

The Benefice of Benenden & Sandhurst

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

Our Worship: Sunday 14th February The Sunday next before Lent

Collect: Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 14th February – The Sunday next before Lent

Readings: 2 Corinthians 4.3-6, Mark 9.2-9

10 am

ONLINE HOLY COMMUNION

led by Lyn Hayes & Revd David Commander

Link: <https://youtu.be/z7Aahbf2GbM> - *Link also available via the church websites*

followed at 11am by an **ONLINE COFFEE MORNING VIA ZOOM**

Link: *(Link also available via the church websites)*

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

(Meeting ID: 397 110 2878 Passcode: 658989)

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

Monday 15 th	2 pm	Interment at St George's t/l Angela Lloyd-Jones
Tuesday 16 th	11.30 am	Interment at St George's t/l Michael Patrick
Ash Wednesday	7.30 pm	Online Ashing Service - Recorded at St George's - led by Revd David Commander & Revd Rosemary Kobus van Wengen. Service link will be published on the church websites & Facebook pages.
Friday 19 th	12 noon	Interment at St Nicholas t/l Bill Goodsell

NEXT SERVICE: Sunday 21st February - The First Sunday of Lent

Readings: 1 Peter 3.18-end, Mark 1.9-15

10 am **ONLINE HOLY COMMUNION**

led by Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie & Revd David Commander Service link to be published Saturday prior to the service. **Followed by Zoom coffee morning**

The church is open for private prayer but we regret there is no communal worship for the next few weeks. Sunday services will be available via YouTube at 10am every Sunday (and available to watch afterwards). YouTube service links and links to Zoom coffee mornings are posted on the church websites on Saturday evening.

Readings: Sunday 14th February

2 Corinthians 4.3-6

³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Mark 9.2-9

The Transfiguration

² Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

The Coming of Elijah

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Sad News in the Benefice: Angela Lloyd-Jones

It is with sadness that we tell of the death of Angela Lloyd-Jones, following a severe stroke. Angela, together with Alan Pickett, her partner of 30 years, was a faithful worshipper at St George's. We shall greatly miss seeing them together week by week at the 8 o'clock service. Her funeral, attended only by family, will take place in church on 15 February, followed by the burial of ashes.

Please remember Alan and all Angela's family in your prayers.

Revd Rosemary

PASTORAL: The idea of Revd Ylva and myself being available, in our churches, for a chat or prayer time together has not worked; we have had no "visitors" in the three weeks we've been at church. So we have stopped this and will look to try something else.... watch this space! In the meantime, if you want a chat, please pick up the phone and call us. Revd David.

Revd David Tel: 01580 240 658

Revd Ylva Tel: 07766 711957

LENT COURSE 2021

Lent Meditations with Julian of Norwich

Our five week Lent course will take place via Zoom on
Tuesdays at 7:30 pm, starting on 23rd February

The course will be available via Zoom. If you would like to take part please email rev.ylva@gmail.com so that you can be sent the relevant material each week. Resources will also be posted on the website and Facebook pages. The first week's information is as follows:

Lent Meditations with Julian of Norwich – Week 1 (Tuesday 23 February)

Julian, a very short introduction



1. Julian's statue, Norwich Cathedral

Very short, because we really know very little about the woman behind the book. Julian of Norwich was an English mystic and spiritual writer in the 1400's. She was a lay woman who became an anchoress, a type of Religious person in the Middle Ages, and lived in a cell attached to St Julian's Church in Norwich; hence the name under which she is known. Hers was the first book in English written by a woman, *Revelations of Divine Love*, an account of a series of 16 visions of Christ that she received when at death's door with a very serious illness at the age of 30 in May 1373. After recovering, she spent the rest of her life pondering what she had experienced and writing up what she understood their message to be. Her writing is very moving, always so direct and rooted in everyday life and with unique turns of phrase, which make us feel that here speaks a real person to us over these many centuries. Her insights into the heart of Christ's passion and its significance for all are very deep and keep on giving, the more we engage with them.

Julian's book was almost forgotten over many hundreds of years, only preserved in a few manuscripts in the libraries of some Benedictine and Briggittine nuns, to be rediscovered in the early 1900's. Since then, her influence has grown and grown, as her unique insights into Jesus Christ and his love for us resonate with our own time and our yearning for hope and love and friendship with God.

For those of you who are intrigued by this fascinating writer, there are many good books to delve into. At the bottom of this sheet are a few suggestions, and I can point you to even more, should this whet your appetite.

But this Lent course is not a teaching opportunity, but an invitation for you to experience something of that contemplation, which Julian did so much of in her cell, and to connect with God through her writing. I will read a short extract from her book and then we will enter into silence together for 15 minutes. At the end I will bring us all together by reading the last sentence again. We will start with a short meditation that Julian herself was given as a vision at the start of her 'revelations':



“Then he showed me a small thing, the size of a hazelnut, nestled in the palm of my hand. It was round as a ball. I looked at it with the eyes of my understanding and thought, *What can this be?* And the answer came to me: *It is all that is created.* I was amazed that it could continue to exist. It seemed to me to be so little that it was on the verge of dissolving into nothingness. And then these words entered my understanding: *It lasts, and it will last forever, because God loves it. Everything that is has its being through the love of God.*” (Chapter 5)

**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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Priests	Revd David Commander, Rector. The Rectory, The Green, Benenden, TN17 4DL Tel: 01580 240 658 E-mail: revdavidcommander@gmail.com <i>(NB The Rector's day off is Thursday)</i> Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie, Curate Tel: 01233 820100 Mobile: 07766 711957 Email: rev.ylva@gmail.com Revd Dr Rosemary Kobus van Wengen Tel: 01580 764 857 Email: rosemaryvanwengen@gmail.com

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