

# St George's Church, Benenden

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

## Our Worship: Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December The First Sunday of Christmas

**Collect:** Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December - The First Sunday of Christmas**

*Readings: Colossians 3.12-17, Luke 2.41-end*

**9 am**

**BENEFICE SERVICE - HOLY COMMUNION AT ST GEORGE'S**  
*led by Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie*

### **THE WEEK AHEAD**

**NO MORNING PRAYER THIS WEEK**

**AND**

**NO TUESDAY HOLY COMMUNION AT THE MISSION CHURCH THIS WEEK.**

Both services will resume on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Sunday Next: 2<sup>nd</sup> January - Epiphany**

*Readings: Ephesians 3.1-12, Matthew 2.1-12*

**8 am**

**HOLY COMMUNION AT ST NICHOLAS**  
*led by Revd David Commander*

**10 am**

**ALL AGE COMMUNION AT ST GEORGE'S**  
*led by Revd David Commander & Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie*

**5 pm**

**CHORAL EVENSONG AT ST GEORGE'S**  
*Readings: Psalm 98, Isaiah 60.1-9, John 2.1-11*  
*led by Revd David Commander*

## Readings: Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December – The First Sunday of Christmas

### **Colossians 3.12-17**

<sup>12</sup> As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### **Luke 2.41-end**

#### **The Boy Jesus in the Temple**

<sup>41</sup> Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup> When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup> Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup> When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' <sup>49</sup> He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup> Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

<sup>52</sup> And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

## **Christmas & New Year Services at St George's**

### **DECEMBER**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>**

**9am**

Benefice Holy Communion

***NB: No Morning Prayer next week.  
No midweek Communion service on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> December***

### **JANUARY**

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>**

8am

10am

5pm

Holy Communion  
All-Age Communion  
Choral Evensong

## **New Covid Guidelines - AS AT 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

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