



Services

Sunday 4th October, Harvest Festival and Feast of St Francis

Don't forget your donations (non-perishable items only) for the Foodbanks supported by our parishes. If you can't make it to church today, you can always drop your donation off during the day on Saturday. **If you are able to stay after the 10.30am to move/sort Harvest donations, please let Sharon know.**

Readings: [Micah 6:6-8](#); [Luke 12:22-34](#)

No 8.00am service at Crockham Hill

10.00am, Harvest Eucharist at Crockham Hill: a relaxed, welcoming service in modern language with hymns. **Please join us for brunch in the school hall immediately after the service.**

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; this month with a Franciscan theme as we bring to an the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis.

Readings: [Isaiah 55](#); [Matthew 10:5-22](#)

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
Thursday	7pm	Choir practice in the John Fryth Room

Sunday 11th October, 19th 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

Readings: [Philippians 4:1-9](#); [Matthew 22:1-14](#)

10.30am, 2nd Sunday at Westerham: our informal service of word, prayer and praise. Songs, worship and craft activities with refreshments available throughout. This month our theme of '*I am a new creation*' will focus on baptism. *Everybody's* welcome.

Notices

Rochester Diocese 2026 Poverty and Hope Appeal: This year we will be having a special collection in aid of the Poverty and Hope Appeal at our Harvest Sunday service this week at Crockham Hill. This is an annual fundraising event run by the Diocese since 1977 to support international projects tackling poverty and injustice. Included in the beneficiaries this year will be the Mpwapwa and Kondoa Dioceses in Tanzania, an area that we actively support through our Tanzania Committee. Please come prepared to make a donation by cash or card, however small or large, it will make a real difference! Thank you.

As we come to the end of Creationtide, with the celebration of Harvest Festival and the 800th anniversary of St Francis (the Patron Saint of ecology), please download and read the important new Church of England teaching document, *Hope for All Creation*. [Click here](#), visit the Church of England's website or download it via their Everyday Faith app.

Don't forget the **National Emergency Briefing** showing at Westerham Hall on 16th October and if you can't make that, watch this space for news of one at Crockham Hill Village Hall to be confirmed.

Thank you to Tony Rogers for arranging the update of the signs outside both churches. They look really good and include a QR code on each which people can scan with their phones to visit our website for the latest news on events and services.

Advance notice: the **Benefice Office will be closed** from 1pm on Friday 9th October and will reopen on Monday 19th October. There will be a double edition newsletter on Sunday 11th October covering the period until 24th October. If you have any items for the newsletter, please send them to the Benefice Office by 12pm on Wednesday 7th October.

Confirmations: There is still time to join our group who will shortly start preparing for the Confirmation Service on 22nd November in Sevenoaks. 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.

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.

Coffee Time, anyone? Perhaps hospitality and outreach are part of *your* calling? With the help of Chris, Margaret and Bruce (setting up), Christina has been running Coffee Time on Tuesday mornings at St Mary's since Covid restrictions eased. It's really rewarding but she could do with some more help to spread the work and give her some time off. **Would you be willing to run it once a month?** We just need two or three people to grow the team. You would prepare and serve hot drinks, purchase pre-prepared snacks (and possibly heat them), welcome people and chat to them, and clear up afterwards. The time commitment would be 3-4 hours on the day, possibly plus a few minutes shopping. The Benefice will reimburse out of pocket expenses and also arrange any food hygiene training that you need. As with most such roles, you would need to complete a DBS check and some basic online safeguarding training, all of which is paid-for by the Benefice. If you're interested, please talk to Christina, one of the clergy or get in touch via the office.

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.

News



School Harvest Festivals

On Friday, both our schools came into church to give thanks for God's goodness in creation and to reflect his generosity in their care for others. Donations of food and other essentials covered the

altars at St Mary's and Holy Trinity, as you can see in our photos. Can our Sunday congregations match our schools for generosity? Come along to Harvest Festival this week to make your donation and see if we can double what the Foodbanks will be receiving.



More good news for the Westerham Organ Project!

We're two thirds of the way there! At the end of August we heard, to our delight, that the Organ Fund had been awarded £19,000 by the Benefact Trust, bringing the total raised so far to well over 60% of what we need! The Benefact Trust allocates profits from its financial businesses, which includes our insurer, Ecclesiastical Insurance, to grants to churches and Christian charities. We are indeed fortunate to have been awarded such a substantial grant.

But, of course, the work does not stop. As you read this another application is winging its way to another grant making foundation and we're keeping our fingers crossed for a favourable reply. We

mentioned in our last news item how heartened we were by generous donations from individuals - and these have continued. A huge thank you to you all. Look out in our next article for further news, events and progress.

Thank you to Yvonne, the Flower Guild and everyone who organised, helped and came along to the recent **Plant Sale and Coffee Morning at Westerham**. It was a great opportunity to meet and chat and all those with green fingers were able to share their knowledge. Just over £300 was raised for church funds.

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**

16

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



CANCER RESEARCH BRIDGE AFTERNOON

**The annual CRUK Bridge Afternoon will take
place on FRIDAY 30th OCTOBER 2026
1.30pm – 4.30pm at CROCKHAM HILL
VILLAGE HALL.**

Please arrive by 1.15pm

£20 per person

A delicious tea, raffle and prizes will be provided

**If you would like to attend please make up a
table and contact Gilly Baxendell to reserve a
place on 07850 222696, or
gillian.baxendell@gmail.com**

**Please state if you will be playing Chicago or
Rubber Bridge**