



Introduction

Welcome to the Benefice Newsletter. This is the 2nd week, after feedback, of a slightly re-jigged letter making 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 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 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. **Organ Voluntary:** *Allein Gott in der Höh' sei Ehr*

(BWV 715) by J S Bach **10.30am, Holy Communion at Westerham:**

in modern language with hymns. Join us for refreshments and chat afterwards. **Organ voluntary:** *Prelude and Fugue in C Major* by

J S Bach

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

Sunday 14th June, Second after Trinity

8.00am, Traditional Communion at Westerham: a said service

10.00am, Holy Communion at Crockham Hill: a relaxed, welcoming service in modern language with hymns. Please join us for refreshments and a chat afterwards.

Readings: [Romans 5:1-8](#); [Matthew 9:35-10:8](#)[9-23]

10.30am, 2nd Sunday at Westerham: our informal service of *word, prayer and praise*. Songs, worship and craft activities with refreshments available throughout on the theme of '*Fruits of the Spirit*'.

Diary

Day	Time	The week ahead in our churches
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 John Fryth Room (JFR). Join us for tea, coffee, snacks and friendship Bellringing practice
Wednesday	10am 10am – 12 noon 11am	Midweek Communion (Westerham): a said service. Jigsaw Group at Westerham Community Hub in the JFR. Come along for refreshments and a chat Funeral of the late Joanna Lewis (Westerham)
Thursday	1.30pm	Memorial service for the late Nina Hannah (Crockham Hill) NO choir practice

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.

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 24th June** at 7.30pm in the John Fryth Room. Please send agenda items, to the Benefice Office by **Monday 15th 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 27th 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!

Notices

Advance notice: The Benefice Office will be closed to all visitors from Monday 15th to Friday 19th June inclusive. The only exception will be emergencies (and the Clergy – Ed). Thank you.

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!

Drop in Café – Wednesday 17th June: 10.30 – 12.30 in The Harris Room at the Village Hall. Future dates: 15th July, (August break), 16th September. Deborah Coen 866221 and 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 Somalia 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.

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

Contact Us

Benefice Office 01959 561330; office@chwbenefice.org
Open Mon, Tues, Wed and Fri, 9am to 1pm. **Closed Thursday**
Website: www.chwbenefice.org

Vicar: Revd David Fox-Branch (Rest Day Monday)
Associate Priest: Revd Emma Wylie TSSF
(working days Sunday – Wednesday)



Join Us For

CROCKHAM HILL
SUMMER
FETE

Crockham Hill Playing Fields
Saturday, 27th 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



CROCKHAM HILL FETE

Collection Drive

ITEMS WE ARE COLLECTING

Bric a brac, books, nearly new Adults clothing, Tombola bottles and cans, raffle prizes (good quality items), nearly new toys, homemade crafts, handmade cakes, biscuits, preserves, plant stall items

Call Chitra Carver 07791463486, Marnie Cotterill 07795570536 to arrange collection or bring on the day (27 June) to the drop off point at Crockham Hill Playing Fields between 10am and 12 Noon



St Mary's Flower Guild have committed to creating glorious local and sustainable arrangements to beautify our place of worship and honour creation as we glorify God. Talk to a friend or family member this week about your concerns about an environmental issue. Listen to what they think. Share one thing you have done or want to do to try to care for creation.