

**UNITED BENEFICE OF**

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

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

**CONTACT**

**Church Office:**

**01444 400221, [slaugham@btinternet.com](mailto:slaugham@btinternet.com)**

Office hours: Monday & Thursday 9am-12pm

**Rector, Rev'd Carl Smith:**

**01444 400221, [handcrossrectory@gmail.com](mailto:handcrossrectory@gmail.com)**

 **@stmarysandstmarks**

*November 2022*



## **Church Services in November**

Weekly services are taking place at our churches, 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.

1 <sup>st</sup>	7.45pm	St Mary's	Prayer gathering
6 <sup>th</sup>	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	All Age
11 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Staplefield Common	Act of Remembrance
13 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	St Mary's	United Remembrance Service with Communion
20 <sup>th</sup>	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	Informal Praise
23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am	All Saints	Spotlight
27 <sup>th</sup>	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship

**Everyone is welcome!**



All Saints: Horsham Road, Handcross, RH17 6DF

St Mark's: Brantridge Lane, Staplefield, RH17 6EJ

St Mary's: Staplefield Road, Slaugham, RH17 6AG

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-tq0LV7z80cVFC8BZE034WNbNHhc4](https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCBQ0W4r1m39ixogQWR3TxoA?fbclid=IwAR2vLqbm97lq9StSwn8qvgX_vTF11-tq0LV7z80cVFC8BZE034WNbNHhc4)

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 on 01444 400221.

## **REMEMBER**

November is always a month in which we remember. Whether it is using a rhyme to help our children remember a date on which fireworks displays take place, or gathering around a cenotaph to remember those who gave their lives and who still risk their lives through war. Remembering our history is a good and important thing to do but I wonder if this November we need to have an extra level of remembering – remembering those who may be forgotten by others.

We live in a very self-driven culture. We want to ensure life is comfortable and convenient for us, and that is very understandable. Some may worry about how the cost-of-living crisis will affect them and their comforts. We may worry about what we can afford, what we may have to do without, how we will heat our homes and so much more. What we can forget when doing this is that there are people for whom this is not a new concern. People who have been living in poverty or fear of poverty for some while, both internationally and locally.

I was listening recently to an interview with a lady who leads an outreach to Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Churches are working together to help people in need despite their hatred of each other in the past, but she said something that really struck me: 'Lebanon isn't in the news anymore, but the needs are greater than they have ever been.' It can be so easy to forget things that aren't in front of us at the time.

Even locally, we can easily forget or not even know about the need that is around us. Sometimes because that need is hidden, sometimes because we choose not to see it, and sometimes because we are too distracted by our own lives and issues to notice – but the needs are there.

The Handcross Community Pantry was founded in 2019 because we became very aware of some of those needs. But the heart of the Pantry is so much more than giving food to people who need it. At its very heart, the Pantry is about building relationships with those who feel alone in their struggle, it is about growing together and learning from each other, it is about supporting each other and blessing each other. Some come to give, some to receive, some just to have a chat and a coffee, but the aim is not about creating dependency, but community – because we all need community.

As I type this, Radio 2 has just premiered a new track by Queen featuring some rediscovered vocals by Freddie Mercury. The message of the song is that when it comes down to the hard things in life, the only option is to face them alone. Thankfully these lyrics simply are not true. No one should ever feel that they have to face any struggles alone. Many people may feel as though they do. Maybe they feel as if no one can help them, or would want to help them. Maybe they feel too proud or ashamed to ask for help. Maybe they are worried of what might happen if they admit they need help. But whatever the reason, we need to make sure we are doing all we can for them to know that they are not forgotten.

Jesus made it very clear that this is something that is at the heart of who God is. Our God is a lover of justice, who cares for the poor and vulnerable and desires that we do the same. In Matthew's gospel, He gives examples of how we can best serve Him and honour Him, and it isn't by gathering in a church to sing (although that is honouring to Him) but it is by remembering, loving and serving those who are most forgotten by the world – even if they are our enemies.

So if you are in a position to be able to think of others and you have a desire to help, then why not speak to us about the work of the Handcross Community Pantry and ask us how you could get involved in something that seeks to make sure that no one is forgotten and that no one has to suffer alone. And if you are reading this and you need help, then I urge you to be as brave as you can and to come along one Saturday where you will be welcomed without judgement by people who want to and can help. (Despite its name, the Handcross Community Pantry is available for anyone who lives within our parishes, which is residents of Slaugham, Warninglid, Staplefield, Pease Pottage and Handcross.)

Regardless of what Freddie Mercury may have thought – you do not have to face this difficult winter alone!

Grace and Peace,

*Carl*

*Rector of St Mary's, Slaugham, & St Mark's, Staplefield*

## **Cleaning Help Needed**

St Mark's Church needs regular cleaning, and we would be very grateful if any person, or group of people, feel they can help. It involves sweeping and polishing and really is not a big task if undertaken regularly.

