



Services

Sunday 20th September, Third of Creationtide

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: [Exodus 16:2-15](#); [Matthew 20:1-16](#)

2nd Sunday planning meeting after the service in the John Fryth Room

12.30 Baptisms of Deliah and Aria at Westerham. Please pray for them as their family and friends bring them to be baptised today.

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: a said service in one of the chapels
	10am – 12 noon	
	7.30pm	Jigsaw Group at Westerham Community Hub in the JFR. Come along for refreshments and a chat
		Westerham PCC meeting in the John Fryth Room
Thursday	7pm	Choir practice in the John Fryth Room

Sunday 26th September, Fourth of Creationtide

8.00am, Traditional Language Communion at Westerham

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: [Exodus 17:1-7](#); [Matthew 21:23-32](#)

Notices

We were saddened to hear of the death of **Alison Nuttall**, a long-standing and much-loved congregation member and resident of Westerham. Over many years she was the lead organiser of the annual Hospice in the Weald Light up a Life service at St Mary's. Her funeral will be there on **Thursday 1st October at 11am**. Please remember Bruce, Hannah and the wider family in your prayers.

Locking Up at Westerham. If you could spare a few minutes, even once week, to lock the church at the end of the day, please contact the Benefice Office. We lock up before dark in the winter months and leave the church open longer for visitors in the summer. It only takes a few minutes and any help would be gratefully received.



Confirmations: We have a small group going for Confirmation in November, which is amazing. There's still time join in! This is a chance to reaffirm your baptismal promises (or if you're not baptised do that too) in the presence of the Bishop, friends and Christians from all round the area. **If you're** over 12 yrs old and would like to be confirmed please talk to Revd Dave or Revd Emma, or leave your contact details

with the office. **The next Confirmation service is in November** in Sevenoaks.

If you're too young for confirmation but want to receive communion, we also have 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 exploring God's calling. It looks at our journey and the gifts that God has given us, plus the Biblical understanding of vocation. It's 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 have 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](#). You will need Revd Dave to complete a form so please speak to him ASAP.

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

Macmillan Coffee Morning, Saturday 3rd October, 10.30am to 12.30pm at Fullers Hill Church in Westerham. Refreshments and raffles available.

News



Living Water

Season of Creation 2026

2nd Sunday in Creationtide. Last Sunday, nearly 40 adults and children came together to celebrate God's generosity within this year's Creationtide theme of 'Living Water'. *2nd Sunday* is a monthly all age, informal service of word, prayer and praise for people across the Benefice and beyond.



This month our songs and hymns included *Lord of All Creation* and *All Things Bright and Beautiful*.

Several people got up to offer bible readings and our prayerful craft activities included 'thank you' prayers in paper plates (reminding us that God provides everything we need) and making animal masks to remind us of the richness of creation. Other members enjoyed the chance for bible discussion and private prayer. All in an hour and all with refreshments available throughout!

Our next *2nd Sunday* service is on 11th October at 10:30am. We will be thinking about Baptism with the theme *I am a new creation*. Come along to enjoy a warm welcome, relaxed atmosphere and inclusive worship.

We're always keen to welcome new members of the team that plans these services so if you have an idea for a song, reading or craft activity, please come along to our planning meeting after the 10:30am service this week: Sunday 20th September, when we'll be looking ahead to October, November and December's services.



Westerham Jigsaw Group got involved in Creationtide, too, with this jigsaw of edible flowers – food for thought.

Why not come along
and join them on
Wednesday morning?

Well done to Catharine, Barbara and everyone who helped out on the bric-a-brac stall at the Westerham Country Fayre last Saturday. Over £1,300 was raised for church funds. A wonderful effort!

A Creationtide 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.

The Diocesan Eco Conference takes place on 19 September at Rochester Cathedral and is a great way to gather ideas and attend practical workshops on creation care and how to reduce energy use.

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. *(See the flyer in this newsletter for info about viewing it in Westerham on 16th October – ed).*

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

To download or order *Hope for All Creation*: [click here](#).

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)

People's Emergency Briefing

On the climate and nature crisis

Westerham



Westerham Hall, Quebec Avenue, TN16 1BG
16th October. Door and bar from 7.15pm

**Come along watch the film
and join the discussion**

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www.nebriefing.org

A RECITAL OF ENGLISH SONG

WHERE THE ROAD LEADS

*A journey through
three centuries of English song*

WORKS BY
DOWLAND
CLARKE
BRITTEN
IRELAND
QUILTER
FINZI
BUTTERWORTH
VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

OLIVER DAVIS

BARITONE

DANIEL EATON

PIANO

FRIDAY
24TH
OCTOBER
2026



ST. MARY'S
WESTERHAM

6.00
PM

RAISING MONEY FOR THE ORGAN RESTORATION