



The Benefice of Crockham Hill and Westerham



Benefice Newsletter

Please note that this newsletter is for two weeks, and there won't be one sent out on the 17th October. If you use the paper version, please remember to keep it for two weeks!

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 and we have great joy of welcoming the family and friends of Clementine as they bring her to celebrate our first baptism at 2nd Sunday. Please remember her in your prayers.

Diary

Day	Time	Week commencing 12 October
Mon – Fri		Benefice Office closed
Tuesday	9am 10am – 12 noon 7.45pm	Morning Prayer (Crockham Hill): we gather to hear the bible and pray for the world and each other. Coffee Time at Westerham Community Hub in the John Fryth Room (JFR). Join us for tea, coffee, snacks and friendship 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
Saturday	9am 1.30 - 3.30pm	Crockham Hill churchyard tidy up Please bring gardening equipment. Refreshments will be provided Confirmation Prep in the John Fyth Room

Tanzania Project: Please come and join us at Crockham Hill Village Hall next, **Tuesday 13th October at 7pm** for a lively presentation on what the Tanzania Committee have been doing over the past few months. It has been a busy time progressing the water project and working on a new initiative. This initiative is to help make the most of their water to assist with the growing of crops. We look forward to seeing you there for a glass of wine and a chat!

People's Emergency Briefing: Friday 16th October. See flier at the end of this newsletter.

Sunday 18th October, Luke the Evangelist

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: [2 Timothy 4:5-17](#); [Luke 10:1-9](#)

After the service there will be a **2nd Sunday planning meeting** for our service on 15th November (a week later due to Remembrance). If you have any ideas or suggestions for songs or craft activities, please join us.

Our theme will be *Symbols of Our Faith*.

Diary

Day	Time	Week commencing 19 October
Monday	12pm	Burial of ashes of the late Mr Peter Burt (Westerham)
Tuesday	9am 10am – 12 noon 7.45pm	Morning Prayer (Crockham Hill): we gather to hear the bible and pray for the world and each other. Coffee Time at Westerham Community Hub in the John Fryth Room (JFR). Join us for tea, coffee, snacks and friendship Bellringing practice

Wed - Sat	9am	Morning Prayer (Westerham) in the Resurrection Chapel
Wednesday	10am 10am – 12 noon 6pm	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 Joint Church Council meeting at Crockham Hill
Thursday	7pm	Choir practice in the John Fryth Room
Saturday	1.30pm	Confirmation Prep in the John Fyth Room

Sunday 25th October, Last 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: [1 Thessalonians 2:1-8](#); [Matthew 22:34-end](#)

Other Notices

The Benefice Pastoral Care Team is a group of trained, caring people here to help anyone in need of prayers or a home visit or Holy Communion at home. If you or somebody you know are unable to come, we can bring church to you, so don't hesitate to ask. You can contact us via the Benefice Office or you call Barbara on 01959 561809.

Harvest Festival at Crockham Hill.

Thank you to everyone who decorated our lovely church with an abundance of gorgeous flowers and foliage in lovely autumnal colours, and to all who donated many items of produce, later given to food banks in Westerham and Edenbridge. Many thanks also to those who provided the delicious 'Harvest Brunch' afterwards! **Anne Blissett**



Thank you to Tony Rogers for arranging the update of the signs outside both churches. They look great, presenting a clear welcome and access to information about the Benefice, to locals and visitors alike.

Confirmations: Our confirmation candidates have started their preparation. Please pray for them as they prepare to meet the Bishop on 22nd November and, if you can, put the date of the service in your diary to come along and support them.

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.

News

***Sometimes we just don't know how lucky we are
Westerham organ update.***

Those of you who were able to be at October's Choral Evensong heard not only the wonderful singing of our Choir and 'friends' but also the wonderful playing of our guest organist. Coaxing the music out of our venerable organ takes skill, experience and a bit of ingenuity these days, so on this occasion when Dan's focus needed to be on conducting (thank you, Dan, from the choristers) we were fortunate indeed to have at the console the Rev Canon Adrian Daffern, who is not only a wonderful organist, but also the Church of England's Cathedral and Major Church Buildings Officer. In this role he advises cathedrals, major churches (and us!) on all manner of things including rebuilding of their organs..... so how lucky are we! To continue the name dropping, Canon Adrian was one of the chaplains to the Archbishop of Canterbury at the Coronation of King Charles III and was involved in writing the Coronation service.

Not that St Mary's is short of its own talent. On Saturday 24th October at 6pm Oliver Davis, accompanied by Daniel Eaton will be giving a recital at 6pm: 'Where the Road Leads' - three centuries

of English song. And they have arranged this to raise money for the organ restoration. Again, how lucky we are! For those of us who remember Oli as a member of the Junior Choir (sorry Oli!), it is heartwarming to see that he is now among the ranks of professional musicians. There is no charge for this recital, but donations - either cash or card via our SumUp terminal will be very welcome - all for the good cause of preserving St Mary's long heritage of music in Westerham.

Watch out for more events and news of the organ fund in our next edition!

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)

Our clergy work very hard to help run the benefice and care for our communities. Sometimes emergencies come along and you urgently need to speak to a minister – and please feel free to do so whenever that is the case - but otherwise, please care for them and their families, too, by respecting their rest days and trying not to call or visit on days they don't work, thank you.

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



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**