

# St George's Church, Benenden

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

## Our Worship: Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January Epiphany

**Collect:** O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January – Epiphany

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

8 am

#### **HOLY COMMUNIO**

led by Revd Ylva Blid Mackenzie

10 am

#### **ALL AGE COMMUNION**

led by Revd David Commander

*Hymns:* 71      *Jesus Christ the Lord is born*  
728      *Meekness and majesty*  
105      *We three kings of Orient are*  
100      *How brightly gleams the morning star! (HC)*  
94      *As with gladness men of old*

5 pm

#### **CHORAL EVENSONG**

led by Revd David Commander

*Readings: Isaiah 60.1-9, John 2.1-11. Psalm 98*

*Hymns:* 96      *Brightest and best of the sons of the morning*  
*Choir New Year Carol (Britten)*  
102      *Jesus, come! for we invite you*  
104      *Songs of thankfulness and praise*

### THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	8 am	Morning Prayer at St George's
	7.30 pm	Sandhurst Home Group at Sandhurst Mission Church
Tuesday 7 <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
	8 pm	St George's Fete meeting at the Bull
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	8 am	Morning Prayer at Sandhurst Mission Church
	7.30 – 9.15 pm	Bell Ringing Practice at St George's
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>	8 am	Morning Prayer at St George's
	9 – 11 am	Cakes & Chaos Toddler Group at St George's

### Sunday Next: 12<sup>th</sup> January – The Baptism of Christ

*Readings: Acts 8.14-17, Luke 3.15-17, 21-22*

8 am

#### **1662 BCP HOLY COMMUNION**

led by Revd David Commander

10 am

#### **MORNING WORSHIP**

led by Revd David Commander

## **Readings: Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January – Epiphany**

### ***Ephesians 3.1-12***

<sup>3</sup>This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— <sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

### ***Matthew 2.1-12***

<sup>2</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**Benenden Home Group** will meet again on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January at David & Julia Collard's.

## **Thank you!**

Firstly, thank you for the cards, gifts and good wishes that have been given to us over the Christmas period. We are very grateful to everyone.

Secondly, we would like to thank everyone who helped in any way to make the Christmas Day Lunch a success. For the various donations of food, wine and money. As a result, we not only had a lovely day, but we are also able to send a donation of £180 to Catching Lives. And of course, a huge thank you to those who helped on the day by setting up, serving the lunch, transporting some of our guests and to those who came along at the end to help with clearing away. Helen and David

**Ven. Andrew Sewell, Archdeacon of Maidstone**, retires on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2025. A Choral Evensong service for Andrew is on 12<sup>th</sup> January at Canterbury Cathedral. There is also a service in the Maidstone Archdeaconry to mark Andrew's retirement, at 7pm on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January at St Nicholas Allington, to be led by Revd David Commander. An Archdeaconry retirement collection for Andrew can be found via the link: <https://app.collectionpot.com/pot/3302251>

## ***The two toddler groups in the Benefice restart this week***

*We don't charge, but a £1 donation per family would be welcome.*

### **The Drop in Café & Toddler Group in Sandhurst**

**meets at the Mission Church on Back Road, TN18 5JU  
on Wednesdays in term time, starting 8<sup>th</sup> January  
from 9 to 11am.**

### **"Cakes & Chaos" in Benenden**

**meets at St George's Church  
on Fridays in term time, starting 10<sup>th</sup> January  
from 9 to 11am.**

**ALL WELCOME**

***Please contact Helen for more details***

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**St George's Church: Contacts**

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