

Benefice of St George's Church, Benenden & St Nicholas Church, Sandhurst

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

Our Worship: Sunday 29th December First Sunday of Christmas

Collect: Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 29th December – The First Sunday of Christmas

Readings: Colossians 3.12-17, Luke 2.41-end

8 am No service

10 am BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION AT ST GEORGE'S

led by Revd David Commander

Hymns:

589	<i>Angel-voices ever singing</i>
59	<i>Angels from the realms of glory</i>
63	<i>'Glory to God!' all heav'n with joy is ringing</i>
692(HC)	<i>Jesus, good above all other</i>
715	<i>Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided</i>

THE WEEK AHEAD

Revd David is on holiday from Monday 30th December to Friday 3rd January inclusive.

Should you require the services of a priest during this time, please contact your Churchwardens:

St George's, Benenden: Sue Fisher Tel 241 907 and David Collard Tel 241 944

St Nicholas, Sandhurst: Bob Houlden Tel 850 278; Catherine Elliott Tel 850 300

No Morning Prayer, Tuesday Holy Communion or Home Group meetings this week

Wednesday 1 st	7.30 – 9 pm	Bellringing Practice at St George's
Thursday 2 nd	7 – 8 pm	Choir Practice at St George's
Saturday 4 th	12 noon	Interment of t/l Sonia Gardner at St Nicholas
	4 – 5.30 pm	Kent Young Ringers: Bellringing at St George's

Sunday Next: 5th January – Epiphany

Readings: Ephesians 3.1-12, Matthew 2.1-12

8 am 1662 BCP HOLY COMMUNION AT ST NICHOLAS

led by Revd David Commander

8 am HOLY COMMUNION AT ST GEORGE'S

led by Revd Ylva Blid Mackenzie

10 am ALL AGE COMMUNION AT ST GEORGE'S

led by Revd David Commander

5 pm CHORAL EVENSONG AT ST GEORGE'S

led by Revd David Commander

Readings: Isaiah 60.1-9, John 2.1-11. Psalm 98

Readings: Sunday 29th December: The First Sunday of Christmas

Colossians 3.12-17

¹² As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Luke 2.41-end

⁴¹ Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³ When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴ Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' ⁴⁹ He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹ Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

Prayers: We continue to hold in our prayers:

t/I Linda Johnson, Linda's husband, Robert (our Church Treasurer), and their children, Edward and Sophie. Linda's funeral will be at St. Nicholas Church at 2 pm on Tuesday 14th January, followed by burial in the churchyard.

t/I Godfrey Bland. Please hold Godfrey's children: Caroline, Richard and Alexander, and their families, in your prayers. Godfrey's funeral will be at St Nicholas Church on Wednesday 22nd January, at 2pm. Revd David

Ven. Andrew Sewell, Archdeacon of Maidstone, retires on 18th January 2025. A Choral Evensong service for Andrew is on 12th January at Canterbury Cathedral. There is also a service in the Maidstone Archdeaconry to mark Andrew's retirement, at 7pm on Tuesday 14th January at St Nicholas Allington, to be led by Revd David Commander. An Archdeaconry retirement collection for Andrew can be found via the link: <https://app.collectionpot.com/pot/3302251>

***The two toddler groups in the Benefice
restart next week***

We don't charge, but a £1 donation per family would be welcome.

The Drop in Café & Toddler Group in Sandhurst

meets at the Mission Church on Back Road, TN18 5JU
on Wednesdays in term time, starting 8th January
from 9 to 11am.

"Cakes & Chaos" in Benenden

meets at St George's Church
on Fridays in term time, starting 10th January
from 9 to 11am.

ALL WELCOME

Please contact Helen for more details

Tel: 01580 240658 Email: helenjcommander@gmail.com

Church Contacts:	
Church Office	Cathy Baker, Benefice Administrator. The Mission Church, Back Road, Sandhurst TN18 5JU Tel: 01580 850 849 - E-mail: benendenchurch@gmail.com
St George's Churchwardens	Mr David Collard Tel: 01580 241 944 - E-mail: d.collard49@btinternet.com Mrs Sue Fisher Tel: 01580 241 907 - E-mail: sue@undaunted.co.uk
St George's Parish Safeguarding Officer	Ian Malaugh Tel: 01580 240 999 - E-mail: ianmal@sky.com
St Nicholas Churchwardens	Bob Houlden Tel: 01580 850 278 - E-mail: bob.houlden@btinternet.com Catherine Elliott Tel: 01580 850 300 E-mail: Elliotts@sandhurstcross.co.uk
St Nicholas Parish Safeguarding Officer	Anne Tylden-Wright Tel: 01580 850 281 - E-mail: tyldenwright@btinternet.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, Associate Priest 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
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