

UNITED BENEFICE OF

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

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



June 2023

Church Services in June

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.

4 th	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	All-age Worship
6 th	7.45pm	All Saints	Prayer Gathering
11 th	9am	St Mark's	Morning Prayer
	10.45am	St Mary's	Communion
	6.30pm	All Saints	Informal Worship
18 th	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	Informal Praise
25 th	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship
	5.30pm	All Saints	Meal & Worship
28 th	10.30am	All Saints	Spotlight

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/>.

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

Church Office:

01444 400221, slaughtam@btinternet.com

Office hours: Monday & Thursday 9am-12pm

Rector, Rev'd Carl Smith:

01444 400221, handcrossrectory@gmail.com

 [@stmarysandstmarks](#)

Grace and Peace

The art of letter writing is something that we are seeing less and less of. More people are turning to emails and typed letters for convenience and accuracy. I find it is very rare now that I receive a hand-written letter, so when I do, it feels almost like a treat.

The New Testament in the Bible is largely a collection of what would originally have been hand-written letters, written (in most cases) by Paul. In writing to the churches, Paul would be encouraging them, teaching them, helping them, at times rebuking them, informing them and asking them for support. Each of Paul's letters had a specific context, they were written to specific individuals or churches gathering in people's homes, and so although there are common themes, each letter is unique.

But one thing that is common in most, if not all, of Paul's letters is the term 'Grace and Peace'. Paul would often begin his letters praying that the recipients would know and experience grace and peace. This wasn't just a pleasant greeting or formality, he was asking for something which he considered to be very important and even life changing.

Paul (formally called Saul) was changed completely by an experience he had of the risen Jesus. It's an amazing story if you want to read it (Acts 9vs1-19). Paul knew that this experience was only possible because of the love and grace of God. Grace is essentially things that God does for us and gives to us that we don't deserve. In Paul's case, this was forgiveness for the wrong things he had done to Christians and a chance at a new life with Jesus. His life was completely changed by God's grace.

He also wanted people to know peace. In his life as a Christian, Paul had been arrested, beaten, threatened, put on trial, shipwrecked and had faced many challenges, but still he knew peace. Paul knew that true peace was not the absence of difficult circumstances but was the presence of Jesus. When Paul was praying for people to know peace, he was praying that they would know that Jesus was with them in all things.

So, wherever you are, whatever you are facing in life, whatever joys or sorrows you are experiencing, whatever your plans for the future, like Paul, I pray that you can know and experience the life-changing Grace and Peace of God. If you want to but don't know how, feel free to get in touch.

Grace and Peace,

Rev'd Carl Smith

(Rector of St Mark's and St Mary's)

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.

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.