The Benefice of Crockham Hill and Westerham

# Benefice Newsletter

## Sunday 8th November, Remembrance




**8.00am, Traditional Communion at Westerham:** a said service
**Readings:** Romans 8:31-end; John 15:9-17

**10.50am, Remembrance service at Crockham Hill.** A service for the parish, remembering the sacrifices of those who have gone before.

**10.55am, Remembrance service at Westerham**. Civic service starting at the War Memorial for the Act of Remembrance, reading of the Roll of Honour and the Two-Minute Silence. The service continues in church.
**Readings:** Romans 8:31-end

## Diary

| Day | Time | What's on in our churches this week |
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| **Mon – Fri** | | **Benefice Office closed to all visitors.** **Only exception – emergencies** |
| **Tuesday** | 9am<br><br>10am – 12 noon<br><br>7.45pm | **Morning Prayer (Crockham Hill):** we gather to hear the bible and pray for the world and each other.<br>**Coffee Time** at Westerham Community Hub in the John Fryth Room (JFR). Join us for tea, coffee, snacks and friendship<br>**Bellringing practice** |
| **Wed - Sat** | 9am | **Morning Prayer (Westerham)** in the Resurrection Chapel. |
| **Wednesday** | 10am<br><br>10am – 12 noon | **Midweek Communion:** a said service in one of the chapels<br>**Jigsaw Group** at Westerham Community Hub in the JFR. Come along for refreshments and a chat. |

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| | 10.30am | **Crockham Hill School** Remembrance service in the church |
| **Thursday** | 7pm | **Choir practice** in the John Fryth Room |
| **Saturday** | 11.00am-3.00pm | **Christmas Craft Market** at St Mary's |

## Sunday 15th November, 2nd Sunday before Advent

**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:** 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

**10.30am, '*2nd Sunday on 3rd Sunday*' at Westerham:** our informal service of word, prayer and praise. Songs, worship and craft activities with refreshments available throughout. This month our theme will be *Symbols of our Faith.* Come along and join us – *everybody's* welcome.

# 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 Barbara on 01959 561809.

**Monday 16th November at 12pm:**
Funeral of the late Maria Lopez **(Westerham)**

**Friday 20th November at 11am:**
Funeral of the late Jacqueline Matthews **(Westerham)**

**Bottle donations requested!** The Flower Guild will be running a bottle stall at the Christmas Craft Market on **Saturday 14th November**. If you have anything suitable to donate (wine, soft drinks, toiletries, etc), please give them to Yvonne or leave with the Benefice Office.

**Saturday 14th November at 7.30pm**, Croydon Male Voice Choir at St Peter's and St Paul's Church, Edenbridge. Tickets £15, available from the church, Eden Valley Museum or on the door.

The next meeting of the **Westerham PCC** will be on Wednesday 18th November at 7.30pm in the John Fryth Room. Please send any agenda items, with supporting papers, to the Benefice Office **by Monday 9th November**.

**Confirmations:** Our confirmation candidates have now completed their preparation course. Please pray for them as they look forward to meeting 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 starts at 4.00pm at St Luke's in Sevenoaks.

**Christmas Wreath Making Workshop, Saturday 28th November** still has places available at the afternoon session (1.30 – 3.30pm) in the John Fryth Room. Price £40, all materials included, plus tea/coffee and homemade cake. To book, please call 07500 244 655.

**Brass cleaning at Westerham – from Sandra Johnson:** As Christmas is coming, there are various items that need cleaning. Please see me if you wish to do some cleaning or contact Alyson in the Benefice Office.

The **Westerham and Edenbridge Foodbanks** greatly appreciate support from the Benefice, especially at this time of year. Any donations of non-perishable foods and Christmas treats will be very welcome.

## News

**Tanzania Presentation:** On 13th October Sandra and her Tanzania Committee team gave a colourful overview in the CH Village Hall of the water projects that they have been working on. The newest one being the introduction of Waterboxxes to St Philip's Theological College in Kongwa, an ingenious device to help crop growing in arid conditions. We are looking forward to hearing how this progresses over the next year. It illustrated the real benefits and rewards of 'making a difference' for so many people.

**Rochester Poverty and Hope Appeal:** A big thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's appeal in Crockham Hill over the Harvest Festival weekend. In addition to the gathered food for the local Foodbanks, we were able to send £247 to the Rochester Poverty and Hope Appeal, a brilliant initiative established

50 years ago to help with the basic needs of vulnerable communities in poorer areas of the world, with this year focusing on education in Myanmar, Gaza and Tanzania.



**Westerham people are a hardy race .....** for on one of the worst evenings of the year so far, they turned out in numbers for the recital given by Oli Davis, accompanied by Daniel Eaton, to raise funds for the restoration of our Lewis organ. Despite the incessant wind and rain, inside St Mary's was a haven of calm and relaxed peace as we listened to the music and followed *'Where the Road Leads'* - a journey through three centuries of English song. The sheer range of songs - Butterworth to Britten, Quilter to Vaughan Williams delighted us and demonstrated the width and depth, not only of English music, but also the tradition of music in Westerham. Thank you to both Oli and Dan: the evening raised an impressive £500 for the organ restoration fund!'

**Westerham Congregation Christmas Card:** for the past few years, there has been a single Christmas card available for everyone in the congregation to sign. This is an eco-alternative to giving or sending cards to everyone, although you are still free to do that if you wish. **This year we are asking if you have photos of the church or events in church to submit them for possible inclusion in the Christmas card**.

**People's Emergency Briefing (PEB).** On 16th October Rachel, Laura and Ben from St Mary's along with Revd Emma presented the PEB at Westerham Hall as guests of The Westerham Society. A really good discussion followed. **What next?** The PEB call to get people to ask the government to do a full televised briefing to the nation will now be debated in Parliament after signatures on the Parliament website petition topped 100,000. Please add yours - https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/767687 - and also write to your MP asking them to lobby the government for a briefing: https://www.nebriefing.org/parliamentary-call .So far, 166 MPs are supporting the call, but our local ones are not among them. This is

not a party political campaign, it is about loving God, by loving his creation, and loving our neighbour as ourselves by taking action to protect people from the harm of climate change, just as we wish to be protected.

Locally, you can also come along to the first Crockham Hill and Westerham Climate Care Collective at 7pm on Friday 27th November in the John Fryth Room at Westerham

**If you missed the showing,** there is likely to be one in Crockham Hill soon (date tbc) and we will be showing it again after church in Westerham, probably on 15th or 22nd November. **Or** arrange a showing yourself! You can do a small, private one for friends or family, or a larger public one. All the info is on www.nebriefing.org

**A Prayer for Peace:** God of peace and justice, we pray for the peoples of Ukraine, the Middle East, Sudan and Yemen 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** (note that Revd Dave is taking a much-needed rest this week)
**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.*


St Mary's Church
The Green, Westerham TN16 1AS
Christmas Craft Market
Saturday 14th November
11am to 3pm
A wide selection of stalls selling hand-crafted items - ideal for Christmas gifts
Refreshments available
Everybody's welcome

CANCER RESEARCH UK

# Ceilidh
# for Cancer Research in Crockham Hill

**Saturday 14th November 2026**
**7.30 pm to 11.00 pm**



**Award winning caller John Carver**

**£35** (includes food)

**Crockham Hill Village Hall**

**Email for tickets**

**oxtedwesterhamcruk@gmail.com**