

# The 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 30<sup>th</sup> November The First Sunday of Advent

**Collect:** Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November – The First Sunday of Advent

*Readings: Romans 13.11-14, Matthew 24.36-44*

8 am	<b>BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION AT ST GEORGE'S</b> led by Revd David Commander
10 am	<b>BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION AT ST NICHOLAS</b> led by Revd David Commander & Lyn Hayes <i>Hymns:</i> 235 <i>I, the Lord of sea and sky</i> 98 <i>Come, thou long expected Jesus</i> 307 <i>Lo, he comes with clouds descending</i> 494 <i>The Spirit lives to set us free (Walk in the light)</i>
5 pm	<b>ADVENT CAROL SERVICE AT ST GEORGE'S</b> led by Revd David Commander

### THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>	8 am	Morning Prayer at St George's
	7.30 pm	Sandhurst Home Group at the Mission Church
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	8 am	Morning Prayer at the Mission Church
	10 am	Holy Communion at the Mission Church led by Revd Rosemary Kobus van Wengen
	7.30 pm	Benenden Home Group Christmas Social at David & Julia Collard's
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	8 am	Morning Prayer at the Mission Church
	9 – 11 am	Drop in Café & Toddler Group at the Mission Church
	7 pm	Parish Council meeting at the Mission Church
	7 pm	D&M Prayer meeting via Zoom
	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice at St George's
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>	8 am	Morning Prayer at St George's
	9 – 11 am	Cakes & Chaos Toddler Group at St George's
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am – 12.30 pm	Wreath Making at the Mission Church

### Sunday Next: 7<sup>th</sup> December – Second Sunday of Advent

*Readings: Romans 15.4-13, Matthew 3.1-12*

8 am	<b>HOLY COMMUNION AT ST GEORGE'S</b> led by Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie
8 am	<b>1662 BCP HOLY COMMUNION AT ST NICHOLAS</b> led by Revd Rosemary Kobus van Wengen
10 am	<b>ALL AGE HOLY COMMUNION AT ST GEORGE'S</b> led by Revd David Commander
2 – 4.30 pm	<b>BRIDGEPOINT CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT ST GEORGE'S</b>

**Readings: Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November – The First Sunday of Advent**

**Romans 13.11-14**

<sup>11</sup> Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

**Matthew 24.36-44**

<sup>36</sup> 'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

**Home Groups:**

**Sandhurst Home Group:** Meets on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December at Sandhurst Mission Church.

**Benenden Home Group:** Meets for a Christmas Social at David & Julia Collard's on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

**ADVENT  
SERVICE OF LIGHT**

**TONIGHT  
Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November  
at St George's  
at 5pm**



**St Nicholas Tower: It is with regret that the whole tower area is currently deemed to be out of bounds to everyone because there is a serious risk of injury due to a fall of masonry.**



**LEARN HOW TO MAKE A CHRISTMAS WREATH**

**Join us in Sandhurst Mission Church  
on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December  
from 10am to 12 noon.**

**Coffee and biscuits/cake will be provided.**

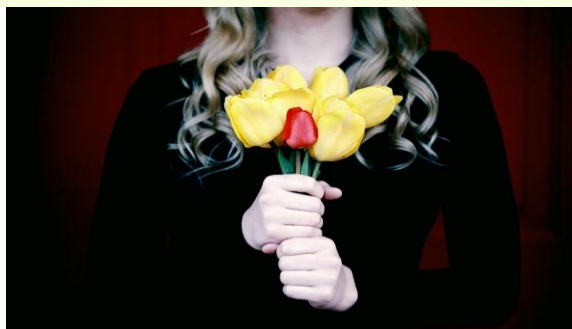
**You will need to bring your own greenery and decorations.**

**Wire will be supplied.**

**Wreath frames can be bought online.**

**There will be a charge of £5 which will go towards the  
St Nicholas Church organ fund.**

## ***Grief Talks ~ Time to share & reflect***



***Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 10am – 12 noon***

***at the Mission Church, Back Road, Sandhurst TN18 5JU***

Coming to terms with the loss of a loved one can be one of the hardest things we have to do. When someone has died, while we may feel our loved one is at peace, it can still leave us with hugely mixed emotions.

We are offering a morning to explore our grief through conversation, readings and crafting together. It will be a safe space to come to talk and share what has been going on for you. Talking to others who have been through similar experiences can be helpful, or just knowing that someone is there to listen.

