

# St George's Church, Benenden

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

## Our Worship: Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April The Fifth Sunday of Easter

**Collect:** Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April: The Fifth Sunday of Easter

*Readings: Acts 8.26-end, John 15.1-8*

**8 am HOLY COMMUNION**  
led by Revd David Commander

**10 am MORNING WORSHIP**  
led by David Harmsworth

*Hymns: 696 Jesus, where'er thy people meet  
546 O Lord my God  
498 Lord, thy church on earth is seeking  
721 Love divine, all loves excelling*

### THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 29 <sup>th</sup>	8 am	Morning Prayer at St George's
	<b>7 pm</b>	<b>Friends of St George's AGM – at St George's</b>
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	8 am	Morning Prayer at Sandhurst Mission Church
	10 am	Holy Communion at Sandhurst Mission Church led by Revd Rosemary Kobus van Wengen
	4 – 5.30 pm	Meeting of Weald Deanery Churchwardens & Treasurers with Bishop Rose at St George's
	<b>7.30 pm</b>	<b>WEALD DEANERY SERVICE AT ST MICHAEL &amp; ALL ANGELS, MARDEN</b> led by Bishop Rose
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	8 am	Morning Prayer at Sandhurst Mission Church
	10 – 11.30 am	Coffee Morning at Benenden Memorial Hall
	7.30 – 9 pm	Bellringing Practice at St George's
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10 – 11.30 am	Community Choir at St George's
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	8 am	Morning Prayer at St George's
	9 – 11 am	Cakes & Chaos Toddler Group at St George's
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am – noon	St George's Churchyard Working Party

### Sunday Next: 5<sup>th</sup> May: The Sixth Sunday of Easter – Rogation Sunday

*Readings: Acts 10.44-end, John 15.9-17*

**8 am HOLY COMMUNION** led by Revd David Commander

**10 am ALL AGE COMMUNION** led by Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie

**10 am 'PAWS IN PEWS' – SPECIAL PET SERVICE AT ST NICHOLAS, SANDHURST**  
led by Revd David Commander & Lyn Hayes

**5 pm CHORAL EVENSONG** led by Revd David Commander

*Psalm 45. Readings: Song of Solomon 4.16-5.2; 8.6,7, Luke 22.24-30*

**Readings: Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April: The Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**Acts 8.26-end**

**Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch**

<sup>26</sup> Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup> So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup> and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' <sup>30</sup> So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' <sup>31</sup> He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup> Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.'

<sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup> As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' <sup>38</sup> He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

**John 15.1-8**

**Jesus the True Vine**

<sup>15</sup> 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. <sup>2</sup> He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

**Tuesday Home Group in Benenden:** *There will no meeting on April 30<sup>th</sup> due the service with Bishop Rose at Marden.*

**Prayers: t/l Jean Patterson:** Jean's funeral will take place at St George's Church on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May; this is a private service for the family. A Memorial Service to celebrate Jean's long life will take place later in the year. We hold Jean's family and friends in our prayers.

A memorial service for **t/l Christopher Neve** will be held at St George's on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm. All are welcome. Christopher died on 8<sup>th</sup> March unexpectedly in London. We hold Christopher's friends and family in our prayers.

**St George's Churchyard working party - Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May from 9.30 am to noon.** Please do join us if you are able. DH

**Date for the Diary:**

**Ascension Day - Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May - Benefice service at 7:30pm at St. George's.**

*The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of St George's  
is on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm in the church.*

*The meeting will be followed by refreshments and a time to socialise,  
then at 7.30pm John Bailey, our architect, will give an illustrated talk on the  
development of St George's, both past and future.*

**12<sup>th</sup> May is the national Bell Sunday**, a celebration of English bells and change ringing. **We are running an open tower at St George's, with coffee, from 11.15 am to 12.30 pm**, for anyone to see our historic bells, try their hand at handling a bell, see a demonstration of the simulator and meet the ringers. All are welcome.

