



The Benefice of Crockham Hill and Westerham

Services

Sunday 26th July, Eighth after Trinity

10.00am, Holy Communion with Baptism at Crockham Hill: a relaxed, welcoming service in modern language with hymns including the baptism of Rose. Please pray for her as she takes her first steps in her journey with Christ. Please join us for refreshments and a chat after the service.

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

Readings: [Romans 8:26-end](#); [Matthew 13:31-33,44-52](#)

Diary

Day	Time	This week in our churches
Tuesday	9am	Morning Prayer (Crockham Hill): a short service of prayers and readings
	10am – 12 noon	Coffee Time at Westerham Community Hub in the John Fryth Room (JFR). Join us for tea, coffee, snacks and friendship
	7.45pm	Bellringing practice
Wed - Sat	9am	Morning Prayer (Westerham) in the Resurrection Chapel
Wednesday	10am	Midweek Communion (Westerham): a said service.
	10am – 12 noon	Jigsaw Group at Westerham Community Hub in the JFR. Come along for refreshments and a chat
	6pm	Joint Church Council Meeting at Crockham Hill
Thursday		No Choir practice until 3rd September

Sunday 2nd August, Ninth after Trinity

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 with Baptism at Crockham Hill: we welcome Nicolas into the community of faith during our monthly service of hymns and readings with all-age talk. Please join us for refreshments and a chat afterwards.

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

Readings: [Romans 9:1-5](#); [Matthew 14:13-21](#)

No Choral Evensong

Notices

Tuesday 4th August at 1pm: Funeral of the late Jane Edwards at Westerham. Please remember her family in your prayers.

Wednesday 5th August at 7.30pm, Westerham Parochial Church Council Meeting. If you have any agenda items, please send them to the Benefice Office **by Monday 27th July**.

The **Edenbridge Foodbank** has low stocks of 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.



From Barbara Humphrey and Catharine

Boston: we are planning a children's bric-a-brac stall for St Mary's at the Fair on The Green in Westerham on Saturday 12th September. We hope to raise funds and awareness of our welcome for the whole community. If you have any puzzles, games, soft toys or toys in good condition can you please donate them. Leave them at the back of the church. Thank you.

Tanzania Link: Rochester Diocese maintains links with Dioceses in Tanzania, aiming to:

- support and encourage each other in God's mission,
- to learn about each other's history and tradition,

- to share our spiritual and material resources and to build strong and lasting friendships, and
- to advance the Kingdom of God within our dioceses.

Crockham Hill has long been fruitful in supporting this work and Westerham PCC has now resolved to join in. We are looking for somebody from Westerham congregation who would like to find out more, and join in with Crockham Hill to make this work part of the mission and life of the whole Benefice. If you think this might be you, please speak to Revds Dave or Emma.

Can you help? A refugee family, supported by Sevenoaks Welcomes Refugees, recently moved into Westerham. The garden of the house they're in is very overgrown. They are reaching out to see if anybody has a hedge trimmer or electric saw they no longer need, to help make the garden neat and suitable for the children. Please contact Revd Dave if you can help.

News

We were saddened to learn of the death of **Jeannie Pearch**, a much-loved and longstanding member of the Westerham congregation and choir. Details of her funeral will follow when confirmed. Please remember her family in your prayers.

Thank you to the Community Payback team from Kent County Council for tidying up the cremation area at Westerham. The hedge in this area will also be cut back in the next few weeks. We are grateful to both Community Payback and David, our contract mower for their continued hard work in maintaining the churchyard; plus for David Booker and Rodney for organising the work. We would be lost without them all.



What - or who - has seen 7 monarchs, 27 Prime Ministers and 11 Vicars during their lifetime? Westerham's historic organ has supported the life of our community all these years - from the time of Queen Victoria, William Ewart Gladstone, and the Rev Henry Charles Bartlett (Vicar for 40 years!) to the present. What changes it has witnessed! And once refurbished, it will live to see many more. During the summer the Organ Working Group will continue to submit grant applications: please hold the project in your prayers, remembering the power of music to touch hearts and souls.

The Group would also love to hear your memories connected with the organ - a family wedding, a school service, Christmas, anything which comes to mind. Please send - or give - any special memories to the Benefice Office.

And we hope to have news of reaching a significant milestone soon. Watch this space!

In June and July, our Family Service at Crockham Hill and *2nd Sunday* at Westerham have been exploring the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit. It's wonderful to have had that continuity across the Benefice. In July's *2nd Sunday*, adults and children had a joyful and moving time reflecting on those Gifts and sharing how they wanted to deepen them.

