

St George's Church, Benenden

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

Our Worship: Sunday 23rd March The Third Sunday of Lent

Collect: Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 23rd March – The Third Sunday of Lent

Readings: 1 Cor. 10.1-13, Luke 13.1-9

8 am

HOLY COMMUNION

led by Revd David Commander

10 am

MORNING WORSHIP

led by David Harmsworth

Hymns: 761 *Praise the Lord! Ye heavens, adore him*
 116 *Be thou my guardian and my guide*
 594 *Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side*
 584 *All my hope on God is founded*

3 pm

Benenden Girls' School Confirmation Service at St George's

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 24 th	8 am	Morning Prayer at St George's
	7.30 pm	Benenden PCC meeting at the Memorial Hall
Tuesday 25 th	8 am	Morning Prayer at Sandhurst Mission Church
	10 am	Holy Communion at Sandhurst Mission Church led by Revd David Commander
Wednesday 26 th		<i>No Morning Prayer today</i>
	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice at St Nicholas <i>(Last Wednesday of the month)</i>
	7.30 pm	Lent Course - A Pilgrimage through Prayer - at Sandhurst Mission Church (Week 3 of 5) – all welcome
Thursday 27 th	10 – 11.30 am	Community Choir at St George's
Friday 28 th	8 am	Morning Prayer at St George's
	9 – 11 am	Cakes & Chaos Toddler Group at St George's

NB: British Summer Time starts, and clocks spring forward, at 1 am on Sunday 30th March

Sunday Next: 30th March – MOTHERING SUNDAY – The Fourth Sunday of Lent

8 am

HOLY COMMUNION

led by Revd David Commander

Readings: 2 Cor. 5.16-end, Luke 15.1-3 & 11b-end

10 am

MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE

led by Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie

Readings: Colossians 3.12-17, John 19.25b-27

Readings: Sunday 23rd March – The Third Sunday of Lent

1 Cor. 10.1-13

¹I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.' ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹²So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Luke 13.1-9

¹³At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

⁶Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" ⁸He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down." '

Prayers:

Please continue to hold David Barnes in your prayers:

Peter Walton sadly passed away peacefully in the early hours of Sunday 2nd March. Although he and Gilly did not worship at St George's, Peter had a strong faith and regularly attended Smallhythe Church. Peter's funeral service, followed by burial, will take place at Smallhythe Church at 11.30 am on Tuesday 15th April, followed by a reception in Benenden Village Hall. Please hold Gilly and also Peter's son, David, in your prayers. DJC

Electoral Roll: There is to be a new Electoral Roll this year. Everyone who was on the old roll, and wishes to remain on the new roll, must fill out a new Application Form. Anyone wishing to join the roll for the first time will find Application Forms at the back of the church, and after completion please place them at the back of the church marked for the attention of David Collard. Those already on the roll will be sent a new Application Form either by email or by letter. The roll will close on Sunday 20th April.

Benenden PCC meets tomorrow, Monday 24th March at 7.30 pm, at the Memorial Hall.

A milestone! An application has been made for a Faculty for the undertaking of our updating and improvement works, as has been discussed at two recent Church Meetings. This is a legal requirement and is subject to a formal 28 day Public Consultation period from 28th February to 30th March. A Public Notice advertising this is posted on the church door, on the porch notice board and on the scheme notice board at the back of the church, together with a set of the plans. The works will be phased and, importantly, involve a new heating system, toilets and improvements to access for wheelchairs and those less mobile.

We draw this to your attention. Should you wish to support the proposals or object then please write to the address on the Public Notice. Any questions can be addressed to one of the three petitioners. Richard Stubbings

Benenden & Sandhurst Home Groups: During Lent both Home Groups are following our five week Lent Course, led by Lyn Hayes. The course continues on Wednesday 25th March, 7.30 pm at the Mission Church, Back Road, Sandhurst. All are welcome.

Christian Aid Week is 11th - 17th May 2025 and St George's Church is fundraising. The climate crisis is destroying many lives, lands and livelihoods. Please give generously to help those battling intense heat waves, deadly droughts and savage storms to adapt and build their resilience. Let's help make a difference. Many thanks for your support. Deborah Jenkins

Calling all singers! A special Choral Evensong is planned for 27th April, as a Patronal Festival. The Choir would welcome visiting singers - please contact one of them or Clare Harmsworth. Worshippers also warmly invited. (Refreshments afterwards and a Project 20:20 display!)

MOTHERING SUNDAY
30th MARCH
10 am Service
AT ST GEORGE'S



ALL WELCOME!



split

Lent Course 2025
Every Wednesday in Lent
7.30 pm at Sandhurst Mission Church

‘A Pilgrimage through Prayer’

Our Lent course uses the theme of Pilgrimage to help us explore different aspects of prayer to hopefully gain a sense of travelling together, enriching our own prayer life along the way.

During the course we will often be referring to one of the best known pilgrim routes in Europe, the Camino de Santiago de Compostela.

The Camino has a long history with many different starting points and many different routes, but all leading to the same destination.

We would love to journey with you as we discover new and different ways of praying or to enhance our own personal prayer practices & habits.

Refreshments will be available. Buen Camino!



Benenden
‘Give up a meal for Lent’

We are asking those who are able to give, to consider donating a much needed item that is in short supply to the Nourish Foodbank on a weekly basis.

Donation point in St George's church or please contact Gemma to arrange collection.

NB* – PLEASE LEAVE ALL PACKET ITEMS IN THE LIDDED BOX – otherwise mice feast

23rd March: Pasta **NB***

30th March: Tinned fish

6th April: Tinned potatoes

13th April: Tinned soup

Easter Sunday: Microwave rice pouches / Noodles **NB***

Contact: Gemma Coupland 07548 262509 gemmalouhunter@gmail.com

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

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: benendenchurch@gmail.com
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
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, 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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