**Project 20/20: an update meeting will take place after the 10 o'clock service on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June.** The meeting will be chaired by Ven. Andrew Sewell, Archdeacon of Maidstone; it will begin at 11:30am. If you are interested in the progress of the project and the future of St George's Church please come along to the meeting.

**Churchwardens:** At the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April David Collard and Sue Fisher were re-elected as Churchwardens. Thank you very much to both David and Sue for agreeing to serve for another year and thank you for all that you do for St George's Church.

**Summer Teas Update:** Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered to help at the above on a date throughout the summer. There is now just one date with no cover. We still need two people to cover 11<sup>th</sup> August. Please let me know if you can do this.

We could also do with a few more bakers to provide cakes. Cakes that can be frozen are particularly useful as obviously on a week-by-week basis we don't know exactly how much we will need. Again, if you can help with this then please get in touch. (I feel if we talk about summer, it might actually arrive!!!!) Helen Commander: Email: [helenjcommander@gmail.com](mailto:helenjcommander@gmail.com) Tel: 07930 898 910.

## **Bishop Rose & The Weald Deanery**

*Bishop Rose is leading and preaching at a service*

*at St Michael & All Angels in Marden on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30pm.*

The newly re-hung bells at the church will be rung before the service and blessed during the service. Refreshments will be available after the service with an opportunity to talk to the Bishop. *Everyone is warmly invited to attend.*



**10 am – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May**

**A special informal  
Pet Service at St Nicholas,  
SANDHURST**

*Bring along your pets, sing a few  
songs, learn about the story of  
creation and have a special blessing  
for your animals.*

*Everybody is welcome!*



## Bereavement Support: Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 10am - 1pm at Sandhurst Mission Church, Back Road 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 how grief can affect us, acknowledging that it is a unique experience for all. We will share some of the models of grief that we may be able to identify with and so know we are not alone or out of kilter with our feelings. It will also 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  
Claire Roberts on 07872 171535 or email [clairecr57@yahoo.com](mailto:clairecr57@yahoo.com)

## Weald Deanery Confirmation Service



**led by Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June at a church in the Deanery.**

It would be lovely to have some candidates from our Benefice to be confirmed at this service. Confirmation is an opportunity to make a public declaration - as an adult, teenager or child - 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 organise an appropriate form of Confirmation preparation.

Revd David T: 01580 240658 E: [revdavidcommander@gmail.com](mailto:revdavidcommander@gmail.com)

### Church Contacts:

Church Office	Cathy Baker, Benefice Administrator. The Mission Church, Back Road, Sandhurst TN18 5JU Tel: 01580 850 849 - E-mail: <a href="mailto:benendenchurch@gmail.com">benendenchurch@gmail.com</a>
St George's Churchwardens	Mr David Collard Tel: 01580 241 944 - E-mail: <a href="mailto:d.collard49@btinternet.com">d.collard49@btinternet.com</a> Mrs Sue Fisher Tel: 01580 241 907 - E-mail: <a href="mailto:sue@undaunted.co.uk">sue@undaunted.co.uk</a>
St George's Parish Safeguarding Officer	Ian Malaugh Tel: 01580 240 999 - E-mail: <a href="mailto:ianmal@sky.com">ianmal@sky.com</a>
Priests	Revd David Commander, Rector. The Rectory, The Green, Benenden TN17 4DL Tel: 01580 240 658 E-mail: <a href="mailto:revdavidcommander@gmail.com">revdavidcommander@gmail.com</a> (NB The Rector's day off is Thursday) Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie, Associate Priest Tel: 01233 820100 Mobile: 07766 711957 Email: <a href="mailto:rev.ylva@gmail.com">rev.ylva@gmail.com</a> Revd Dr Rosemary Kobus van Wengen Tel: 01580 764 857 Email: <a href="mailto:rosemaryvanwengen@gmail.com">rosemaryvanwengen@gmail.com</a>
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