

The Benefice of Benenden & Sandhurst

Our Mission: "To know and love Jesus and make his love known to all"

Our Worship: Sunday 31st January The Presentation of Christ in the Temple Candlemas

Collect: Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 31st January – Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Readings: Hebrews 2.14-end, Luke 2.22-40

10am

ONLINE HOLY COMMUNION

led by Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie, David Harmsworth
& Revd David Commander

Link: <https://youtu.be/DKYe0PkpHBq> also available via the church websites, below

followed at 11am by an **ONLINE COFFEE MORNING VIA ZOOM**

Link: (also available via the church websites below)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3971102878?pwd=UkpkY2R2Z1lXbmJqNUdzdzB2RVZUUT09>

(Meeting ID: 397 110 2878 Passcode: 658989)

NB Links to all services (also available to watch as recordings) are detailed on the following St George's and St Nicholas church websites, Facebook pages and A Church Near You.

Websites:

<http://www.benendenchurch.org/>

<https://stnicholassandhurst.org/>

Facebook Pages:

@StGeorgesBenenden

@StNicholasSandhurst

A Church Near You:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com>

THE WEEK AHEAD

The church is open for private prayer but we regret there is no communal worship for the next few weeks. Sunday services will be available via YouTube at 10am every Sunday (and available to watch afterwards). YouTube service links and links to Zoom coffee mornings are posted on the church websites on Saturday evening.

Sunday Next: 7th February – The Second Sunday before Lent

Readings: Colossians 1.15-20, John 1.1-14

10am

ONLINE HOLY COMMUNION led by Revd David Commander

Readings: Sunday 31st January

Hebrews 2.14-end

¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Luke 2.22-40

Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.'

³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

The Return to Nazareth

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Sad News in the Benefice:

Please pray for Olive, Hilda and Bill and their loved ones at this sad time.

Olive Martin. Mother of Brian Martin.

Funeral: Monday 1st Feb. 3:15pm at Charing Crematorium.

Hilda Kemp. Mother of Gary, Darren and Valley.

Funeral: Wednesday 3rd Feb. 11:30am, K&S Crematorium, Tunbridge Wells.

Bill Goodsell. Father of Richard and Clive.

Funeral: Friday 5th February. 10:00am, K&S Crematorium, Tunbridge Wells.

If any members of the church family feel they would like to attend Bill's funeral service please contact Revd David.

PASTORAL: The idea of Revd Ylva and myself being available, in our churches, for a chat or prayer time together has not worked; we have had no "visitors" in the three weeks we've been at church. So we have stopped this and will look to try something else.... watch this space! In the meantime, if you want a chat, please pick up the phone and call us. Revd David.

Revd David Tel: 01580 240 658

Revd Ylva Tel: 07766 711957

Covid Update: As at 31st January 2021

Our churches remain open for individual private prayer. However, communal worship has moved on-line until further notice.

Until our churches reopen:

- We will record a service and make it available, on-line, every Sunday morning. Fellowship follows, with coffee, on Zoom after the service.

- The parish churches remain open for individual private prayer seven days a week

- St. George's church will be heated for two one-hour periods every day (10-11am and 2-3pm) so that the church is more comfortable if people wish to make use of the space for private prayer.

As this situation is going on far longer than any of us had imaged:

- We will look at arranging a form of on-line, weekly Bible Study; a sort of "on-line Home Group". This will be available, on Zoom, to anyone who wishes to join in for Christian fellowship in this way. Watch this space!

- We will also review and update the on-line resources that are available on the church websites.

Please continue to look after yourself. If you want to talk, please pick up the phone and call. God bless. Revd David

**Daily Scripture and Reflection is posted on our church websites
and Facebook pages every day of the week.**

**PLEASE ALSO KEEP AN EYE ON THESE WEBSITES AND FACEBOOK PAGES FOR THE LATEST
INFORMATION REGARDING OUR CHURCH SERVICES**

Websites: <http://www.benendenchurch.org/>
<https://stnicholassandhurst.org/>

Facebook Pages: @StGeorgesBenenden @StNicholasSandhurst

A Church Near You: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com>

Contacts: St George's Church, Benenden	
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St George's Parish Safeguarding Officer	Ian Malaugh Tel: 01580 240 999 E-mail: ianmal@sky.com
Priests	Revd David Commander, Rector. The Rectory, The Green, Benenden, TN17 4DL Tel: 01580 240 658 E-mail: revdavidcommander@gmail.com (NB The Rector's day off is Thursday) Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie, Curate Tel: 01233 820100 Mobile: 07766 711957 Email: rev.ylva@gmail.com Revd Dr Rosemary Kobus van Wengen Tel: 01580 764 857 Email: rosemaryvanwengen@gmail.com

Contacts: St Nicholas, Sandhurst	
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Priests	Revd David Commander, Rector. The Rectory, The Green, Benenden, TN17 4DL Tel: 01580 240 658 E-mail: revdavidcommander@gmail.com (NB The Rector's day off is Thursday) Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie, Curate Tel: 01233 820100 Mobile: 07766 711957 Email: rev.ylva@gmail.com Revd Dr Rosemary Kobus van Wengen Tel: 01580 764 857 Email: rosemaryvanwengen@gmail.com