



The Benefice of Crockham Hill and Westerham

Services

Sunday 9th August, Tenth after Trinity

8.00am, Traditional Communion at Westerham: a said service in traditional language.

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 10:5-15](#); [Matthew 14:22-33](#)

10.30am, 2nd Sunday at Westerham. Our 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!

Diary

Day	Time	This week in our churches
Tuesday	9am	Morning Prayer (Crockham Hill): we gather to hear the bible and pray for the world and each other.
	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
	11am	Funeral of the late Mr John Dean (Westerham)
Thursday		No Choir practice until 3rd September
Friday	3pm	Wedding of Annabelle and Harry (Westerham)

Sunday 16th August, Eleventh after Trinity

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.

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.

**Wednesday 2nd September at 10.30am:
Funeral of the late Mrs Jeannie Pearch (Westerham)**

Benefice Office closed on Friday 21st August.

Notices

Don't forget! Benefice Get Together: The first of Revd Emma's Benefice Get Togethers is today (8th August) at the Vicarage, Oakdale Lane, Crockham Hill TN8 6RL, from 2-5pm. The first one is especially for everyone involved or interested in our children, families and young people ministries. **This is not a meeting** though, it's a 'thank you' for what you already do and a chance to get to know people in the other church, to enjoy ourselves and perhaps chat through some future thoughts and hopes.

St Mary's Christmas Craft Market is back! Yes, we know we're in a heatwave, but we need to plan ahead!

When is it? Saturday 14th November, 10am to 3pm.

What is it? Our popular Christmas Craft Market hosts over 30 local stallholders filling our Church with their artisan goods for sale.

The market raises vital funds and is an important community action for us, as we welcome hundreds of visitors during the Market day; sending them away with smiles on their faces and fliers in their hands inviting them all our Advent and Christmas services across the Benefice.

But we need your help, just for an hour or so! Our small team of volunteers desperately needs helping hands who can support us with tidying up the Church at the end of Market Day please, either from 3 to 4pm, or 4 to 5pm. **If you think you can help**, please have a chat with Christina, Anna, Kerry, Rev.Dave or email the office – office@chwbenefice.org. Thank you in advance.

Churchyard Vigilance. With the ground, so dry we would be very grateful if you could keep your eyes peeled for fire risks when you visit our churchyards. Please remove or report any glass you find, even if it has been deliberately left at a grave and, of course do not stub cigarettes out on the ground. If you see anything that concerns you, please get in touch with the Benefice Office, Churchwardens or the Vicar.

Bridges are seeking any donation 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, 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 31st October.

Details are on the Diocesan Website or [follow this link](#).

News

The Joint Parochial Church Council (JCC) had its inaugural meeting on Wednesday 29th July at Holy Trinity Church. It was a good-natured meeting with lots of excitement for the future, realistic positivity, sharing and a chance for members to get to know each other.

- Revd Dave opened the meeting with a short summary of the journey our parishes have been on in the last five years, with the feeling that we have arrived at a moment of new creation. Much has happened and much awaits. He finished with verses from the song *The Little Church* from the film *Brother Sun, Sister Moon*, about St Francis, which includes these lines:

If you want your dream to be
Take your time, go slowly
Do few things but do them well
Heartfelt work grows purely

Day by day, you'll grow too
You'll know heaven's glory.

Revd Dave commented that, as the song says, our task is, always has been and always will be, enabling everyone to know heaven's glory. If you receive this newsletter online, the full words of the song can be found [by clicking here](#).

This was followed by a short time of prayer.

- Lorraine Ashley (Churchwarden at Crockham Hill) was elected Vice Chair.
- It was agreed to produce a welcome/introductory flier or booklet to encourage people to stand for roles on the PCCs and JCC in the future.

- There was a realistic conversation about the financial position and governance of both parishes now and in the future, with the current trend of ageing congregations and reduced per capita giving.
 - It was agreed that Treasurer training would be useful,
 - A finance meeting would take place involving the Treasurers and others to see what can be learned from each other about how to manage and report our accounts.
 - It was noted that the PCC at St Mary's is prioritising the organ project at present, so it would be difficult to start an appeal for greater giving for general funds.
 - It was suggested that St Mary's PCC needs professional advice, especially about managing its reserves and funds held in trust.
- Revd Emma led our first discussion about shaping a mission plan for the Benefice. Members shared what excites them and what worries them, and we considered an image of the Benefice as two trees with intertwined roots and canopies, reminding us of the Tree of Life and also the tree that grows from the mustard seed, bearing fruit and providing shelter for the birds. What birds are missing among our branches?
 - Members felt that the churches have much in common, including their history and tradition, but they also have distinct identities; the Benefice's strength lies in both our commonality and our difference.
 - There was conversation about mission among different age groups, and a recognition of the need to be creative in reaching out.
 - A Prayer Group for the Benefice's mission was suggested.
 - It was agreed to work towards a Benefice Directory, which people could join to help foster a sense of community, care and enable better communication.
- Having discussed the parishes' financial positions, it was agreed that we would begin work on how to fairly apportion shared costs.
- The meeting finished with the Grace.

The next meeting is on 9th September in the John Frith Room at Westerham.

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!

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)**