

The Benefice of Benenden & Sandhurst

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

Our Worship: Sunday 14th March Mothering Sunday

Collect: God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; 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 14th 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

Link: https://youtu.be/o86t_qEBK9w

(Link available via the church websites)

followed at 11am by an

ONLINE COFFEE MORNING VIA ZOOM

Link: (Meeting ID: 397 110 2878 Passcode: 658989)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3971102878?pwd=UkpkY2R2Z1lXbmJqNUdhdzB2RVZUUT09>

(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 16th

7.30 pm

Lent Course Week 4 – via Zoom – joining info below

Wednesday 17th

2 pm

Funeral of t/l Trish Evans at St George's

NEXT SERVICE: Sunday 21st March – The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Readings: Hebrews 5.5-10 John 12.20-33

10 am **ONLINE HOLY COMMUNION**

led by Revd David Commander & Revd Rosemary Kobus van Wengen

Service link published Saturday prior to the service.

Followed by Zoom coffee morning

Readings: Sunday 14th March

Colossians 3.12-17

¹² As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord* has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ* dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.* ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Luke 2.33-35

³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon* blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

Prayers, Benenden - Trish Evans passed away on 16th February; her funeral is on 17th March at 12.15 at Charing Crematorium followed by a funeral service for the family at St George's at 2pm. Please hold Trish's husband, Bob, and daughters Annabel, Jo and Sarah in your prayers.

**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

LENT COURSE 2021

Lent Meditations with Julian of Norwich

Our five week Lent course **continues on Tuesday 16th March at 7:30 pm** via Zoom
all are welcome to join us.

Here is the Zoom link for Tuesday 16th March

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

Tim Bentley has 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 Zoom links are
also available via the church websites and Facebook pages.*

Lent Meditations with Julian of Norwich – Week 4 – Tuesday 16th March

There is of course no getting away from this - a large proportion of Julian's book centres on her vision of Christ on the cross. This week, as we reach the middle of our Lenten journey, I would like us to focus our attention once again on the cross, but to do this afresh, so that we might see it in the way that Julian perceives it, possibly understanding Christ's suffering in a new way.

She describes in great and terrifying detail his last hours, how she watches him suffer, his head bleeding under the crown of thorns, his body drying out from a chill wind and a lack of moisture, reflecting his own words 'I am thirsty'. His face changes colour from pale to grey, then dark blue and in the end brown. As she had asked in her prayers to experience Christ's suffering for herself, this is it. She says: *'Like a wretch, I briefly regretted having asked for the experience of bearing witness to his agony'*, but she is then made aware that *'the part of me that resisted such suffering belonged to the natural weakness and negativity of the flesh, but that my soul did not agree with this, and God did certainly not blame me for it.'*

She writes: *'I watched our beloved Jesus languishing for a long time. The one-ing between himself and the Godhead gave him the power to suffer beyond all human endurance. I don't only mean that his anguish surpassed that of any other human being, but that no human being from the beginning of time until the last day could possibly measure, describe, or even conceive of the magnitude of his pain.....And he suffered for the sake of every human being. He saw every individual's sorrow, desolation, and anguish, and, from the depths of his kindness and love, he grieved for us all.....As I gazed upon all this, by his grace, I saw that his love for us is so strong that he willingly chose his passion and suffered it humbly, with deep joy and satisfaction. Any soul touched by grace who sees things in this way will truly realize that the pain of Christ's passion exceeds all other pain. And yet all our pain will be transformed into boundless, everlasting joy by the power of this same passion.'*



Julian learns that Jesus is delighted to have suffered for her sake, and for each one of us: *'Then our beloved Jesus Christ asked me, "Are you well satisfied that I suffered for you?" And I said, "Yes, good Lord, thanks be to you. Oh yes, good Lord, blessed may you be!" Then our kind, sweet Lord said, "If you are satisfied, I am satisfied. It is a source of endless joy, bliss, and delight to me that I suffered my passion for you. If I could suffer more, I would suffer more.'*

As she explains: *'The love that made him suffer his passion is greater than all his pain. His love is as far beyond his pain as heaven is from earth. For the pain was part of a noble, honorable act, done once, and compelled by love. This love is without beginning, and shall be without end. It is because of this love that he*

uttered these sweet words, "If I could suffer more, I would suffer more." He did not say, "If it were absolutely necessary, I would suffer more." Because even if it weren't necessary, he would do this over and over again for our love.'

Julian perceives, that Christ is full of joy and delights in his passion. *'God wants us to rejoice with him in our liberation'*, she says.

When you turn your inner gaze towards Christ, can you sense both his suffering and his joy? Which resonates stronger with you at this moment? Can you share in his delight?

(Continued overleaf)



Then, with a cheerful expression, our Beloved looked into his side and gazed into his wound with joy. With his sweet gazing he directed the mind of this creature to enter through that wound in his side. There he revealed to me a beautiful and delicious place, ample enough for all humanity to rest in peace and love. This made me think of his dear blood and the precious water that he allowed to be poured out for love. Then he showed me his sacred heart, cloven in two. With sweet rejoicing, he partially revealed

to me the nature of the Godhead, strengthening my poor soul to be able to understand what I saw: the endless love that is without beginning, always is, and evermore shall be.

And with this revelation, our sweet Lord said, with passionate bliss, *“Oh, how I have loved you!”* It was as if he had said, *My darling, behold and see the Lord, your God, who is your Creator and your endless joy. See your own Brother, your Savior. My child, behold and see the utter delight and bliss I take in your liberation. For love of me, enjoy it with me now.*

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: benendenchurch@gmail.com
St George’s Churchwarden	Mr David Collard Tel: 01580 241 944 E-mail: julia.collard@btinternet.com
St George’s Parish Safeguarding Officer	Ian Malaugh Tel: 01580 240 999 E-mail: ianmal@sky.com
Priests	Revd David Commander, Rector. The Rectory, The Green, Benenden, TN17 4DL Tel: 01580 240 658 E-mail: revdavidcommander@gmail.com (NB The Rector’s day off is Thursday) 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

Contacts: St Nicholas, Sandhurst

Church Office	Cathy Baker, Benefice Administrator. The Mission Church, Back Road, Sandhurst TN18 5JU Tel: 01580 850 849 E-mail: benendenchurch@gmail.com
St Nicholas Churchwardens	Anne Tylden-Wright Tel: 01580 850 281 E-mail: tyldenwright@btinternet.com Bob Houlden Tel: 01580 850 278 E-mail: bob.houlden@btinternet.com
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Anne Tylden-Wright Tel: 01580 850 281 E-mail: tyldenwright@btinternet.com
Priests	Revd David Commander, Rector. The Rectory, The Green, Benenden, TN17 4DL Tel: 01580 240 658 E-mail: revdavidcommander@gmail.com (NB The Rector’s day off is Thursday) 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