

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 29th March PALM SUNDAY

Collect: True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you, that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory.

Sunday 29th March – PALM SUNDAY

Readings: Philippians 2.5-11, Matthew 27.11-54

8 am	HOLY COMMUNION IN THE CHANCEL AT ST GEORGE'S led by Revd David Commander
9.45 am	<i>Meet at the Lower Car Park Triangle, at St Nicholas Church, Sandhurst, for Palm Sunday Procession to Church.</i>
10 am	BENEFICE PALM SUNDAY SERVICE & Baptism of Jasper Allery AT ST NICHOLAS led by Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie & Revd David Commander <i>We welcome Jasper & his family & friends to St Nicholas this morning.</i>
	Hymns: 329 <i>Make way, make way</i> 346 <i>My song is love unknown</i> 11 <i>All glory, laud and honour</i> 405 <i>One more step along the world I go</i> 435 <i>Ride on, ride on in majesty</i> 246 <i>In heavenly love abiding - Communion</i>
2.30 pm	Interment of t/l Malcolm Smith at St George's

The Week Ahead

Monday of Holy Week	8 am	Morning Prayer at the Rectory
	2 pm	Thanksgiving Service for t/l Charles Trollope at St Dunstan's
	7.30 pm	REFLECTIVE SERVICE IN THE CHANCEL AT ST GEORGE'S led by Sarah Emanuel
Tuesday of Holy Week	8 am	Morning Prayer at Sandhurst Mission Church
	10 am	Holy Communion at Sandhurst Mission Church led by Revd Rosemary Kobus van Wengen
	7.30 pm	REFLECTIVE SERVICE AT SANDHURST MISSION CHURCH led by Lyn Hayes
Wednesday of Holy Week	8 am	Morning Prayer at Sandhurst Mission Church
	9 – 11 am	Drop in Café & Toddler Group at Sandhurst Mission Church
	7.30 pm	REFLECTIVE SERVICE IN THE CHANCEL AT ST GEORGE'S led by David Harmsworth
Maundy Thursday	10–11.30 am	Rhythm of Life Community Choir at Sandhurst Mission Church
	7.30 pm	MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION AT ST NICHOLAS led by Revd David Commander & Revd Rosemary Kobus van Wengen
Good Friday	8 am	Morning Prayer at the Rectory
	10 am	AN HOUR AT THE CROSS AT ST NICHOLAS led by Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie
Easter Eve	7.30 pm	REFLECTIVE SERVICE IN THE CHANCEL AT ST GEORGE'S led by Revd David Commander

EASTER SUNDAY – 5th April

Readings: Acts 10.34-43. John 20.1-18

- 6.05 am** **SUNRISE SERVICE IN THE CHURCHYARD AT ST NICHOLAS**
led by Lyn Hayes *followed by breakfast in the Mission Church*
- 8 am** **HOLY COMMUNION IN THE CHANCEL AT ST GEORGE'S**
led by Revd Rosemary Kobus van Wengen
- 10 am** **ALL AGE HOLY COMMUNION at BENENDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL**
led by Revd David Commander & Sarah Emanuel
- 10 am** **ALL AGE HOLY COMMUNION AT ST NICHOLAS**
led by Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie & Lyn Hayes

Readings: 29th March – Palm Sunday

Philippians 2.5-11

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Matthew 27.11-54

¹¹ Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus said, 'You say so.' ¹²But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. ¹³Then Pilate said to him, 'Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?' ¹⁴But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

¹⁵ Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. ¹⁶At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus^a Barabbas. ¹⁷So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?' ¹⁸For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. ¹⁹While he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him, 'Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.' ²⁰Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. ²¹The governor again said to them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' And they said, 'Barabbas.' ²²Pilate said to them, 'Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?' All of them said, 'Let him be crucified!' ²³Then he asked, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Let him be crucified!'

²⁴ So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, 'I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.' ²⁵Then the people as a whole answered, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' ²⁶So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. ²⁸They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' ³⁰They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

³² As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), ³⁴they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots³⁶then they sat down there and kept watch over him. ³⁷Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.'

³⁸ Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰and saying, 'You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.' ⁴¹In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, ⁴²'He saved others; he cannot save himself He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. ⁴³He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, "I am God's Son."'" ⁴⁴The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

⁴⁵ From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ⁴⁶And about three

o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' ⁴⁷When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'This man is calling for Elijah.' ⁴⁸At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹But the others said, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him' ⁵⁰Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last ⁵¹At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵²The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. ⁵³After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

Sad News: Please continue to hold all the family and friends of our dear Charles Trollope in your prayers. A Thanksgiving Service for Charles' life takes place at 2 pm tomorrow, Monday 30th March, at St. Dunstan's Church in Cranbrook; the service will be conducted by myself supported by members of our ministry team. Following the service there will be a reception at the Vestry Hall in Cranbrook; this is located very close to the church. You all remain in my prayers as we come to terms with Charles' passing. Revd David.

Charles' Thanksgiving service: 2pm Monday 30th March: This is being conducted by Revd David; Revd Rosemary is leading the intercessions. The service is being live-streamed on Zoom. The "meeting" ID and Passcode are: Meeting ID: 878 9210 5956 Passcode: 685112
(The link is: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87892105956?pwd=koowXlIdaaJ7UZoNsBSmv8LY9asFu5b.1>)
The above link will be posted on the St George's website and Facebook page.

Home Groups: There are no Benenden or Sandhurst Home Group this week. Instead we will be attending the Holy Week Reflective Services.

St George's Church Electoral Roll: There is about to be a revision of the Church Electoral Roll. The Roll opens on Sunday 5th April and closes on Sunday 26th April, If you wish to be added to the roll, or if you wish to be removed, please contact David Collard at a 10 am service or Tel 01580 241044. or email d.collard49@btinternet.com

St Nicholas Church Electoral Roll: The revision of the Church Electoral Roll is now open until Sunday 12th April. If you wish to be added to the roll, or if you wish to be removed, please contact Richard Cutchey.

Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie: Revd Ylva has taken the decision to submit her resignation to myself, the Archdeacon of Maidstone and the Bishop of Dover, as Associate Priest in the Benefice of Benenden & Sandhurst. Ylva will serve her three-month's notice, taking her time with us up to the end of May 2026. We would like to thank Ylva for the ministry she has offered as a Training Curate and then as Associate Priest with us for nearly six years. Please hold Ylva in your prayers as she journeys on and discerns God's calling for the next stage of her ministry. Revd David

SANDHURST'S GOT TALENT!

Share yours or come to see what others can do. In aid of our church funds.

**Friday 24th April at 6pm in the Mission Church &
Saturday 25th April from 11am until 4pm in St Nicholas Church.
Tea/Coffee and cake available.**

*This is not a competition. We would just like to show what Sandhurst young and old can do!
If you want to share your talent, entry forms are in church or can be obtained from*

denisandkatherine@gmail.com

Grief Talks ~ Time to share & reflect = Saturday 25th April

10am – 12noon 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 Lyn Hayes on 07792 332904 or email: Lindapin@aol.com

Spring Pilgrimage Walk – Wednesday 29th April

We are happy to announce that we are planning a local pilgrimage walk, this time taking in the beautiful woodland with all of its wonderful trees, plants and animals at Hemsted Forest, Benenden, stopping for reflection and having the time to connect with nature, each other and the Spirit.

This will take place on Wednesday 29th April, starting from the Goddard's Green Road Car Park at 9.45am for a 10am start. The walk will be around 3.5 miles long and will be a circular route finishing back at the car park. – Please bring a flask of your favourite beverage. We will also have our traditional offering of cake! Please be aware that there are NO toilet facilities at the forest.

We would love to walk with you – if you have further questions please get in touch with Revd Ylva, 07766 711957, rev.ylva@gmail.com or Lyn Hayes 07792 332904, lindapin@aol.com

Confirmation: There is a Weald Deanery Confirmation service on Sunday 31st May 2026; if you, or a family member, are interested in Confirmation, please speak to Revd David.

 <p>East Peckham Silver Band Conductor: Jeremy Cooper with Ian Verran - Organ</p> <p>Music for Easter with a cinema musical interlude</p> <p><i>Easter Hymn Panis Angelicus</i> <i>All in the April Evening</i> <i>Resurgam: I shall rise again</i> <i>A James Bond Medley</i></p> <p>2.30pm Sunday 12th April St Nicholas Church Sandhurst TN18 5NS Tickets £15 plus tea & cakes</p> <p>Under 18s free You can buy your tickets here:  and at the door Registered Charity: X33295</p>	<p>Dingledden Open Gardens TN17 4JU</p> <p>Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th May 2026 10 am - 4 pm each day Entry £5. Parking available</p> <p>in aid of St George's Church, Benenden: 'Restore: Renew: Rejoice' project & the deaf health charity SignHealth</p> <p>Judy Williams, Peter & Sylvia Kellett & Steve & Angie Lambert will be opening their gardens.</p> <p>A unique opportunity to visit these private gardens on the High Weald Landscape Trail.</p> <p>The Laurels Nursery & private garden: A stunning collection of standard wisteria will be in bloom.</p> <p>Barnhill Cottage, garden & vegetable patch: Light refreshments here.</p> <p>No 3 New Buildings: The hidden treasure.</p> <p>Fundraising in aid of: https://signhealth.org.uk/ https://stgeorgeschurchbenenden.co.uk/</p>
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St George's & St Nicholas: Church Contacts

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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, 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