

St George's Church, Benenden

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

Our Worship: Sunday 12th December The Third Sunday of Advent

Collect: O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday: 12th December - The Third Sunday of Advent

Readings: Philippians 4.4-7, Luke 3.7-18

8 am HOLY COMMUNION AT ST GEORGE'S

led by Revd David Commander

10 am MORNING WORSHIP AT ST GEORGE'S

led by Sue & Richard Fisher

<i>Hymns:</i>	742	<i>O for a thousand tongues</i>
	816	<i>Thy kingdom come, O God</i>
	727	<i>May the mind of Christ my Saviour</i>
	486	<i>Christ is the King!</i>

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 13 th	8 am	Morning Prayer at St George's
	7.30 pm	Home Group at Sandhurst Mission Church
Tuesday 14 th	8 am	Morning Prayer at Sandhurst Mission Church
	10 am	Holy Communion at Sandhurst Mission Church led by Revd Rosemary Kobus van Wengen
	8 pm	Benenden Home Group Social - in Hawkhurst (see note below)
Wednesday 15 th	8 am	Morning Prayer at Sandhurst Mission Church
	10 – 11.30 am	Coffee Morning at Benenden Memorial Hall
Thursday 16 th	10 – 11.30 am	Rhythm of Life Community Choir at St George's
	12 noon	Interment of t/l Wendy Clifford at St George's
	7 pm	Choir Practice at St George's
Friday 17 th	8 am	Morning Prayer at St George's
	9 – 11 am	Cakes & Chaos Toddler Group at St George's
	2.15 pm	BPS Christmas Service at St George's (<i>children only attending</i>)
	6.30 pm	Carols on the Green, Sandhurst

Sunday Next: 19th December - The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Readings: Hebrews 10.5-10, Luke 1.39-45

8 am HOLY COMMUNION AT ST GEORGE'S

led by Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie

10 am SUNG EUCHARIST AT ST GEORGE'S

led by David Harmsworth & Revd David Commander

Readings: Sunday 12th December – The Third Sunday of Advent

Philippians 4.4-7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Luke 3.7-18

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?' ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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. ⁹Even 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.'

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' ¹¹In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.'

¹²Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?'

¹³He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Prayers: It is with sadness that we pass on the news that dear Lesley Attwood passed away, at home, on Tuesday 23rd November. Please hold Tracy and Deborah and the family in your prayers. Lesley's funeral service will take place on Wednesday 22nd December at the Kent & Sussex Crematorium in Tunbridge Wells. This will be attended by family and invited friends. A memorial service to celebrate Lesley's life will take place at St George's Church on Saturday 12th February 2022; time to be confirmed.

The Benenden Home Group on Tuesday 14th December will be a social evening at the home of Alice Munro-Faure, Orchard House, Water Lane, Hawkhurst at 8pm. There will then be no Benenden Home Group meeting until 11th January – when we return to 7 Fuggles Court, Benenden at 8pm.

Chair working-party! Could we please have a helping hand after the 10 o'clock service on Sunday 19th December to move folding chairs from the south parvais and from the Owl House to the back of church. Thank you! Revd David

Nourish Community Foodbank:

The need for food and other basic necessities continues the whole year round. We have registered and set up a collection point for Nourish. There is a "donations pod" at the back of St George's Church, and another is being put into the Community Shop. Please make use of these. If you come to a service, why not drop off something? If we all did this, we would collect a lot of food to help local families very quickly.

Nourish desperately need: tinned potatoes, tinned hotdogs, 'pasta n sauce' sachets (eg Batchelor's mug shots), soap, antibacterial handwash, laundry tablets (not pods). They also need tinned soup and sugar.

They have pretty much everything else due to the wonderful food and money donations. Please help Nourish to help local families in need. Thank you. Revd David.

New Covid Guidelines AST AT 10th DECEMBER 2021:

Please continue to hand sanitise on entry to and exit from church.

You are encouraged to use the NHS Track and Trace QR Code, or record your attendance in the register, but this is not mandatory.

Face coverings are now mandatory in places of worship, unless you are exempt from wearing one. These should be worn throughout the service, including when singing, please. The choir, as they will be socially distanced from one another and from the congregation, can remove their face coverings to sing if they wish. Anyone reading or leading intercessions from the front of church can remove their face covering at the lectern - and replace it before returning to their pew.

Seating: you are encouraged to respect the concerns of others and to sit socially distanced from other households. Please make use of the space in the whole church.

Communion: we will maintain simultaneous administration, and distribute standing at the altar rail at the 8 o'clock, or at the chancel step for other services.

The church will be "fogged" (sanitised) between services/events that are less than 48 hours apart. For the Parish Carol service, Midnight service, and Christmas morning services additional chairs will be laid out at the back of church. This is not to get more people into church, it is to allow people to be more socially distanced. The "Crib service" will take place - weather permitting - outside at the top of the Green on Christmas Eve.

I realise that this is all very tiresome, and that some will agree and others will not. Some will think this is going too far; some will think it is not going far enough. We do, however, all have a duty to take care of one another. I would prefer that we worship together and celebrate the joy of Christmas together in a way that reduces the risk of spreading Covid to someone who becomes seriously ill. I will be wearing my face covering to protect others; I encourage you to do the same.

Many thanks. Revd David

Carols on the Upper Green, Sandhurst

Friday 17th December
at 6.30pm



Parish Candle-Lit Carol Service at St George's, Benenden



7.30 pm
Tuesday 21st December



Please wrap up warmly.
EVERYONE is invited to come along
 in Nativity costume.

Crib Service
 (weather permitting)
 at the top of the Green,
 St George's, Benenden

Christmas Eve
 at 3pm

**Christmas Services at St George's
 2021**

DECEMBER		
Sunday 12th	8am 10am	1662 BCP Communion Morning Worship
Friday 17th	2.15pm	Benenden Primary School Christmas service
Sunday 19th	8am 10am	Holy Communion Sung Eucharist
Tuesday 21st	7.30pm	Parish candle-lit carol service
Christmas Eve Friday 24th	3pm 11.30pm	Crib service First Communion of Christmas
Christmas Day Saturday 25th	8am 10am	Holy Communion Morning Worship, followed by Communion for those who wish to stay
Sunday 26th	9am	Benefice Holy Communion
JANUARY		
Sunday 2nd	8am 10am 5pm	Holy Communion All-Age Communion Choral Evensong

Contacts: St George's Church, Benenden	
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St George's Churchwardens	Mr David Collard Tel: 01580 241 944 E-mail: julia.collard@btinternet.com Mrs Sue Fisher Tel: 01580 241907 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 (NB The Rector's day off is Thursday) 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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