

UNITED BENEFICE OF

ST. MARY'S  **ST. MARK'S**
SLAUGHAM **STAPLEFIELD COMMON**

Serving the communities of Handcross, Pease Pottage, Slaugham, Staplefield & Warninglid

CONTACT

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 **@stmarysandstmarks**

June 2022



Church Services in June

Weekly services are taking place at St Mary's Slaugham, St Mark's Staplefield and All Saints Handcross, and everyone is welcome.

Our current plans are as follows but they are subject to change. Please look out for email communication, and keep an eye on our social media pages, website, YouTube channel and weekly notice sheet.

5 th	10.45am	St Mary's	United Jubilee*
	6.30pm	All Saints	Worship & Prayer
7 th	7.45pm	St Mary's	Prayer gathering
12 th	9am	St Mark's	Morning Prayer
	10.45am	St Mary's	Communion
	6.30pm	All Saints	Worship & Prayer
19 th	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	Informal Praise
	6.30pm	All Saints	Worship & Prayer
22 nd	10.30am	All Saints	Spotlight
26 th	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	All Saints	Worship & Prayer

*There will be a bring-your-own picnic after the Jubilee service (weather permitting).

Everyone is welcome!

The St Mary's services are put onto YouTube and we hope they will be a blessing to those who still cannot attend in person. They can be found here:

https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCBQ0W4r1m39ixogQWR3TxoA?fbclid=IwAR2vLqbm97lq9StSwn8qvgX_vTF11-tg0LV7z80cVFC8BZE034WNbNHhc4

Or search for: United Benefice of St Mary's and St Mark's.

You can subscribe to the sermons as a podcast too. All links are on the website at <https://www.stmarysparish.org.uk/podcasts/> .

Parish Magazine

We are in the process of reviewing how we communicate to the wider community through the Parish Magazine. If you are passionate about editing or design and would be interested in being involved in future production and development of the magazine then please speak to Carl Smith or Fae Widdowson.

Dear Friends

In a week's time, on 2nd and 3rd of June, we will be celebrating the Queen's Jubilee, remembering the 70 years since Queen Elizabeth the Second was crowned queen in the United Kingdom. What an amazing example of dedication and commitment to service she has given to us all in these years!

The term "jubilee" is defined in some dictionaries as: "a special anniversary of an event, especially one celebrating twenty-five or fifty years of a reign or activity".

Jubilee had a special meaning in the Bible. In the book of Leviticus chapters 25 and 27, and Numbers chapter 36, we read of the instructions which were given to the Israelites for celebrating Jubilee. All debt was to be written off, and all Hebrew slaves had to be freed. The ownership of all mortgaged land and property was to be restored to its original family ownership. The application of these laws meant in part that the gap between the wealthiest and the poorest in society would be limited.

The principle was based on the belief that all land belongs to God, and that we who own land or property only hold it in trust. As King David prayed, "all things come from You, and of Your own we have given You" (1 Chronicles 29:14). When the Jubilee principle is applied, it becomes unlikely that vast gaps between the wealthiest and the poorest in society can occur.

It reflected a deep concern for the poor and underprivileged, and the foundation Christian principle that all people are equal in the sight of God – regardless of race, gender, wealth or any other mark of status.

In 2015, Kagando Hospital (a rural, Church of Uganda, "Private Not for Profit" health unit in Western Uganda) celebrated its first 50 years from the time it had opened in January 1965 as an Africa Inland Mission Hospital.

As with almost all healthcare in Uganda, the hospital depends heavily on fees payable by patients, which are subsidised by government, or external donations through charities like "Friends of Kagando" (UK registered Charity Number 1100302) and other individual and charity donors.

In 2015, many patients had been unable to pay the fees required, leading to individuals and families in the community being in debt to Kagando Hospital. Some were fearful of returning to the hospital, even when they had treatable illnesses; instead they suffered, a few even died untreated, in the community.

In 2015, Jen and I had the privilege of being a part of a small group of four at Kagando who decided to apply the Jubilee principle, and write off all outstanding patient debt.

The result was dramatic: numbers of patients coming to the hospital rose sharply, and many lives were saved as a result, particularly those of children and others suffering from malnutrition, malaria, and other serious infectious diseases, or the results of accidents.

What are you planning to do to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee on the 2nd and 3rd of June? Many, quite rightly, will take time to be with family or to celebrate with friends and the local community. Some will have to work; particularly those who are involved in the provision of essential services like healthcare and law enforcement. Church leaders will still be providing regular church services.

All of us may take time to reflect on our world today – the horrors of war, injustice, the wicked exploitation of the weak and underprivileged. Might there be an opportunity to apply the Jubilee principle in our own lives of generous giving, and forgiveness of debt?

Enjoy your Jubilee!

With best wishes,

Rob and Jen (Morris)

Handcross Community Pantry

Thank you so much to those who have given generously to the Community Pantry. Throughout the pandemic, we have been able to get food to the people who need it most, and the generosity of people in our community has been wonderful.

We are sure that you are aware that the need for organisations like the Handcross Community Pantry has grown considerably over the past year-and-a-half and, with a large number of people still unemployed in the pandemic's wake, that need is going to continue to grow.

Our aim is to be committed to being here for the community as long as there is a need, and so we are asking those who can to continue to be as generous as possible for the sake of those who can't.

You can donate to the Pantry in a number of different ways.

1. Regular donations of food and toiletry items. (See below for details of items we accept.)
2. Organise a one-off donation with a group of people. Perhaps at work or school or in your street, you could arrange a larger community donation.
3. Give financially. We have a team of people who do shopping for the Pantry each week. We also aim to provide vouchers for use at the Handcross Butcher whenever we can, and your financial donations enable us to do this.

All donations can be delivered to Handcross Hardware & Craft. Financial donations can also be made via BACS (sort code 40-24-33, account 81842242, account name Slaughtam PCC, reference 'Pantry' or 'CP').

If you or anyone you know are in need of help, then please don't hesitate to contact us on 01444 400221.

Thank you again for your support.

Grace and Peace,

The Handcross Community Pantry Team