For more information and to book this free workshop please contact  
Claire Roberts on 01580 754374 or email [claireecr57@yahoo.com](mailto:claireecr57@yahoo.com)

## ***PARISH CAROL SERVICES***

### ***Nine Lessons & Carols***

***at St Nicholas***  
***6.30pm***

***Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>***  
***December***

***with Tongswood***  
***Chamber Choir***



***at St George's***  
***7.30pm***

***Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>***  
***December***

## ***St George's: Restore, Renew, Rejoice!***

***Your Community Needs You! Do you, or a family member or a friend, have any of the following skills and experience?***

***Digital Marketing | Quantity Surveying | Treasury & Financial Planning |  
Community Infrastructure Levy***

***The St George's RRR Project Fundraising Team would love to hear from you.***  
***Please contact Paul Hewitt 07703 532 744 [phewitt1203@gmail.com](mailto:phewitt1203@gmail.com)***



## Benenden 2025 Campaign 12 'Foods' of Christmas

**Donation Point: St Georges  
Church, Benenden**

During Advent, please can you consider donating the most needed food items to support those in most need at this time of year?

**Long life milk, Pasta, Rice pudding, Tinned fruit, Noodles, Spreads: Jam, peanut butter, Marmite, Tins of fish, Tinned potatoes, Tinned pulses, Tinned baked beans & spaghetti, Tins of fruit, Soup**

Nourish would also greatly appreciate your Christmas non perishable leftovers in the new year!

Collections can be arranged.

Contact: Gemma Coupland 07548 262509

[gemma.louhunter@gmail.com](mailto:gemma.louhunter@gmail.com)

<http://www.nourishcommunityfoodbank.org.uk>

### **BENEFICE NOTICE 30<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER:**

***Please note, Nourish covers Benenden but does not cover the Parish and people of Sandhurst. Details re Sandhurst's campaign next week!***

**St Nicholas: Christmas Cards & Christian Aid:** As usual we will be giving our congregation the opportunity to make a contribution to Christian Aid instead of sending lots of Christmas cards to our friends at St Nicholas. If you would like to write one card to everyone and pass on a donation to Katherine O'Neil it will be put towards helping to make life easier for those in the third world. KON


### **GARDENS OF SANDHURST - CALENDAR 2026**

**Same price of £10 as last year with profits, as before, going to the St Nicholas Church organ overhaul fund.**

**Please help us reach the total we need.**

**Copies will be available in November through the churches, the shop and Bliss or contact Katherine O'Neil directly on 01580 850159 or 07794068373**



Church: Contacts	
Church Office	Cathy Baker, Benefice Administrator. The Mission Church, Back Road, Sandhurst TN18 5JU Tel: 01580 850 849 - E-mail: <a href="mailto:benendenchurch@gmail.com">benendenchurch@gmail.com</a>
St George's Churchwardens:	Sue Fisher Tel: 01580 241 907 - E-mail: <a href="mailto:sue@undaunted.co.uk">sue@undaunted.co.uk</a> Cathy Presgrave Tel: 07500 119 189 - E-mail: <a href="mailto:cathy.presgrave@gmail.com">cathy.presgrave@gmail.com</a>
St Nicholas Churchwardens:	Bob Houlden Tel: 01580 850 278 - E-mail: <a href="mailto:bob.houlden@btinternet.com">bob.houlden@btinternet.com</a> Catherine Elliott Tel: 01580 850 300 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Elliotts@sandhurstcross.co.uk">Elliotts@sandhurstcross.co.uk</a>
Parish Safeguarding Officers St George's: St Nicholas:	Ian Malaugh Tel: 01580 240 999 - E-mail: <a href="mailto:ianmal@sky.com">ianmal@sky.com</a> Anne Tylden-Wright Tel: 01580 850 281 - E-mail: <a href="mailto:tyldenwright@btinternet.com">tyldenwright@btinternet.com</a>
Priests	Revd David Commander, Rector. The Rectory, The Green, Benenden TN17 4DL Tel: 01580 240 658 E-mail: <a href="mailto:revdavidcommander@gmail.com">revdavidcommander@gmail.com</a> (NB The Rector's day off is Thursday) Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie, Associate Priest Tel: 01233 820100 Mobile: 07766 711957 Email: <a href="mailto:rev.ylva@gmail.com">rev.ylva@gmail.com</a> Revd Dr Rosemary Kobus van Wengen Tel: 01580 764 857 Email: <a href="mailto:rosemaryvanwengen@gmail.com">rosemaryvanwengen@gmail.com</a>
	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/StGeorgesBenenden">StGeorgesBenenden</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/StNicholasSandhurst">StNicholasSandhurst</a>
Websites	<a href="https://benendenchurch.org/">https://benendenchurch.org/</a> St George's: <a href="https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12091/">https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12091/</a> St Nicholas: <a href="https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12099/">https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12099/</a>