

UNITED BENEFICE OF

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

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



April 2023

Church Services in April

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.

2 nd Palm Sunday	9.45am	St Mary's	United All Age
4 th	7.45pm	St Mary's	Prayer Gathering
7 th Good Friday	12pm	St Mark's	An Hour at the Cross
9 th Easter	9am	St Mark's	Morning Prayer
	10.45am	St Mary's	Communion
	6.30pm	All Saints	Informal Worship
16 th	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	Informal Praise
23 rd	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship
	5.30pm	All Saints	Meal & Worship
26 th	10.30am	All Saints	Spotlight
30 th	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	Café Church including Annual Parochial Church Meeting

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=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/> .

For all the Saints

All Saints Church in Handcross was originally built as a hall from which Sunday School and other activities for children could be run. In the early 1900s, it was consecrated as a church and since then it has been a place of worship attached to the parish of St Mary's Slaugham as a chapel of ease (a church building that isn't the main parish church).

When I first arrived in the parish in 2017, it would be fair to say that All Saints had been a little bit neglected. It was a building that because of issues with damp, difficult access due to the introduction of the A23, and the noise of the traffic, was only being used for occasional mid-week services and lunches.

In 2018, we had a big clear out of all the clutter that had gathered there and began to use the building more, by re-introducing a toddler group there, having the church open to the public for prayer, and eventually developing the Handcross Community Pantry and Café on Saturday mornings. There has been, and still remains, a desire to develop the building to improve the access, but the COVID-19 pandemic and rising building costs have made that a hard dream to bring into reality.

However, a few weeks ago we received an offer from someone to decorate the inside of All Saints. Since then, this beautiful, small church has been lovingly decorated with fresh paint, the removal of some of the clutter, and the introduction of fresh lighting and worship equipment. As some of the woodwork was being sanded to be painted, some words were discovered around the whole of the inside of the building. A bit of research in the Slaugham Archives revealed a black and white photo of the inside of All Saints before all the artwork and wording was painted over. (We also found some great photos of a group of young people painting the Church in 1960.) We discovered that the words down one side were the words of a hymn:

For all the saints

Who from their labours rest

Who thee by faith before the world confessed

Thy name of Jesus, be forever blest

Alleluia, Alleluia

We couldn't help but have these words restored in gold, and so they lovingly were. But as we were doing this, we found that conversations were beginning to happen around people's memories of being in that church in the past, either in Sunday School or in their youth, and it felt as though as we were loving the building back into life – people were finding life within its walls again.

And so on 26th February, we started a new Sunday evening church in All Saints – a church in Handcross for the people of Handcross and surrounding area.

So now All Saints is springing into life again and there are lots more opportunities for people to come to the church for life, community, fellowship and worship. There is still more decorating to be done, and we would still love to make the building more accessible for those who can't manage the steps, but as we love the building more, our hope is that more people find the things that really matter when they enter this church.

Details of regular events and services at All Saints are below – all are welcome.

1st Wednesday of each month

Community coffee morning 10:30am-12pm

4th Wednesday of each month

Spotlight service 10:30am (a short service followed by refreshments)

Saturday mornings

Handcross Community Pantry and Café 10:00am-11:30am

Sunday Services

2nd Sunday of each month – Informal Worship 6:30pm

4th Sunday of each month – Meal & Worship service – food served from 5:30pm, worship service from 6:15pm

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.

Our verses for 2023: Romans 12:9-13

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practise hospitality.

CONTACT

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Office hours: Monday & Thursday 9am-12pm

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 [@stmarysandstmarks](#)