

St George's Church, Benenden

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

Our Worship: 7th May The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Coronation Collect: O God, who providest for thy people by thy power, and rulest over them in love: Grant unto thy servant CHARLES, our King, the Spirit of wisdom and government, that being devoted unto thee with his whole heart, he may so wisely govern, that in his time thy Church may be in safety, and Christian devotion may continue in peace; that so persevering in good works unto the end, he may by thy mercy come to thine everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sunday: 7th May – The Fifth Sunday of Easter

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| 8 am | HOLY COMMUNION led by Revd Rosemary Kobus van Wengen <i>Readings: (8am Service): Acts 7.55-end, John 14.1-14</i> |
| 10 am | CORONATION COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE led by Revd David Commander <i>Hymns</i> 766 <i>Praise, my soul, the King of heaven</i> 581 <i>Lord of Lords</i> 576 <i>And did those feet</i> 578 <i>God save our gracious King</i> |
| 5 pm | CHORAL EVENSONG led by David Harmsworth <i>Readings; Psalm 147.1-12. Ezekiel 37.1-12, Revelation 21.1-14</i> <i>Hymns</i> 818 <i>To God be the glory</i> 709 <i>Light of the minds that know him</i> 475 <i>Forth in the peace of Christ</i> |

THE WEEK AHEAD

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| Monday 8 th | | <i>Bank Holiday</i> |
| Tuesday 9 th | 8 am | Morning Prayer at Sandhurst Mission Church |
| | 10 am | Holy Communion at Sandhurst Mission Church led by Revd Rosemary Kobus van Wengen <i>No Benenden Home Group this week.</i> |
| Wednesday 10 th | 8 am | Morning Prayer at Sandhurst Mission Church |
| | 10 – 11.30 am | Coffee Morning at the Memorial Hall |
| | 6 – 7 pm | BGS Confirmation Service rehearsal |
| | 7.30 - 9.15 pm | Bellringing Practice 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 |
| Saturday 13 th | 2 - 5 pm | Benenden Parish Assembly |

Sunday Next: 14th May – The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 17.22-31, John 14.15-21

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| 8 am | 1662 BCP HOLY COMMUNION led by Revd David Commander |
| 10 am | HOLY COMMUNION - 'Connect Four' Style led by Revd David Commander |
| 11.15 -12.30 | 'Bell Sunday' Tower Open for Ringing |
| 3 pm | Benenden Girls' School Confirmation Service at St George's |

Readings: 7th May – The Fifth Sunday of Easter (8 am Holy Communion service)

Acts 7.55-end

⁵⁵But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

John 14.1-14

Jesus the Way to the Father

¹⁴'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.' ⁵Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' ⁶Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

⁸ Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' ⁹Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

Post General Synod update - Prayers of Love & Faith:

All are warmly welcomed to our next **Weald Deanery "open" Synod on Wednesday 17th May, 7.30pm at St Mary's Frittenden**. Come and listen to thoughtful feedback from Diocesan representatives who were at the General Synod in February: Revd Barney de Berry, Vicar St Mary, Bredin and Revd Joel Love, Vicar St Peter with St Margaret's, Rochester. We hope to see you there. Revd David

Prayers:

Peggy Chapman: Please continue to pray for Peggy, her family and friends. Peggy's funeral will be at Iden Green Congregational Church at 1.30pm on Wednesday 17th May.

Benefice of Benenden & Sandhurst: NEW! Ladies book club. Meeting via Zoom on Thursday 8th June at 7pm. We are reading Masquerade at Middlecrest Abbey by Abigail Wilson, a period drama with Christian themes. If you would like more information or are keen to join Revd Ylva, Lyn, Zena and myself, please email Victoria Bray at vickybray007@hotmail.com



**ST GEORGE'S
CHRISTIAN AID CAMPAIGN - 2023**

<https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/st-georges-church>

Please consider donating and sharing the above weblink and QR code.
Our St George's target again this year is £3,000.

*A solemn duty, not a personal choice -
For who would volunteer for such a post?
Closely observed, challenged by every voice
When retirement is the due reward for most.
For all these years a loyal, loving son
Until so recently - with us - bereaved.
History's tide, unstoppable, sweeps us on
Problems to be addressed and goals
achieved.
The daunting life-long task is not refused.
Fresh winds get up, old habits blow away,
Traditional ritual has new life infused,
New music is commissioned for today.
A Prince for so long.
As summer follows spring
He takes his destined place.
God save the King*

- Elizabeth Lavers



**Ascension Day Service:
Thursday 18th May - 7:30pm at St. George's**

Spring & Summer Pilgrimage: Last Saturday 21 humans and four dogs enjoyed a wonderful, sunny, three mile wander, with pause for thought, from St George's through the sunny fields and ancient woodlands of Benenden and Iden Green. We finished up back at church for tea, coffee and cake. **Our next (Early Summer) Pilgrimage**, led by Lyn Hayes and Revd Ylva, **will be from the Mission Church, Back Road, Sandhurst on Wednesday 7th June**. We will meet at 10.15 for a 10.30 am departure. Hopefully we will pass by a local watering hole. More details to follow. Please do join us if you are able.

Thinking of Confirmation?

We are arranging a Confirmation Service, led by Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin, in the Weald Deanery. This will be on Sunday 2nd July at St Michael & All Angels Church, Marden. It would be lovely to have some candidates from our benefice to be confirmed at the service. The Confirmation service is, as an adult, teenager or child, an opportunity to make a public declaration for yourself to follow Christ and his teachings in your life. If you, or a member of your family, would like to be confirmed, please let me know; we will then organise an appropriate form of Confirmation preparation. Revd David

Benenden and Sandhurst Home Groups NEW MEMBERS WANTED

Would you like to join and contribute to a group of diverse people at different stages of their faith journey? Are you keen to learn more about the scripture and deepen your faith in a safe environment? Would you like to study the bible, reflect and participate in a non-judgemental discussion?

If you would like to join a safe and welcoming environments, the Benenden group meets on Tuesday evenings at 8p.m. from May 2nd at the home of David and Julia Collard and the Sandhurst group meets on Monday evenings at the Mission Church at 7.30p.m.

For more information contact David Collard at d.collard49@btinternet.com or, for Sandhurst, Revd David Commander at revdavidcommander@gmail.com.

School Governor Vacancies - Benenden Primary School

The 1010 Federation which currently comprises Goudhurst and Benenden Primary schools is looking for new governors to join our Governing Board. We are an ambitious team committed to achieving outstanding standards for the local children we serve and to expanding our Federation so more local children get the best educational start in life.

We are seeking applications from individuals with a background in education or finance and who share our passion for driving exceptional outcomes for children.

You will need to be able to commit 6-8 hours a month. Experience in governance is desirable although not essential as training is available.

For more information about school governance, go to
<https://www.nga.org.uk/Governance-Recruitment/Be-a-school-governor-or-trustee.aspx>

If you are interested in applying we would love to hear from you! Contact: caroline.stern@1010federation.org.

| Church Contacts: | |
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| Church Office | Cathy Baker, Benefice Administrator. The Mission Church, Back Road, Sandhurst TN18 5JU Tel: 01580 850 849 - E-mail: benendenchurch@gmail.com |
| St George's 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 |
| St George's 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 <i>(NB The Rector's day off is Thursday)</i> Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie, Curate 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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