiting - perhaps even being grateful for the Selah moments of life. And trusting that God has a perfect plan which will happen in His perfect timing.

The difficulty is that we tend to live in culture of convenience - we want things and we want them now. Most modern inventions seem to have been created either to make things quicker so we don't have to wait as much, or to distract us in the waiting. I remember reading an article recently that said that because entertainment and distraction are so readily available, people are forgetting how to be bored. And boredom has once been described as dissatisfied contentment. Perhaps contentment is the key to patience - being content with, and in, the waiting - content with what you have, content with what you don't have yet, content that God is enough, content that this is a season, a transition, that will pass.

So if you are in a Selah moment, a moment of pausing, waiting, transitioning - what would it look like to be content?

Grace and Peace,

Rev'd Carl Smith, Rector of West Weald

Sunday Services in July

5 th	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship with Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	All Saints	Informal Worship
12 th	9am	St Mark's	Morning Prayer
	10am	All Saints	Morning Worship
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship with Communion
19 th	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship with Communion
	10am	All Saints	Morning Worship with Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship
26 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=IwAR2vLqBms97Iq9StSwn8qvgX_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

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	2pm	St Mary's	Funeral
8 th	7pm	All Saints	A Walk through the New Testament
9 th	1pm	St Mark's	Wedding
9 th	3pm	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
11 th	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
11 th	10am	All Saints	Poppy Project group meeting
11 th	10.30am	St Mary's	Visiting bellringers
14 th	9.30am	St Mark's	Poppy Project group meeting
14 th	10am	All Saints	A Walk through the New Testament
15 th	10.30am	Handcross Hardware Shop	Poppy Project group meeting
15 th	2.30pm	St Mary's	Exploring Prayer group
15 th	7pm	All Saints	A Walk through the New Testament
17 th	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
18 th	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
18 th	10am	All Saints	Poppy Project group meeting
20 th	7.30pm	All Saints	PCC Meeting

21 st	9.30am	St Mark's	Poppy Project group meeting
22 nd	12.30pm	Joco, Pease Pottage	Poppy Project group meeting
22 nd	1.30pm	All Saints	Poppy Project group meeting
22 nd	2.30pm	St Mary's	Exploring Prayer group
22 nd	7pm	Half Moon, Warninglid	Poppy Project group meeting
24 th	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
24 th	10am	St Mary's	Poppy Project group meeting
25 th	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
25 th	10am	All Saints	Poppy Project group meeting
28 th	9.30am	St Mark's	Poppy Project group meeting
29 th	12pm	St Mary's	Wedding
31 st	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
31 st	7.30pm	St Mary's	Bellringing practice

August

1 st	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
1 st	10am	All Saints	Poppy Project group meeting
4 th	9.30am	St Mark's	Poppy Project group meeting
4 th	7pm	All Saints	Prayer gathering
5 th	10.30am	Handcross Hardware Shop	Poppy Project group meeting
5 th	3pm	St Mary's	Wedding
7 th	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
8 th	9.30am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
8 th	10am	All Saints	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

More dates to note

9/7 Mustard Seed Cream Tea

13/12 St Mark's Carol Service

27/9 Harvest

20/12 St Mary's Carol Service

8/11 Remembrance Sunday

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 sessions are: 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).

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



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

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).



west weald
Community Pantry

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

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 Warninglid 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.

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

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Parish Administrator

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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

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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.