

# St George's Church, Benenden

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

## Our Worship: Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December Second Sunday of Advent

**Collect:** O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December – Second Sunday of Advent

*Readings: Philippians 1.3-11, Luke 3.1-6*

8 am	<b>1662 BCP HOLY COMMUNION</b> led by Revd David Commander
10 am	<b>MORNING WORSHIP</b> led by David Harmsworth
	<i>Hymns</i> 38 <i>Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding</i> 655 <i>Have faith in God, my heart</i> 46 <i>On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry</i> 814 (omit v4) <i>Thy hand, O God, has guided</i>
2 pm	Interment of t/l Peggy Terry at St George's

### THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	8 am	Morning Prayer at St George's
	5 - 7.30 pm	Bridgepoint String Christmas Concert at St George's
	7.30 pm	Sandhurst Home Group at Sandhurst Mission Church
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	8 am	Morning Prayer at Sandhurst Mission Church
	10 am	Holy Communion at Sandhurst Mission Church led by Revd David Commander
	6.30 pm	Carols in the Café at Benenden's
	7.15 pm	Home Group at David & Julia Collard's
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	8 am	Morning Prayer at Sandhurst Mission Church
	10 – 11.30 am	Coffee Morning at Benenden Memorial Hall
	7.30 – 9.15 pm	Bellringing Practice at St George's
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	10 – 11.30 am	Community Choir at St George's
	7 pm	Choir Practice at St George's
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	8 am	Morning Prayer at St George's
	9 – 11 am	Cakes & Chaos Toddler Group at St George's

### Sunday Next: 15<sup>th</sup> December – Third Sunday of Advent

*Readings: Philippians 4.4-7, Luke 3.7-18*

8 am	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b> led by Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie
10 am	<b>SUNG EUCHARIST</b> Revd David Commander & Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie

**Readings: Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December: Second Sunday of Advent**

***Philippians 1.3-11***

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup>constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup>because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup>to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup>having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

***Luke 3.1-6***

<sup>3</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." '

**The Benenden Home Group** will meet at 7.15pm on 10<sup>th</sup> December and will not meet again until 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, which 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 and so please join us if you can. Dick Hill

**Plea for Volunteers!** St George's candelabras will be put out for Christmas on 16<sup>th</sup> December and Revd David would like to keep the church open during the mornings between 9 am and 12 noon on 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> 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

## **The Camino Ingles 2024**

I would just like to express my deepest gratitude to everyone who donated to the DAVSS (Domestic Abuse Victim Support Services) Charity in memory of Louise Nicholson as we walked the Camino Ingles from Ferrol in Northern Spain to the Cathedral of St James in Santiago de Compostela.

What a journey we had -120km through the most beautiful landscapes, following rivers, discovering ancient springs, walking through eucalyptus forests, scaling the hills, running down the valleys, encountering sacred and holy places - all the while feeling the pull of the Camino as we got to know each other through our conversations and shared experiences along the way. It was a journey that I will forever remember for the friendships formed and strengthened – we laughed and cried, danced and sang, got soaking wet and dried out in the sun, swam in the sea and walked silently or in deep conversation. Cafe con leche consumed by the bucket load, along with the obligatory slurp of Vino Tinto at the completion of every section of the Camino - six days to get to know fellow pilgrims and to share stories with each other.

All I can say is 'Watch this space' for future developments regarding another foray along one of the routes. To top it all, between the seven of us we managed to raise the magnificent sum of £12,200 which we were very proud to present to the charity at their AGM last Tuesday. Quite an achievement. So, thank you all for your contributions. Buen Camino!! Lyn Hayes

## **Parish Carol Service at St George's**



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

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



**3pm on Christmas Eve**



## 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 [gemma1ouhunter@gmail.com](mailto:gemma1ouhunter@gmail.com)

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

**Ven. Andrew Sewell, Archdeacon of Maidstone**, will be retiring on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2025. He has served in this role (initially in an acting capacity) since 2019, and has previously been Priest in Charge, Rector, Area Dean and Honorary Cathedral Canon in the Diocese of Canterbury. Leaving an amazing legacy for us all, as he has shared Jesus in a dedicated and caring way. The Diocese will miss him and would like to celebrate his ministry. A Choral Evensong service for Andrew has been confirmed for 12<sup>th</sup> January at Canterbury Cathedral. There is an Archdeaconry retirement collection pot for Andrew via this link: <https://app.collectionpot.com/pot/3302251>

### St George's Church: Contacts

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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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