

# St George's Church, Benenden

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

## Our Worship: 5<sup>th</sup> March The Second Sunday of Lent

**Collect:** Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, 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> March – The Second Sunday of Lent

*Readings: Romans 4.1-5, 13-17, John 3.1-17*

**8 am HOLY COMMUNION**

by Revd Rosemary Kobus van Wengen

**10 am ALL AGE COMMUNION**

led by Revd David Commander

*Hymns: 4 New every morning is the love  
827 Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim  
281 'Tis good, Lord, to be here  
791 The God of Abraham praise (v1 and 8-10)*

1 – 3 pm 'Warm Welcome Space' at Benenden Memorial Hall

4 pm Deanery Choir Practice at St George's

**5 pm CHORAL EVENSONG & COMMISSIONING OF AREA DEAN**

*Psalm 121. Readings Numbers 21.4-9, Luke 14.27-33*

*Hymns: 593 At the name of Jesus (omit v2, 4, 6)  
595 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart  
709 Light of the minds that know him*

### THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	8 am	Morning Prayer at St George's <i>No Sandhurst Home Group until after Easter</i>
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	8 am	Morning Prayer at Sandhurst Mission Church
	10 am	Holy Communion at Sandhurst Mission Church led by Revd David Commander <i>No Benenden Home Group until after Easter</i>
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	8 am	Morning Prayer at Sandhurst Mission Church
	10 – 11.30 am	Coffee Morning at Benenden Memorial Hall – all welcome
	<b>7.30 pm</b>	<b>Lent Course – Week 2 – at Sandhurst Mission Church</b>
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>	8 am	Morning Prayer at St George's
	9 – 11 am	Cakes & Chaos Toddler Group at St George's
	1 – 3 pm	'Warm Welcome Space' at Benenden Memorial Hall

### Sunday Next: 12<sup>th</sup> March – The Third Sunday of Lent

*Readings: Romans 5.1-11, John 4.5-42*

**8 am HOLY COMMUNION**

led by Revd David Commander

**10 am MORNING WORSHIP**

led by Lyn Hayes

1 – 3 pm 'Warm Welcome Space' at Benenden Memorial Hall

## **Bible Readings – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March – The Second Sunday of Lent**

### ***Romans 4.1-5, 13-17***

#### ***The Example of Abraham***

<sup>4</sup>What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.' <sup>4</sup>Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup>But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

#### ***God's Promise Realized through Faith***

<sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup> For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

### ***John 3.1-17***

#### ***Nicodemus Visits Jesus***

<sup>3</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup> 'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

**Confirmation: We are arranging a Confirmation Service, led by Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin, in the Weald Deanery. This is likely to be on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, at a church in the Deanery. It would be lovely to have some candidates from our benefice to be confirmed at the service. The Confirmation service is, as an adult, teenager or child, an opportunity to make a public declaration 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 then organise an appropriate form of Confirmation preparation. Revd David**

The Electoral Roll is open for revision from 5<sup>th</sup> March and will close on 26<sup>th</sup> March. If you would like to join the Roll there are application forms at the back of the church, please fill one out and leave it at the back of the church marked for the attention of David Collard.

**Church Annual Meeting: St George's Annual Parochial Church Meeting is on TUESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023 in the Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm.** Everyone is invited to attend but only those on the Electoral Roll are entitled to vote. This year we have many vacancies for the PCC as well as electing our Churchwardens and the Deanery Synod Representatives who attend Deanery Synod meetings on our behalf. As Revd David is to be our new Area Dean we would especially like three people to come forward to serve at Deanery. The PCC meets six times a year and the Deanery about three times a year. Deanery Representatives automatically serve on the PCC. We hope you will seriously think about serving St George's in this way. Please see your Churchwardens or myself for more information. Julia Collard

**Canterbury Cathedral Precincts Pass.** If you hold one of these free passes, which allowed Canterbury Diocese church members free access to the cathedral and grounds, then you should be aware that it expired at the end of last month. The replacement is called the Cathedral Pass and will cost £6 for five years. Full information is available on the Cathedral website or on 01227 762862. RF



## IN HIS SERVICE

### Growing together in Lent

*Lent is the Old English word for Spring -*



*a time of growth and re-awakening*

This Lent we are looking to grow in our understanding of the 'Liturgy', the pattern of our worship offered day by day and week by week 'in His service'. Many of us are so familiar with the words of our church services that we are in danger of reciting them without really thinking much about what we are hearing and saying. Others, newcomers to church, may find parts of the service quite hard to understand. 'Liturgy' actually means 'the work of the people'. Not a spectator event, but something in which we all play our part.


In our Lent course we shall be looking at the service of The Eucharist (Holy Communion, The Lord's Supper), hoping and expecting to discover in the familiar (or unfamiliar) words and actions new springs of meaning and inspiration. As we share our understanding, our thoughts and experiences, we look to grow in His service.

***We meet in the Mission Church, Back Road, Sandhurst TN18 5JU at 7.30 pm on Wednesdays March 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. All welcome.***



**Common Chalice:** At some point it is my sincere hope that we will return to using the "common chalice" – ie drinking the wine from "the one cup". We stopped doing so during Covid when we came out of lock-down and were able to return to worshipping together in church. Covid has not gone away, but we are vaccinated, and we are learning to live with it. I would be interested to know how your thoughts about returning to using the chalice for the distribution of Communion wine. Please let me know how you feel about this over coffee after a service, or by dropping me an email. Do if we feel ready, as a church family, to do this; is anyone with strong feelings about not doing so; and how we might make Communion distribution work for everyone? Revd David

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>'CONNECT FOUR'</b> 4pm – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>at Sandhurst Mission Church, Back Road TN18 5JU</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">A service especially for families – but, of course, all age groups are very welcome.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>"Connecting"</b> - with one another - with Bible stories - with God - with tea, coffee &amp; cake.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Worship, music, games, craft, refreshments &amp; fun. <i>We meet on the fourth Saturday of every month.</i></p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>St George's 'Give Up A Meal For Lent'</b></p>  <p>Throughout the season of Lent, we are asking those that are able to give, to consider donating a much needed item to the Nourish Foodbank on a weekly basis.</p> <p>Each Sunday we will focus on a particular food type that is short in supplies.</p> <p>5th March: Pasta sauce jars 12th March: Baked beans 19th March: Tinned potatoes 26th March: Tinned fruit 2nd April: Tinned spaghetti Easter Sunday: Tinned fish</p> <p>Contact: Gemma Coupland 07548 262509 <a href="mailto:gemma.louhunter@gmail.com">gemma.louhunter@gmail.com</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="http://www.nourishcommunityfoodbank.org.uk">http://www.nourishcommunityfoodbank.org.uk</a> 01892 548 892 07785 987 532</p> 
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Contacts: St George's Church, Benenden			
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> <i>(NB The Rector's day off is Thursday)</i>  Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie, Curate 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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