



# The Benefice of Crockham Hill and Westerham

## Services

**Sunday 16th August,**

**Eleventh after Trinity/Blessed Virgin Mary**

**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 11:1-2a, 29-32](#); [Matthew 16:10-20, 21-28a](#)

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

**Readings:** [Galatians 4.4-7](#), [Luke 1.46-55](#)

**2nd Sunday Planning Meeting** for the service on 13th September after the 10.30am service TODAY. Please come and join us with ideas and suggestions on the theme of *Creation*. Everybody's welcome.

## Diary

| Day       | Time           | This week in our churches                                                                                                  |
|-----------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday   | 9am            | <b>Morning Prayer (Crockham Hill):</b> we gather to hear the bible and pray for the world and each other                   |
|           | 10am – 12 noon | <b>Coffee Time</b> at Westerham Community Hub in the John Fryth Room (JFR). Join us for tea, coffee, snacks and friendship |
|           | 7.45pm         | <b>Bellringing practice</b>                                                                                                |
| Wed - Sat | 9am            | <b>Morning Prayer (Westerham)</b> in the Resurrection Chapel                                                               |
| Wednesday | 10am           | <b>Midweek Communion (Westerham):</b> a said service                                                                       |
|           | 10am – 12 noon | <b>Jigsaw Group</b> at Westerham Community Hub in the JFR. Come along for refreshments and a chat                          |
| Thursday  |                | <b>No Choir practice until 3<sup>rd</sup> September</b>                                                                    |
| Friday    |                | <b>Benefice Office closed</b>                                                                                              |

## **Sunday 23rd August, Twelfth 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.

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

**Readings:** [Romans 12:1-8](#); [Matthew 16:13-20](#)

**Wednesday 26th August at 11.30am: Memorial service for the late Mr Derek Newton (Crockham Hill).** Please use the Village Hall car park. Dress with a splash of colour. Afterwards at the Village Hall. Instead of flowers, the family suggest donations to the British Heart Foundation or Prostate Cancer UK.

## **Notices**

**Bridges** are seeking any donations of clean/good quality adult clothing by 21 August for a "New to you clothes sale" which is to be held from 7 - 8.30pm on Friday 28 August in the Bridges Centre. Please contact Mary Perrett directly on 07900 890159 or email [mary@bridgescentre.org](mailto:mary@bridgescentre.org) or speak to David Stafford (07976 683729).

**Confirmations:** Confirmation is a very special service in which people who are old enough to speak for themselves reaffirm (or make for the first time) their baptismal promises in the presence of the Bishop, their friends and Christians from all round the area. They then receive Holy Communion for the first time. It marks an important step in the journey of belief.

**If you are of faith, and over 12 years old,** and would like to be Confirmed – or want to find out more – please talk to Revd Dave or Revd Emma, or leave you contact details with the office. You do not need to already be baptised/christened.

The next Confirmation service is in November in Sevenoaks, and we'd love to enable you to take part. We will be running confirmation classes (exploring the faith, and what is involved in Communion) during September and October.

***It's Your Calling*** is a day aimed at those exploring where God may be calling and looks at our journey and the gifts that God has given us, as well as the Biblical understanding of vocation. The day gives an opportunity to meet others on a similar quest and to take time to think where God could be calling.

After *It's Your Calling*, there is an opportunity to contact a Vocations Adviser for an informal chat. The next day is on 31<sup>st</sup> October. Details are on the Diocesan Website or [follow this link](#).

## News

Our first **Benefice Get Together** (would anyone like to come up with a better name for these?!) )

**A huge thanks** to all who were able to make it, especially as it was quite short notice. Finding dates in the summer that everyone can make is really difficult and we managed to land on the date of a big golden wedding anniversary party for a couple in Crockham Hill, so whilst the spirit was definitely willing in our Crockham Hill brothers and sisters, the flesh was ..... partying elsewhere! There will be plenty more chances, I hope, for us all to get together so please don't worry if you missed out - we were glad you were celebrating.

We enjoyed a relaxed time in the garden, sharing wonderful food and getting to know one another better. It was a good opportunity to strengthen friendships, hear each other's stories, interests and experiences, and even spend a little time thinking about our work with children, young people and families. It turns out Jesus was quite a fan of making time and space to gather people together around food – it was great to follow his lead!

This, I hope, is the first of many such gatherings and also marks the beginning of some intentional listening. The hope is that over the next 6 months, we, as a Benefice can spend time listening to God as individuals, as groups of Christians and through listening to one another and our wider community. As we work towards discerning what God is up to and where we might be called to join in we can hone our attention through prayer, through bible study, through intentionally listening to others. We can listen in 1:1 conversations, in groups, through more formal questionnaires and so on. We can listen when we meet with friends and fellow church members, we

can listen at existing community events and groups and at those which we hold. Thus a picture begins to build, a story forms made of all of the stories and lives that make this place and God's work in it. We see where we are "knit together in community" as the Franciscan daily prayer has it. We see our strengths and areas for growth, where we can work together and where we branch out on our own, what feeds our roots and how we can dig deeper.

None of this is speedy, it is slow, messy, beautiful process but the process itself brings us closer to one another and God, the process itself deepens our roots and stretches out our canopy, the process itself is an act of welcome, worship and community.

**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.

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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** (rest day: Monday)

**Associate Priest: Revd Emma Wylie TSSF**  
(working days Sunday – Wednesday)