

UNITED BENEFICE OF

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

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



October 2023

Church Services in October

1 st	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship
3 rd	7.45pm	All Saints	Prayer Gathering
8 th	9am	St Mark's	Morning Prayer
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship with Communion
	6.30pm	All Saints	Informal Worship
15 th	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship
22 nd	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship with Communion
	5.15pm	All Saints	Meal & Worship
27 th	10.30am	All Saints	Spotlight
29 th	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship

All Saints: Horsham Road, Handcross, RH17 6DF

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

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

Weekly services are taking place at our churches, and **everyone is welcome**.

Our current plans are as above 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.

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.

Transition and Change

Walking through the woods with our dog the other day felt a little strange. It was the end of one of the really hot days in September, yet on the ground were freshly fallen acorns – these two things just didn't go together in my mind – a hot summer's day with signs of autumn! It felt as though the transition from summer to autumn was very sudden.

There are times in our lives that transitions and changes can come upon us more suddenly than we would like. Even though it can be a good thing for us, we all struggle with change, and the older we get the harder change becomes. And when change happens, we like to be able to prepare for it – but that's not always possible. A sudden loss, an unexpected redundancy, a relationship breakdown – all of these, when they happen suddenly, force change on us, rather than us choosing it. This can be painful, and learning to grieve well and to process that change well in these times is really important.

Then there are those times we want change but it doesn't come, and we have to learn to wait, to be patient or to grow in our acceptance of our circumstances.

The arrival of Jesus 2,000 years ago was neither sudden nor unexpected. It was something that the people of Israel had been awaiting for hundreds of years. In that time, they had been displaced, scattered and were being led by corrupt nations. They were eagerly awaiting someone to rescue them; enter Jesus, who would bring change, even if not in the way they would have expected – what He came to do was far more than any of them could have dreamed or imagined.

Although the way Jesus arrived into this world was gentle and humble, the change that He introduced when He began His ministry was much more sudden. Very quickly, He was beginning to teach and show things of God that challenged the status quo of the religious leaders, and they hated that change so much that they ultimately crucified Him for introducing it. Little did they know that in doing so they would be helping to bring about the most dramatic and sudden change in human history: the change of our relationship with God! This was the restoration and reconciliation of something that was broken, the forgiveness of our sin, and the hope of new life through the powerful resurrection – the fulfilment of those promises that people had been waiting for.

But that change is a little like the heat and the acorns. We live in a time where the Kingdom of God has come in Jesus and is being established (we see signs of it) but is yet to be fully known in the way that it will be when He comes again; but in this time of waiting, there is a greater hope, and life can be found in Jesus. He is leading us through this transition, and we know that what He has for us in the future is good because He is good! And in the meantime, He is changing us and calling us to partner with Him to care for the world.

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.**

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').

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, please speak to Carl Smith or Fae Widdowson on 01444 400221.

CONTACT

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Office hours: Monday & Thursday 9am-12pm

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