

St George's Church, Benenden

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

Our Worship: Sunday 22nd March

Fifth Sunday of Lent - Passiontide begins

Collect: Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; 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 22nd March – Fifth Sunday of Lent: Passiontide begins

Readings: Romans 8.6-11, John 11.1-45

8 am **HOLY COMMUNION in the Chancel at St George's**
led by Revd David Commander

10 am **MORNING WORSHIP at Benenden Primary School**
led by Revd Rosemary Kobus van Wengen

Hymns: 763 *Praise to the holiest in the height*
 145 *It is a thing most wonderful*
 144 *How deep the father's love for us*
 707 *Lift high the cross*

The Week Ahead

Monday 23 rd	8 am	Morning Prayer at the Rectory
	7.30 pm	Sandhurst Home Group at the Mission Church
	7.30 pm	Benenden PCC meeting at the Memorial Hall
Tuesday 24 th	8 am	Morning Prayer at Sandhurst Mission Church
	10 am	Holy Communion at Sandhurst Mission Church led by Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie
	7.30 pm	Benenden Home Group at David & Julia Collard's
Wednesday 25 th	8 am	Morning Prayer at Sandhurst Mission Church
	7.30 pm	Bellingring Practice at St George's
	3 pm	Installation of the Archbishop of Canterbury
Thursday 26 th	10 – 11.30 am	Rhythm of Life Community Choir at Sandhurst Mission Church
	7 pm	Choir Practice at Iden Green Congregational Church
Friday 27 th	8 am	Morning Prayer at the Rectory
	9 – 11 am	Cakes & Chaos Toddler Group at Sandhurst Mission Church
Saturday 28 th	4 pm	'CONNECT FOUR' - family service - at Benenden Memorial Hall

Sunday 29th March at 1 am - The clocks go forward!

Sunday Next: 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 **Meet at the Lower Car Park Triangle, ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, SANDHURST for Palm Sunday Procession to Church**

10 am **BENEFICE PALM SUNDAY SERVICE & BAPTISM of Jasper Allery AT ST NICHOLAS, SANDHURST**
led by Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie & Revd David Commander

2.30 pm Interment of t/l Malcolm Smith at St George's

Readings: Sunday 22nd March – Fifth Sunday of Lent: Passiontide begins

Romans 8.6-11

⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

John 11.1-45

¹¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' ⁸The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' ⁹Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' ¹¹After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' ¹²The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' ²³Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' ²⁴Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' ²⁵Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' ²⁷She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' ³⁷But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Home Groups:

Sandhurst: Meets at 7.30 pm on Mondays at the Mission Church, Sandhurst.

Benenden: Meets at 7.30pm on Tuesdays at David and Julia Collard's.

Sad News: Please continue to hold all the family and friends of our dear Charles Trollope in your prayers. Charles' funeral will take place at a Crematorium in the morning of Monday 30th March, attended by his family. A Thanksgiving Service for Charles' life will take place at 2 pm on 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.

Palm Sunday - 29th March: There is an 8 o'clock Communion service in the Chancel at St George's. The 10 o'clock service is a benefice service at St Nicholas. (There is no service at the Primary School.) It begins with a procession from The Triangle up to church. Revd Ylva is leading and preaching and conducting the baptism; I will be presiding at the Eucharist. Revd David

Wednesday 25th March – 3 pm - Installation of the Archbishop of Canterbury. This service is being live-streamed; a link will be available on the Cathedral website.

Saturday 28th March - 9.30 am - noon St George's Churchyard Working Party. Please do join us if you are able Dick Hill

PCC Secretary: Julia Collard will be stepping down as our PCC Secretary at this year's APCM in May. (Monday 18th May - an advanced date for your diary!) Julia has carried out this role with dedication for many years; for which we are very grateful. With Julia stepping down, it does mean though that we need to begin thinking about who might take up this role. Is this a way that you might serve our church? If you are wondering what is involved, then please speak to Julia, or to David Collard (David has served as PCC Secretary in the past), or to one of the Churchwardens or myself. Please give this some prayer and thought. Thank you. Revd David.

Time Capsule: We are going to be burying a time capsule in the floor of the nave in St George's Church. (The Primary School and the Girls' School have been invited to do so too.) This will be done at the end of this month before the floor rebuilding commences. So time is short to get ideas to me for small items to go in the capsule. Please drop me an email with any ideas by the end of TODAY (22nd March). Revd David

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 a 10 am service or on Tel 01580 241044.at or via email to d.collard49@btinternet.com

Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie: As some people will be aware, Revd Ylva has recently 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 and Sandhurst. Ylva will serve her three-month's notice, taking her time with us up to the end of May 2026. Following this Ylva will be worshipping elsewhere as she discerns her future ministry and calling. 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

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.

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



'CONNECT FOUR'

Our informal family service

4pm - Saturday 28th March at Benenden Memorial Hall

Come along and connect with: - family and friends - tea, coffee, cake - the Bible - worship - and God!
Refreshments throughout

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



East Peckham Silver Band

Conductor: Jeremy Cooper

with Ian Verran - Organ

Music for Easter

with a cinema musical interlude

Easter Hymn Panis Angelicus

All in the April Evening

Resurgam: I shall rise again

A James Bond Medley

2.30pm

Sunday 12th April

St Nicholas Church

Sandhurst TN18 5NS

Tickets £15 plus tea & cakes

Under 18s free

You can buy your tickets here:



and at the door

Registered Charity: X33295

Dingleden Open Gardens

TN17 4JU

Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th May 2026

10 am - 4 pm each day

Entry £5. Parking available

in aid of

St George's Church, Benenden:
'Restore: Renew: Rejoice' project
& the deaf health charity SignHealth

Judy Williams, Peter & Sylvia Kellett & Steve & Angie Lambert will be opening their gardens.

A unique opportunity to visit these private gardens on the High Weald Landscape Trail.

The Laurels Nursery & private garden:
A stunning collection of standard wisteria will be in bloom.

Barnhill Cottage, garden & vegetable patch:
Light refreshments here.


No 3 New Buildings:
The hidden treasure.

Fundraising in aid of:

<https://signhealth.org.uk/>

<https://stgeorgeschurchbenenden.co.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	Sue Fisher Tel: 01580 241 907 - E-mail: sue@undaunted.co.uk Cathy Presgrave Tel: 07500 119 189 - E-mail: cathy.presgrave@gmail.com
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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