



The Benefice of Crockham Hill and Westerham

Services

Sunday 6th September, Festival of Creation in Christ

Readings for morning services: [Colossians 1.15–20](#); [John 1:1-14](#)

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.

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

6.00pm, Choral Evensong at Westerham: a quiet, reflective service to end the weekend.

Readings: [Psalm 104](#); [Ezekiel 47:1-12](#); [Revelation 22.1–5](#)

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 10am – 12 noon	Midweek Communion: a said service in one of the chapels Jigsaw Group at Westerham Community Hub in the JFR. Come along for refreshments and a chat
	6pm	Joint Council Meeting at Westerham
Thursday	7pm	Choir practice in the John Fryth Room

Friday		Benefice Office closing at 12.30pm
Saturday		Westerham Country Fayre with displays by the Horticultural Society in church

Sunday 13th September, Second of Creationtide

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

Readings: [Exodus 14:19-31](#); [Matthew 18:21-35](#)

10.30am, 2nd Sunday at Westerham: our informal service of word, prayer and praise. Songs, worship and craft activities with refreshments available throughout. Come and join us as we think about God the creator as provider

Notices

Plant Sale with refreshments! **Saturday 19th September, 10am – 12 noon at St Mary's.** Please come along and buy something for your home or garden. Plants will be supplied by the green-fingered members of the Flower Guild. If you can volunteer to bake a cake, please contact the Benefice Office.

Westerham PCC Meeting: Wednesday 23rd September at 7.30pm in the John Fryth Room. If you have any agenda items, please send them to the Benefice Office **by Monday 14th September.**

The September edition of the **Crockham Hill Village Newsletter** is now available. [Click here to read it.](#)

Christian Vocation

We are all called by God, all our lives. Into a deeper relationship with him, into more Christ-like living and sometimes to a particular ministry or role.

Confirmations: Confirmation is a very special service in which people who are old enough to speak for themselves reaffirm their baptismal promises in the presence of the Bishop (or if you weren't christened, get baptized by him), 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 be baptised/christened already.

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.**



If you're too young to be confirmed but want to receive communion, we also have the Bishop's permission to allow Communion before Confirmation. If you'd be interested in this, please let us know so that we can arrange preparation classes.

It's Your Calling is a day for anyone wishing to explore how God is calling them. It looks at our journey and the gifts that God has given us, as well as the Biblical understanding of vocation. The day is a chance to meet others on a similar quest and to explore your sense of vocation in a structured way.

After the day you will be offered a chance 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](#). To book onto the day, you will need Revd Dave to complete a form so please speak to him ASAP.

Discernment Conversations: If you would like a discernment conversation about your Christian life in general, or a particular sense of calling, please do not hesitate to speak to Revd Dave or Emma.

New Westerham rotas for Sept/Oct/Nov will be ready to view online this week. Please check your duties and make any swaps in good time. If you have lost the link, or it doesn't work, please contact Alyson in the Benefice Office.



Living Water

Season of Creation 2026

A Message from our Bishops

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

September marks the Season of Creationtide in the Church calendar.

It has always seemed an apt moment in the year to have a focus on God's beautiful creation and our role in caring for it, coming as it does at a time in the year when we move from the growth of spring and the warmth of summer, towards the time of harvest.

This year, however, following a summer of exceptional heat, drought, and wildfires, our minds may be more focused than ever on the very real and urgent impact of climate change and the need for all of us to play our part in reducing carbon emissions.

Indeed, General Synod has this year, approved a new feast day called **Creation in Christ** to be marked on the first Sunday of each September, and a new teaching paper called **Hope for All Creation**.

New feast days and theological responses are not approved that often, so this is a significant moment, with both underlining the importance and centrality of caring for God's world as part of our daily Christian witness.

Handwringing about the climate is no longer enough.

It's why, at the start of this month of reflection, action and prayer for God's creation, we want to encourage you to consider the part you can play individually and through your church to make a positive difference.

You might like to **read the new Church of England's Hope for All Creation reflection**. You can find it on the Church of England's website or download it via their Everyday Faith app.

Why not attend the Diocesan Eco Conference? Taking place on Saturday 19 September at Rochester Cathedral it will be a great way to

gather ideas and attend practical workshops on creation care and how to reduce energy use. Tickets can be booked via the diocesan website.

Or step forward to help those who lead your church with their creation care plans. Let's them know you want to be involved.

Above all, please commit afresh to caring for God's world this Creationtide.

In a powerful film called the [National Climate Emergency Briefing](#) hosted by naturalist Chris Packham, a series of experts set out the stark reality of the combined impact climate change will have, and is having, on our health, national security, food supplies, and weather.

While it is a sobering watch, the experts also say that the solutions are available, it just needs enough people to commit to often small actions or changes for there to be a positive tipping point towards creating real positive change.

So please, join the whole diocesan family in praying for God to help us be part of that positive tipping point.

Let's pray for God to give us the strength and courage to keep going, despite how worrying the situation may be, as what we do *really* does matter.

And let's give thanks for all that is already taking place in your church and others across this diocese, to steward God's bounteous gift to us this Creationtide, and beyond.

With our prayers and blessings

Bishop Jonathan Gibbs,
Bishop of Rochester

Bishop Simon Burton-Jones
Bishop of Tonbridge

From the Vicar: Following the Big Butterfly Count in August, it was striking how rapidly the number of insects in the churchyard and the Vicarage garden dropped over a couple of weeks as the drought progressed. It is easy, now the temperature has eased and rain has come, to forget the conversations people were having about this summer showing us that climate change is really here. **Don't forget those conversations; don't accept the new normal.**

As Christians entering the Season of Creation, and as inheritors both of the vocation to tend the Garden and of the promise of the reconciliation of all things in Christ, we have a calling and duty to act.

We are in discussion with Westerham Hall and the Westerham Society about offering a viewing of the **National Climate Emergency Briefing** in October. We will be inviting our local councillors and MP to join us for the event, and we hope that you will come too, to hear the science and respond together. **Watch this space for details!**

To download *Hope for All Creation*, Book onto the Eco Conference or find out more about the film: [click here](#).

To book for the Diocesan Eco Conference: [click here](#).

To learn more about the National Emergency Briefing: [click here](#).

Good news for the Westerham organ! Sharp-eyed readers of the Newsletter will have seen that at its last meeting the PCC heard the good news that the organ fund had raised more than 50% of its needs and has now signed the contract with the organ builder.

This latest step was made possible by substantial grants from the North Downs Guild of Music which, added to the pledges already made by the Heritage Trust and the Church plus some exceptionally generous donations from individuals, raised our funding to more than 50%, emboldening the PCC to sign the contract! This is a huge step forward for the project, so we felt that a little more celebration was in order!

The Working Group is working hard on more applications for grants - especially as decision times are measured in months

The good news is that the work will start after Easter next year and though this means that we will be without an organ for much of next year, once completed, the organ will be returned to its magnificent best. Its current fragility is becoming more apparent, with strange and unexpected noises emerging from the organ case, and worse, forcing Dan to leap from the organ console to the piano mid-service when even his talent could not persuade the old lady to play properly.

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)

St Mary's Westerham

**2nd Sunday
in Creationtide**

13th September at 10.30am

Our informal service of word, prayer
and praise – songs, worship, craft
activities and refreshments available
throughout on the theme of God as
provider and creator

Everybody's welcome



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