The Benefice of Crockham Hill and Westerham

Benefice Newsletter

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.

Diary

Day	Time	What's on in our churches this week
Monday	12pm	**Funeral of the late Maria Lopez (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 7.30pm	**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 **PCC Meeting (Westerham)** in the JFR
Thursday	7pm	**Choir practice** in the John Fryth Room
Friday	11am	**Funeral of the late Jacqueline Matthews (Westerham)**

Sunday 22nd November, Christ the King

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
10.30am, Holy Communion at Westerham: in modern language with hymns. Please join us for refreshments and a chat afterwards.
Readings: Ephesians 1:15-end; Matthew 25:31-end

Sunday 29th November, Advent Sunday

6pm, Benefice Advent Carol Service (Westerham). Come and join us as we start the Advent journey

From Revd Dave: thank you to everyone involved in the Benefice Remembrance services. We had many very positive comments, and emotional ones too. It's a pleasure and a privilege to work alongside such talented and committed people, especially when that work is sharing God's love for his world.

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.

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.

The next meeting of the **Joint Church Council** will be on Wednesday 25th November at 6pm in the John Fryth Room, Westerham.

The next meeting of the **Crockham Hill Parochial Church Council** will be on Wednesday 2nd December at 6pm at the Proctors. Please send reports, absences and items for consideration to Carole Feakes at c.feakes@mynon.co.uk by Wednesday 25th November latest.

Crockham Hill Primary School is seeking a Foundation Governor. Foundation Governors are unique to Church schools and are there to bring an informed Christian perspective to the running of the school. They are recommended by the PCC and appointed by the Diocesan Board of Education. If you think you might be interested, please speak to Revd Dave or Emma, or one of the Crockham Hill Churchwardens.

Christmas Tree Festival: ***It's that time again!*** **Opens on Friday 27th November at 5pm,** along with the switch on of the Christmas lights, then daily from 10am - 5pm (except during church services) until Monday 7th December. Come and marvel at the creativity, ingenuity and humour of the trees decorated by Westerham businesses, organisations and residents. **If you are able to help with stewarding, even for a couple of hours to welcome visitors to the church, please see the rota at the back of the church.**

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.

Brigitte Hunter's first art show is currently on at Bridges Community Centre in Edenbridge. She also has seven pictures displayed at Pinocchio's Coffee Shop in the High Street. Please take the opportunity to have a look before 11th December.

Candles for Ukraine needed more than ever! A report in the national news last week, highlighted the recent Russian destruction of Ukrainian power stations and associated infrastructure. This has left the ordinary population struggling to carry out basic daily tasks, such as cooking, cleaning, reading and communicating. Adults' work and children's education are increasingly disrupted. Keeping warm is a constant challenge with the young and elderly most affected as the harsh Ukrainian winter approaches.

The candles are melted down in Ukraine and recast into suitable sizes. Using candles means precious batteries can be saved for other vital purposes.

PLEASE continue to donate any unwanted candles, both part-used and new, putting them in the open box on the table in the church tower at Westerham. Thank you!

Westerham Rotas: for those on the rotas, please remember to send Bruce your UNavailable dates for December/January/ February.

News

Contacting the Benefice Office: If you have been trying to contact the Benefice Office this week, unfortunately the telephone line has been, and at the time of writing continues to be, out of action. In addition, like many others, the office was affected by the Microsoft issues on Friday. Hopefully everything will be resolved soon.

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 waterboxes 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**.

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 (day off: Monday)
Tel: 19595 563127; vicar@chwbenefice.org
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.

THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

The Benefice of Crockham Hill and Westerham

Advent and Christmas at Westerham

Sunday 29th November
6pm: Advent Carol Service

Friday 18th December
7.30pm: Christmas Carol Concert
with the Oxted Band

Tuesday 22nd December
6pm: Christmas Carol Service

Christmas Eve
3pm: Crib Service
11.30pm: Midnight Mass

Christmas Day
8am: Traditional Communion
10.30am: Holy Communion

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

The Benefice of Crockham Hill and Westerham

Advent and Christmas at Crockham Hill

Sunday 6th December
10am: Family Service
(Food/Gift Service)

Sunday 20th December
6pm: Nine Lessons
and Carols Service

Christmas Eve
4pm: Christingle Service

Christmas Day
10am: Holy Communion

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND