

# St George's Church, Benenden

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

## Our Worship: Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December Third Sunday of Advent

**Collect:** O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December – Third Sunday of Advent** *Readings: Philippians 4.4-7, Luke 3.7-18*

8 am

**HOLY COMMUNION**

led by Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie

10 am

**SUNG EUCHARIST**

Led by Revd David Commander & Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie

*Hymns:* 9                      *When morning gilds the skies*  
621                      *Dear Lord and Father of mankind*  
727                      *May the mind of Christ my Saviour*  
(HC) 740              *O changeless Christ, for ever new*  
475                      *Forth in the peace of Christ we go*

### THE WEEK AHEAD

*Please note: from Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December to Christmas Eve, other than for services, St George's will be open from 9 am to 12 noon only,*

Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>	8 am	Morning Prayer at St George's
	9.30 am onwards	Preparing St George's for Christmas
	7.30 pm	Sandhurst Home Group <i>at the Rectory</i>
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	8 am	Morning Prayer at Sandhurst Mission Church
	10 am	Holy Communion at Sandhurst Mission Church led by Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie
		<i>No Benenden Home Group until 14<sup>th</sup> January</i>
	7.30 pm	<b>PARISH CAROL SERVICE AT ST GEORGE'S</b> led by Revd David Commander
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	8 am	Morning Prayer at Sandhurst Mission Church
	10 – 11.30 am	Coffee Morning at Benenden Memorial Hall
	6.30 pm	Sandhurst Parish Carol service at St Nicholas
	7.30 – 9.15 pm	Bellingring Practice at St George's
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	10 – 11.30 am	Community Choir at St George's
		<b>No</b> Choir Practice today
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	8 am	Morning Prayer at St George's
	9 – 11 am	Cakes & Chaos Toddler Group at St George's
	1.30 – 2.30 pm	Refreshments for BPS parents at St George's
	2.30 pm	BPS Carol Service at St George's

**Sunday Next: 22<sup>nd</sup> December – Fourth Sunday of Advent**

*Readings: Hebrews 10.5-10, Luke 1.39-45 [46-55]*

8 am

**HOLY COMMUNION**

led by Revd Rosemary Kobus van Wengen

10 am

**MORNING WORSHIP & Baptism of Archie Banfield**

led by Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie

**Readings: Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December: Third Sunday of Advent**

***Philippians 4.4-7***

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**Luke 3.7-18**

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

<sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' <sup>12</sup>Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' <sup>13</sup>He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

<sup>18</sup> So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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**Benenden Home Group** will meet again on 14<sup>th</sup> January.

**Preparing the Church for Christmas:** On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December, starting at 9.30 am, we shall be decorating the church in readiness for Christmas. This will include the setting out of over 400 candles for the Parish Carol Service on the following day. We would welcome help for this enjoyable activity so please do join us if you can. Dick Hill

**Plea for Volunteers!** The St George's candelabras will be put out for Christmas on 16th December and Revd David would like to keep the church open during the mornings between 9 am and 12 noon on 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 23rd and 24th December. A sign-up sheet has been put out in church in the hope that people will sign up for hour slots on any of these mornings. This will save David Collard from doing all of the work. Please sign up if you can!

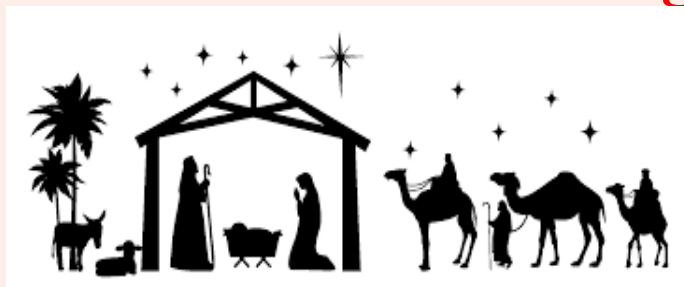
**Christmas Lunch:** We are inviting people who would otherwise be on their own to join us for our Christmas lunch in the Memorial Hall on Christmas Day. We don't charge for this as people very generously offer items of food etc. Our food list is almost complete, but we would be grateful for the odd bottle of wine or soft drink and donations towards the cost of the meat which is always the most expensive item to buy. If you are able to offer some help on the day, we would also love to hear from you. We would particularly appreciate help at the end of the day with clearing up etc. Usually from 4-4.30pm onwards. Helen Commander

## **Parish Candle-lit Carol Service at St George's**



**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm**

## **Crib Service at St George's**



**3 pm on Christmas Eve**

**Ven. Andrew Sewell, Archdeacon of Maidstone**, retires on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2025. A Choral Evensong service for Andrew is on 12<sup>th</sup> January at Canterbury Cathedral. There is an Archdeaconry retirement collection for Andrew via: <https://app.collectionpot.com/pot/3302251>



## 12 'Foods' of Christmas

During Advent, 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 - 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>

## Christmas Services at St George's

**Parish Carol Service** – Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December – 7.30 pm

**BPS Carol Service** – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December – 2.30 pm

**Crib Service** – Christmas Eve – 3 pm

**First Communion of Christmas** – Christmas Eve – 11.30 pm

### CHRISTMAS DAY

8 am Holy Communion

10 am Morning Worship followed by Holy Communion

**NB Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December** – one service in the benefice:

10 am Holy Communion at St George's

#### St George's 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>
Churchwardens	Mr David Collard Tel: 01580 241 944 - E-mail: <a href="mailto:d.collard49@btinternet.com">d.collard49@btinternet.com</a> Mrs Sue Fisher Tel: 01580 241 907 - E-mail: <a href="mailto:sue@undaunted.co.uk">sue@undaunted.co.uk</a>
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Ian Malaugh Tel: 01580 240 999 - E-mail: <a href="mailto:ianmal@sky.com">ianmal@sky.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>
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