

# The Benefice of Benenden & Sandhurst

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

## Our Worship: Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March The Third Sunday of Lent

**Collect:** Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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 7<sup>th</sup> March - The Third Sunday of Lent

*Readings: 1 Cor. 1.18-25; John 2.13-22*

10 am

#### ONLINE HOLY COMMUNION

led by Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie & Revd David Commander

**Link:** <https://youtu.be/U4jAZEgy4tq>

*(Link available via the church websites)*

followed at 11am by an

#### ONLINE COFFEE MORNING VIA ZOOM

**Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3971102878?pwd=UkpkY2R2Z1lXbmJqNUdzdzB2RVZUUT09>

Meeting ID: 397 110 2878 Passcode: 65898 *(Link available via the church websites)*

*NB Links to all services (also available to watch as recordings) are detailed on the following St George's and St Nicholas church websites, Facebook pages and A Church Near You.*

**Websites:**

<http://www.benendenchurch.org/>

<https://stnicholassandhurst.org/>

**Facebook Pages:**

@StGeorgesBenenden

@StNicholasSandhurst

**A Church Near You:**

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com>

### THE WEEK AHEAD

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>                      7.30 pm      Lent Course Week 3 – via Zoom – joining info below  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>                    9.30 am      Diocesan Synod meeting – via Zoom

### **NEXT SERVICE: Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March - Mothering Sunday**

*Readings: Colossians 3.12-17 Luke 2.33-35*

10 am **ONLINE HOLY COMMUNION**

led by Lyn Hayes & Revd Rosemary Kobus van Wengen.

*Service link published Saturday prior to the service.*

**Followed by Zoom coffee morning**

## **Readings: Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March**

### **1 Cor. 1.18-25**

#### ***Christ the Power and Wisdom of God***

<sup>18</sup> For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written,

'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

### **John 2.13-22**

#### ***Jesus Cleanses the Temple***

<sup>13</sup> The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup>Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' <sup>18</sup>The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' <sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' <sup>20</sup>The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' <sup>21</sup>But he was speaking of the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup>After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

**Prayers, Benenden - Trish Evans** passed away on 16<sup>th</sup> February; her funeral is on 17<sup>th</sup> March - Charing Crematorium followed by a funeral service for the family at St George's. Please hold Trish's husband, Bob, and daughters Annabel, Jo and Sarah in your prayers

## **LENT COURSE 2021**

### ***Lent Meditations with Julian of Norwich***

Our five week Lent course **continues on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30 pm** via Zoom  
***all are welcome to join us.***

**Here is the Zoom link for Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3971102878?pwd=UkpkY2R2Z1lXbmJqNUdzdzB2RVZUUT09>

At the first Lent Course meeting, Tim Bentley mentioned a video on Julian of Norwich. If you wish to watch it, here is the link: <https://youtu.be/VptjqJN8wy0>

*Thank you for providing this, Tim.*

The material for this week's Zoom is provided below.

*Previous weeks' material and links are  
also available via the church websites and Facebook pages.*

## Lent Meditations with Julian of Norwich – Week 3 (Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March)

One insight, for which Julian is well known, and which calls out to us over the centuries, is that God has both male and female qualities, that, as Julian says, “As truly as God is our Father, so truly is God our Mother”.

For Julian, the three persons of the Trinity have different emphasis:

‘I saw that the exalted Power of the Trinity is our Father, the deep Wisdom of the Trinity is our Mother, and the vast Love of the Trinity is our Master’.

They are all working together, but we, as human beings, have an especially intimate relationship with the second person, Christ.

‘In taking on our flesh, the Second Person became our Mother of Mercy. Our Mother keeps all our parts together and works on us in various ways. We profit and grow in Christ-the-Mother. Through her mercy, she restores and redeems us. Through his passion, his dying, and his resurrecting, he makes us one with his own essence. And so the Mother acts with mercy toward all her loving children.’  
(Chapter 58)

Julian’s description of motherhood is so lovely, so tender, that it is difficult not to draw the conclusion that she might have been a mother herself at some stage. Either that, or her own mother set a wonderful example. Not everyone’s personal experience of their actual mother or of motherhood is so pure and joyful, but even then, it is good to be reminded that God’s love is over and above anything that our human nature can offer us.



‘This beautiful word “mother” is so sweet and kind in itself that it cannot be attributed to anyone but God. Only he who is our true Mother and source of all life may rightfully be called by this name. Nature, love, wisdom, and knowledge are all attributes of the Mother, which is God. Even though our earthly birth is low and humble—and so simple compared to our spiritual birth—he is the one responsible for the birth of all babies that are born to their physical mothers.

The kind, loving mother, aware of the needs of her child, protects the child with great tenderness. This is the nature of motherhood. As the child grows in age and stature, she adapts her methods, but her love never changes. And when the child is even older, she allows him to be chastised to counter his vices and develop his virtues and graces. Whenever a human mother nurtures her child with all that is beautiful and good, it is God-the-Mother who is acting through her. And so, within our human nature, he mothers our lower part through grace, impelled by the love that originates in the higher part. He wants us to know this, so that all our love will flow toward him and cleave us to him. I saw that in truly loving God we pay off all the debts we have to his Fatherhood and Motherhood. This blessed love is a gift from Christ. It is what he was referring to when he said, “It is I whom you love.” (Chapter 60)

**Our churches remain open for individual private prayer.  
However, communal worship has moved on-line until further notice.**

**Until our churches reopen:**

- We will record a service and make it available, on-line, every Sunday morning. Fellowship follows, with coffee, on Zoom after the service.
- The parish churches remain open for individual private prayer seven days a week
- St. George's church will be heated for two one-hour periods every day (10-11am and 2-3pm) so that the church is more comfortable if people wish to make use of the space for private prayer.

Please continue to look after yourself. If you want to talk, please pick up the phone and call. God bless. Revd David

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