There was live music from our band (return of the flute!) and singers, with Kerry leading the actions to *My Lighthouse* with such enthusiasm that the whole congregation had a good physical workout as well as a spiritual one! Plus bible readings from Lorraine and Alma-Rose, a bible discussion, decorating paper doves and gift boxes with Gifts of the Spirit commitments, private prayer space and the usual fellowship over refreshments.

Thank you to everyone involved - from those who attended, to those who helped plan, set up, take part and/or pack away afterwards.

Our next Family Service is on 2nd August at 10.00 at Crockham Hill and will include the baptism of Nicolas, so the theme of the Holy Spirit continues.

Our next 2nd Sunday will be on 9th August at 10.30am at Westerham, where the theme will be Divine Beauty. Alongside our usually relaxed welcome, refreshments and worship we will,

weather permitting, be taking part in [the Big Butterfly Count](#), and EVERYONE is very welcome to get involved!

And ANYONE can get involved in the Big Butterfly Count by following the link above. Butterflies are indicator species that help to tell us about the health of the environment. If numbers increase, things are improving. If they go down, they're getting worse and other species are probably suffering too. So counting them helps scientists to understand and respond to changes in the world around us.

A message from Jess

Dear friends at Crockham Hill and Westerham, please forgive the time it has taken me to write to you, the last two months have been packed with activity and significant changes!

As a family, we are now in our new home in Tunbridge Wells. Our new parishes have kindly given us a bit of time to move and unpack, and this week we are 'beginning proper' in our new congregations. Everyone has been very welcoming.



Jess with husband Craig, who was ordained at the same time.

My ordination on 27th June was a very special day, and I'd like to thank all of you who supported me at the service. I truly appreciate you taking the time to travel to Rochester and join me on what was an exceptionally hot day. It meant a lot to me to have you there.

Thank you also to those of you who contributed so generously to my leaving gift back in May. Not only did it cover the cost of my ordination stole, but it also provided some welcome support towards the cost of our move. Thank you, too, for the flowers, cards, and other gifts, all of which left me feeling very loved, supported, and appreciated.

Although my time at Crockham Hill and Westerham was relatively short, I thank God for the time I was able to spend amongst you. Being part of your community was a real blessing and it is a time I will always value. Every blessing, Jess



Diocese of **Rochester**
called together

Called Together Quarterly Update: Did you know? In March 2025, the Diocese of Rochester secured nearly £11 million from the National Church

to support the *Called Together* vision. This is a nine-year programme to grow missional churches, with missional leaders and missional disciples. This is the largest external funding award the Diocese has received in support of mission and ministry. It is designed to enrich every church setting.

Growing God's kingdom across the Diocese of Rochester

Our Benefice is part of the Diocese of Rochester. As a community of faith across Medway, north and west Kent and the London Boroughs of Bromley and Bexley, we are on a shared journey to grow God's Kingdom. This diocesan-wide plan – *Called Together* – is now supported by the grant from the National Church to make this vision a reality.

Diocesan vision helping support local parish plans

In the latest update on the diocesan-wide *Called Together* vision, find out how churches across the Diocese are starting to see the benefits, with new staff funded by the bid in post, bringing increased capacity to support churches with their local mission, from schools' engagement and leadership development to parish revitalisation and mission initiatives.



To read more about these initiatives, scan the QR code or visit: www.rochester.anglican.org/about-us/ourvision/progress-updates or pick up a printed sheet as you leave church today.

Thank you to Bruce who recently led not one, but two **U3A group tours** at Westerham: one on architecture and the other on art. Both groups were impressed by the breadth of his knowledge and passion for each subject. Thank you also to Christina for providing drinks and her famous cheese scones. The tours raised approximately £230 for church funds.

Key Points from the Westerham PCC Meeting on 24th June:

To investigate PopUp Church, which works on bringing church and schools together.

To join in with Crockham Hill on its mission links in Tanzania.

Revd Emma will be hosting some events at the Vicarage in Crockham Hill – more details to follow.

It was agreed that a social media policy is required.

It was agreed to more actively support Christian Aid. Ged Bates was appointed to lead this important work at Westerham.

Rachel Preston was reconfirmed as the Environmental Advocate.

Judy Duffield was appointed as the Lay Chair, with members to take their turn as chair at future meetings.

Revd Dave and Ebru Walker will meet with CCLA to find out what happened with the investments last year and this year's forecast.

Arrangements and finances required to sign the contract for the organ restoration were discussed and will be investigated further.

A Prayer for Peace: God of peace and justice, we pray for the peoples of Ukraine, the Middle East, Somalia and Sudan today. We pray for all the world's war zones, for the laying down of weapons and an end to calls of violence; for all those fearing 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)