

St George's Church, Benenden

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

Our Worship: Sunday 5th April EASTER SUNDAY

Collect: Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity.

Sunday 5th April – EASTER DAY

Readings: Acts 10.34-43. John 20.1-18

6.05 am SUNRISE SERVICE IN THE CHURCHYARD AT ST NICHOLAS

led by Lyn Hayes followed by breakfast in the Mission Church

8 am HOLY COMMUNION IN THE CHANCEL AT ST GEORGE'S

led by Revd Rosemary Kobus van Wengen

10 am SUNG EUCHARIST AT BENENDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

led by Revd David Commander & Sarah Emanuel

Hymns:

205	<i>Jesus Christ is risen today!</i>
203	<i>Good Christians all, rejoice and sing</i>
193	<i>All heaven declares the glory of the risen Lord</i>
	<i>This joyful Eastertide / Jesus is risen, alleluia! (HC)</i>
218	<i>Thine be the glory, risen conquering son!</i>

The Week Ahead

Revd David is on holiday from Monday 6th to Friday 10th April inclusive.

Should you require the services of a priest during this time, please contact your Churchwardens:

Cathy Presgrave: Tel 07500 119 189 Sue Fisher: Tel: 01580 241 907

Monday 6 th		<i>Easter Monday – Bank Holiday</i>
	6.30 – 6 pm	KCARC Bellingring at St George's
Tuesday 7 th	10 am	Holy Communion at Sandhurst Mission Church <i>led by Revd Rosemary Kobus van Wengen</i>
	7.30 pm	Benenden Home Group at David & Julia Collard's
Wednesday 8 th	7.30 pm	Bellingring Practice at St George's
Thursday 9 th	10 – 11.30 am	Rhythm of Life Community Choir at Sandhurst Mission Church

Sunday Next: 12th April – The Second Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 2.14a, 22-32, John 20.19-end

8 am HOLY COMMUNION IN THE CHANCEL AT ST GEORGE'S

led by Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie

10 am MORNING WORSHIP AT BENENDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

led by Lyn Hayes

2.30 pm East Peckham Silver Band – Concert at St Nicholas Church, Sandhurst

Tickets available in advance and on the door.

Readings – Easter Day, 5th April

Acts 10.34-43

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

John 20.1-18

²⁰Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes. ¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' ¹⁶Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." ' ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Prayers: Please hold Hazel Eastwood in your prayers. Hazel, who had served our church and also sang in the choir for many years, passed away at home - as was her wish - on Saturday 28th March. Please also hold husband, Rob, and son, Nick, in your prayers at this time. Details of Hazel's funeral will be made known as soon as possible; it is likely to be a church service at Boughton Malherbe, near their home at Grafty Green. Revd David

St George's Church Electoral Roll: There is about to be a revision of the Church Electoral Roll. The Roll opens today, 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

Home Groups:

Sandhurst: Meets at 7.30 pm on Mondays at the Mission Church, Sandhurst. *(No meeting on Easter Monday.)*

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

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.

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

Dingleden Open Gardens 9th and 10th May 2026 - in aid of the RRR Project and the deaf health charity SignHealth. If anybody could bake a cake for Judy - or help at all over this weekend - Judy would be most grateful. Please either speak to Judy or email benendenchurch@gmail.com. Thank you to those who have so far offered to help.

 <p>East Peckham Silver Band</p> <p>Conductor: Jeremy Cooper with Ian Verran - Organ</p> <p>Music for Easter with a cinema musical interlude</p> <p><i>Easter Hymn Panis Angelicus</i> <i>All in the April Evening</i> Resurgam: I shall rise again <i>A James Bond Medley</i></p> <p>2.30pm Sunday 12th April St Nicholas Church Sandhurst TN18 5NS</p> <p>Tickets £15 plus tea & cakes</p> <p>Under 18s free You can buy your tickets here:  and at the door Registered Charity: X33295</p>	<p>Dingleden Open Gardens TN17 4JU</p> <p>Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th May 2026 10 am - 4 pm each day Entry £5. Parking available</p> <p>in aid of St George's Church, Benenden: 'Restore: Renew: Rejoice' project & the deaf health charity SignHealth</p> <p>Judy Williams, Peter & Sylvia Kellett & Steve & Angie Lambert will be opening their gardens.</p> <p>A unique opportunity to visit these private gardens on the High Weald Landscape Trail.</p> <p>The Laurels Nursery & private garden: A stunning collection of standard wisteria will be in bloom.</p> <p>Barnhill Cottage, garden & vegetable patch: Light refreshments here.</p> <p>No 3 New Buildings: The hidden treasure.</p> <p>Fundraising in aid of: https://signhealth.org.uk/ https://stgeorgeschurchbenenden.co.uk/</p>
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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

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

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: 07538 778790- 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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