

St George's Church, Benenden

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

Our Worship: Sunday 7th December The 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 7th December – Second Sunday of Advent

Readings: Romans 15.4-13, Matthew 3.1-12

8 am	HOLY COMMUNION led by Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie
10 am	ALL AGE HOLY COMMUNION AT ST GEORGE'S led by Revd David Commander
	<i>Hymns:</i> 27 <i>Colours of day dawn into the mind</i> 38 <i>Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding</i> 42 <i>Christ be our light</i> (HC) 32 <i>Come, thou Redeemer of the earth</i> 264 <i>The Spirit lives to set us free</i>
2 – 4.30 pm	BRIDGEPOINT CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT ST GEORGE'S <i>No Evening service at St George's this Sunday</i>

The Week Ahead:

Monday 8 th	8 am	Morning Prayer at St George's
	11 am	Funeral & Burial of t/l Bridget Brissingden at St George's
	7.30 pm	Sandhurst Home Group at Sandhurst Mission Church
Tuesday 9 th	8 am	Morning Prayer at Sandhurst Mission Church
	10 am	Holy Communion at Sandhurst Mission Church led by Revd David Commander
Wednesday 10 th	8 am	Morning Prayer at Sandhurst Mission Church
	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice at St George's
Thursday 11 th	10 – 11.30 am	Community Choir at St George's
Friday 12 th	8 am	Morning Prayer at St George's
	9 – 11 am	Cakes & Chaos Toddler Group at St George's
	10 am –	Grief Talks: Time to share & reflect:
	12 noon	at Sandhurst Mission Church

Sunday Next: 14th December – The Third Sunday of Advent

Readings: James 5.7-10, Matthew 11.2-11

8 am	1662 BCP HOLY COMMUNION led by Revd Rosemary Kobus van Wengen
10 am	MORNING WORSHIP led by David Harmsworth

Readings: Sunday 7th December – The Second Sunday of Advent

Romans 15.4-13

⁴For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

‘Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name’;

¹⁰and again he says,

‘Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people’;

¹¹and again,

‘Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him’;

¹²and again Isaiah says,

‘The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope.’

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 3.1-12

^{3.1}In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.” ’

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume 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. ¹⁰Even 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.

¹¹ ‘I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

Prayers:

Please hold these families in your prayers in the coming weeks, especially over this Christmas season:

The family of t/l **Bridget Brissenden**; Bridget's funeral takes place at St George's at 11am on Monday 8th December.

The family of t/l **Steve Weekes**; Steve's funeral takes place at St George's at 11am on Wednesday 17th December. Please particularly remember his mother, Mary, his sister, Sally, and partner for a number of years, Deirdre.

The family of t/l **Richard Daniel**; Richard's funeral takes place at St George's on Monday 22nd December.

And **Tim Cole and his sister**, Amanda, following the death of their mother, **Ann Cole**, peacefully at home on Wednesday 3rd December. Ann's funeral is likely to be 2pm, Friday 9th January (TBC).

Home Groups:

Sandhurst: Meets on Monday 8th December at Sandhurst Mission Church.

Benenden: Next meets at 7.30pm on Tuesday 6th January at David & Julia Collard's.

Christmas Day lunch: We are inviting guests who would otherwise be on their own, to join us in the Memorial Hall for a traditional Christmas Lunch (no charge). As in previous years the various food items are being donated. If you are able to donate a bottle of wine that would be great. Donations towards the cost of the turkey would also be appreciated. Any surplus funds will again be sent to Catching Lives in Canterbury.

If you know of anyone who might otherwise be on their own, let me know and I can invite them. Or if they would like to contact me directly, they would be most welcome. Helen Tel 01580 240658

We shall be preparing St George's for Christmas on Monday 22nd December, starting at 9am. If you would like to join us on this enjoyable occasion, you would be very welcome. DH

Wanted! Someone to play the piano/keyboard for the hymns at the two 10 am Morning Worship services for the St George's congregation, once we start worshipping at Benenden Primary school in mid January 2026. For more information, please contact Sue Fisher. Tel 241 907

St George's: Restore, Renew, Rejoice!

Your Community Needs You! Do you, or a family member or a friend, have any of the following skills and experience?

Digital Marketing | Quantity Surveying | Treasury & Financial Planning | Community Infrastructure Levy

The St George's RRR Project Fundraising Team would love to hear from you.

Please contact Paul Hewitt 07703 532 744 phewitt1203@gmail.com

Parish Carol Service

Nine Lessons & Carols

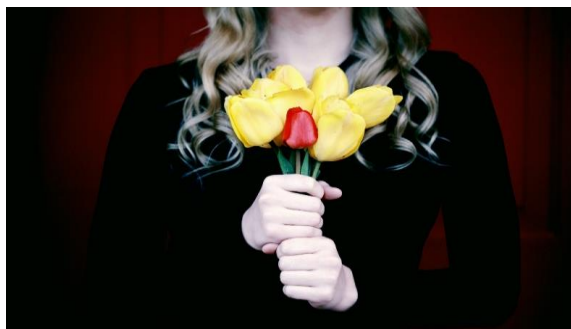
at St George's

Monday 22nd December

at 7:30pm



Grief Talks ~ Time to share & reflect



Friday 12th December, 10 am – 12 noon

at the Mission Church, Back Road, Sandhurst TN18 5JU

For more information and to book this free workshop please contact
Claire Roberts on 01580 754374 or email claireecr57@yahoo.com



Benenden 2025 Campaign 12 'Foods' of Christmas

**Donation Point: St Georges
Church, Benenden**

Collections can be arranged.

Contact: Gemma Coupland 07548 262509

gemma.louhunter@gmail.com


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

**During Advent, please 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, Tins of fruit, Soup**

Nourish would also greatly appreciate your
Christmas non perishable leftovers
in the new year!

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
	StGeorgesBenenden
Websites	https://benendenchurch.org/ https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12091/