

UNITED BENEFICE OF

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

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



February 2023

Church Services in February

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.

5 th	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	All-Age Worship
7 th	7.45pm	All Saints	Prayer Gathering
12 th	9am	St Mark's	Morning Prayer
	10.45am	St Mary's	Communion
19 th	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	Informal Praise
22 nd	10.30am	All Saints	Spotlight
26 th	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, Slaughtam, 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=IwAR2vLqbms97lq9StSwn8qvgX_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/>.

Weekly events – come along!

FIRST STEPS

Baby and toddler group
9.15am on Wednesdays (term time)
Upper Room, Handcross Hardware

CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS

Art group
10am on Fridays
St Mary's, Slaughtam

We are one parish

Recently, it was the six-year anniversary of me being licensed as the Rector of the United Benefice of St Mary's, Slaugham and St Mark's, Staplefield Common.

Over those six years I have never taken for granted the fact that I lead two churches, in two parishes, who genuinely get along well and work together well. We have worked hard to ensure that each church is able to celebrate its differences and that each congregation is led with integrity and authenticity.

I am delighted to be able to announce that on 1st January 2023 the unity between our two churches took a significant step as we officially became one united parish!

This is great news for the future of both churches, our work together, and the things we will be able to do together as a result of this unity.

Each church will continue to provide a variety of styles of Sunday worship for those in the local area, and together we will be more equipped to serve the villages of Staplefield, Slaugham, Warninglid, Handcross and Pease Pottage as one parish. We have some exciting plans for the future that, for the first time, we have been able to discover and work on together as one united parish.

If you want to know more about the uniting of the parishes and why this is so exciting, I would be more than happy to answer any questions you have. On a personal note, I am thrilled about this affirmation of the unity our churches share, and I am delighted to now be able to call myself the Rector of the united Parish of St Mary's and St Mark's!

Carl Smith

Handcross Community Pantry and Café

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 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:

- Handcross Hardware & Craft in the High Street
- The Victory Inn in Staplefield
- All Saints Church on a Saturday morning
- St Mary's in Slaugham
- St Mark's in Staplefield

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 or on 07853 228605. Thank you.

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)*

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.

CONTACT

Church Office:

01444 400221, slaughtam@btinternet.com

Office hours: Monday & Thursday 9am-12pm

Rector, Rev'd Carl Smith:

01444 400221, handcrossrectory@gmail.com

 [@stmarysandstmarks](#)