

St George's Church, Benenden

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

Our Worship: Sunday 30th January Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

Collect: Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 30th January – Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Readings: Hebrews 2.14-end, Luke 2.22-40

- 8 am** **BENEFICE COMMUNION AT ST GEORGE'S**
led by Revd David Commander
- 10 am** **BENEFICE COMMUNION AT ST NICHOLAS, SANDHURST**
led by Revd David Commander & Lyn Hayes

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 31 st	8 am	Morning Prayer at St George's
	7.30 pm	Benenden PCC meeting at the Memorial Hall
	7.30 pm	Home Group at Sandhurst Mission Church
Tuesday 1 st	8 am	Morning Prayer at Sandhurst Mission Church
	10 am	Holy Communion at Sandhurst Mission Church led by Revd David Commander
	8 pm	Benenden Home Group at David & Julia Collard's
Wednesday 2 nd	8 am	Morning Prayer at Sandhurst Mission Church
	10 am	Coffee Morning at the Memorial Hall
Thursday 3 rd	10 am	Rhythm of Life Community Choir at St George's
Friday 4 th	8 am	Morning Prayer at St George's
	9 – 11 am	Cakes & Chaos Toddler Group at St George's
	11.45 am	Benenden Primary School KS2 Service at St George's
	1.50 am	Benenden Primary School KS1 Service at St George's

Sunday Next: Sunday 6th February - Fourth Sunday before Lent

Readings: 1 Corinthians 15.1-11, Luke 5.1-11

- 8 am** **HOLY COMMUNION**
led by Revd Rosemary Kobus van Wengen
- 10 am** **ALL AGE COMMUNION**
led by Revd David Commander
- 5 pm** **CHORAL EVENSONG**
Readings: Psalm 2, Hosea 1, Colossians 3.1-22
led by David Harmsworth

Readings: Sunday 30th January – Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Hebrews 2.14-end

¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Luke 2.22-40

Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.'

³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

The Return to Nazareth

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Prayers:

Funeral of t/I Adrian Penny: Adrian, son of t/I Stella Penny, passed away recently. His funeral is to be held at St George's Church on Monday 7th February, at 11am, followed by burial in the churchyard. Please hold Adrian's family in your prayers.

Funeral of t/I Ken Slater, pastor of Sandhurst Baptist Church for so many years: Ken's funeral will be on Wednesday 9th February at 12pm at the Baptist Church. Please hold Liz and their family in your prayers.

Those of you who knew Marie Orson will be sad to hear of her death, aged 94. Marie had lived in Benenden since 1998 and until she suffered a stroke, two years ago, was a faithful member of our congregation and of the WI. Our sympathy and prayers go out to Marie's family. May she rest in peace. Revd Rosemary

Revd David - Sabbatical: The Diocese have granted me a three-month sabbatical this year. A sabbatical is a time of being able to step off the treadmill of parish ministry long enough to be renewed and refreshed. For me, it is simply a time of renewal, and a time of reconnecting with God. “It’s stepping completely out of the current ministry situation and freed to embark on a holy trek!” And that is exactly what I have planned - a holy trek! Combining a love of the outdoors, walking, and Celtic spirituality. It will involve retreat times in the Christian communities on Iona and at Lindisfarne; and walking the Great Glen Way, the St Cuthbert’s Way and the North Berwickshire Coastal Path. In addition, it will include some time out in spiritual spaces in the Orkneys and the Outer Hebrides.

In my preparation for the sabbatical, I have been doing some reading; one piece that I read said, “The very nature of being an effective pastor (priest) involves continual spiritual growth”: I have been aware that has not been happening. The prospect is very exciting; and I am so grateful for the forthcoming opportunity. I will be taking the sabbatical in July, August and September this year. During that period, the parish will be well supported by the members of the Ministry Leadership Team and the Churchwardens; and I am very grateful for their support. I am trusting that this will be a time of renewal and encouragement for all of us. Helen will be with me some of the time, and also with our family; but will continue to lead the Toddler Groups in both parishes. Your prayers for this time for Helen and I, and for the parishes would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to know more, just ask! Revd David

Covid guidelines in public worship

You will be aware of the latest relaxing of the Covid guidelines by the Government. This is the line we are taking at St George’s:

Hands: Please sanitise on entry and exit

Face: Face coverings are optional once again.

It's about looking after one another and being respectful.

Space: Respect others; create space; make use of the whole church

NHS Track & Trace: Please use the QR Code or Register.

Congregational Singing - will still take place. The “Safe zone” will continue to be made available, when possible, on south side of church.

Communion: distribution will continue by “simultaneous administration” (ie intinction of the wafer immediately before distribution.) Refreshments will be served after the 10 o'clock service - please take your refreshments sitting down, as you would if you were in a cafe.

Promoting health and
wellbeing to build a
stronger community



Wealden Men's Shed

Join your local Men's Kent Shed and come together to socialise, make friends, learn and upskill, build and create, help out the community and much more!

**Wealden Men's
Shed will launch on
31st January 2022**



For further details please contact Liz McLaren either by email to: hello@wellbeingintheweald.co.uk

Or call: 07921 809161

Part of the Kent Sheds project, see kentsheds.org for more details.

www.wellbeingintheweald.co.uk

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