If you can help, please contact the church office (01444 400221), Lizzie (07887 637084) or Helen (07540 816170)

Many thanks.

*Lizzie and Helen  
(Wardens)*

## **Handcross Hardware - New Opportunities**

Do you enjoy getting to know people in the area? Do you want to be able to contribute to re-building community after months of isolation? Could you spare some time to help serve customers in the store, or co-run a weekday or evening group meeting of your interest?

As society has almost completely re-opened, and we have begun to feel more settled in our new role managing the store, we feel it is the right time to re-start some community groups from Handcross Hardware's Upper Room.

We have many opportunities of varying commitment and are interested in moulding the future of the Handcross Hardware Project based on your interests and needs. Please call the store on 01444 400212 and ask to speak to Asher, or email [dudleyhousetrust@gmail.com](mailto:dudleyhousetrust@gmail.com), if you have any ideas to put forward or would like more information about volunteering opportunities.

We are excited to see how the project will develop over the coming months and years.

*Asher and Damaris (Joint Project Managers)*

## **Handcross Community Pantry**

The Pantry was set up and is run by the churches in our Parish: All Saints in Handcross, St Mary's in Slaugham and St Mark's in Staplefield. Pease Pottage, Woodgate and Warninglid are also in the parish. We offer weekly provisions of food to those within the parishes who are in need of help and support.

As a Parish Church, we invite anyone in need to get in touch via our rector Rev Carl Smith at [handcrossrectory@gmail.com](mailto:handcrossrectory@gmail.com) or on 01444 400221. You are very welcome to call in to All Saints on a Saturday morning between 10 and 11.30am. Stay for free tea, coffee and biscuits, and chat to someone on our friendly team.

You can donate non-perishable items at the Handcross Hardware & Craft shop in the High Street, at All Saints on a Saturday morning, or at our churches – St Mary's and St Mark's are open all day. Financial donations can also be made: cash, marked 'Pantry', to the hardware shop, or by BACS (sort code 40-24-33, account 81842242, account name Slaugham PCC, reference 'Pantry' or 'CP').

If you would like to be a donation point for collection, or need any other information, then please get in touch. For any Pantry questions, please contact Barbara Butfoy at [butfoybabs@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:butfoybabs@hotmail.co.uk) or on 01444 401706 or 07853 228605. Thank you.

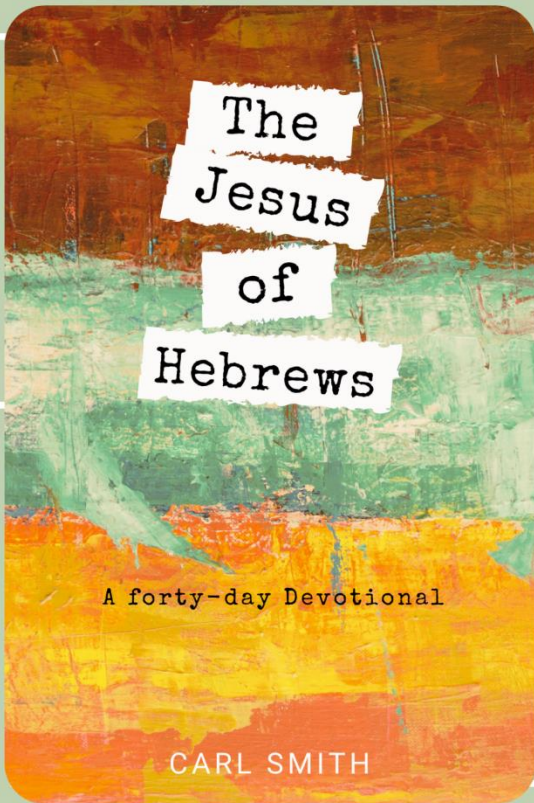
### **Christmas preparations!**

As Christmas approaches, it would be nice to have some special items in stock at the Pantry, with the intention of making hampers for the families.

Suitable items would include the following.

<i>Boxes of biscuits (e.g. Family Circle)</i>	<i>Shortbread</i>
<i>Small selection boxes</i>	<i>Chocolate bars</i>
<i>Chocolate Biscuits (e.g. KitKat, Penguin)</i>	<i>Mince pies</i>
<i>Small cakes (similar to Mr Kipling sizes)</i>	<i>Crisps, Twiglets, Pringles, Cheddars</i>
<i>Biscuits for cheese, cream crackers</i>	<i>Lemonade, cola</i>
<i>Squash, cartons of fruit juice</i>	<i>Trifle mixes in packets</i>
<i>Sauces (e.g. brandy, cranberry, apple)</i>	<i>Pickles, stuffing</i>

Donated items can be left in the usual places, or cash donations marked 'Christmas Hamper' can be given to Barbara Butfoy. Thank you.



OUT NOW

# THE JESUS OF HEBREWS

AVAILABLE  
ON AMAZON

PAPERBACK  
OR E-BOOK

Copies also available in St Mark's