

The Benefice of Benenden & Sandhurst

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

Our Worship: Sunday 21st February The First Sunday of Lent

Collect: Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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 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

Link: <https://youtu.be/HQAfE-qWQVE>

(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=UkpkY2R2Z1IXbmJqNUdzdzB2RVZUUT09>

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 23 rd	7.30pm	Lent Course – via Zoom – further info below
Wednesday 24 th	7.30pm	Deanery Synod meeting – via Zoom
Friday 26 th	2.30pm	Interment at St Nicholas t/l Barbara Flanagan

NEXT SERVICE: Sunday 28th February - The Second Sunday of Lent

Readings: Romans 4.13-end; Mark 8.31-end

10 am **ONLINE HOLY COMMUNION**

led by Revd Rosemary Kobus van Wengen & David Harmsworth. 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 21st February

1 Peter 3.18-end

¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Mark 1.9-15

The Baptism of Jesus

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

The Temptation of Jesus

¹² And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

PASTORAL: The idea of Revd Ylva and myself being available, in our churches, for a chat or prayer time together has not worked. So we have stopped this. 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 takes place via Zoom
on Tuesdays at 7:30 pm, starting on 23rd February

Revd Ylva has put together a series looking at some of the meditations of Julian of Norwich. Please join us at 7:30 on Tuesday evenings, starting on the 23rd February. Each meditative session is expected to last 30-40 minutes. Here is the link to the Zoom Lent Course each week

(also available via the church websites and Facebook pages):

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

The material for Week 1 is below. If you know of others who would appreciate the material, then please pass it on to them. Or, if you let Revd Ylva know their address, she will send the resources to them.

Please join the meeting ready to start at 7:30pm.

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 Brigittine 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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