

The Benefice of St George's, Benenden & St Nicholas, Sandhurst Sunday 29th December The First Sunday of Christmas

Collect: Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**8.00 am BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION
AT ST NICHOLAS, SANDHURST**
led by Revd David Commander

(**Bible Readings:**
Hebrews 2.10-end,
Matthew 2.13-end)

**10.00 am BENEFICE ALL AGE HOLY COMMUNION
AT ST GEORGE'S, BENENDEN**
led by Revd David Commander

HYMNS	
58	A great and mighty wonder
64	God rest ye merry, gentlemen
84	Silent night
89	While shepherds watched

THE WEEK AHEAD

***Revd David is on holiday on Monday 30th and Tuesday 31st December. Should you require the services of a Priest during this time please contact your Churchwardens:
(Benenden) David Collard Tel 241 944 and Tracy Claridge Tel 240 454
(Sandhurst) Anne Tylden-Wright Tel: 01580 850 281***

Friday 3rd 8.00 am Morning Prayer at St George's

Sunday Next: 5th January: The Second Sunday of Christmas – Epiphany

Readings: Ephesians 3.1-12, Matthew 2.1-12

Services at St George's

8.00 am Holy Communion led by Revd Rosemary Kobus van Wengen

10.00 am All Age Communion led by Revd David Commander

4.00 pm Choir Practice

5.00 pm Choral Evensong led by David Harmsworth

Psalm 98. Readings: Isaiah 60.1-9, John 2.1-11

Services at St Nicholas

8.00 am Holy Communion led by Revd David Commander

10.00 am Morning Worship led by Lyn Hayes

Bible Readings: Sunday 29th December

Hebrews 2.10-end

¹⁰ It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying,

‘I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.’

¹³And again,

‘I will put my trust in him.’

And again,

‘Here am I and the children whom God has given me.’

¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Matthew 2.13-end

The Escape to Egypt

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.’ ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I have called my son.’

The Massacre of the Infants

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸ ‘A voice was heard in Ramah,

wailing and loud lamentation,

Rachel weeping for her children;

she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.’

The Return from Egypt

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.’ ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, ‘He will be called a Nazorean.’

Home Groups: The Benenden Home Group meets again on Tuesday 7th January at Julia and David Collard’s at 7 Fuggles Court.

Wednesday Choir Practice at St George’s recommences on 8th January.

**The Drop in Café &
Toddler Group meets
every Wednesday
in term time
from 9 to 11 am at
The Mission Church,
Back Road, Sandhurst
TN18 5JU**

***NEXT MEETING:
WEDNESDAY 8TH
JANUARY***

**Cakes & Chaos
Toddler Group
meets at
St George's
every Friday
in term time
from 9 to 11 am**

***NEXT MEETING:
FRIDAY 10TH
JANUARY***

***BLEND – for all 11 to 15 year olds
re-starts on Tuesday 7th January
from 4 to 6pm at Sandhurst Mission Church.***



**Put down your phones -
Come and have some fun
instead!**

**BLEND - TUESDAYS, AFTER
SCHOOL
Mission Church**

  Blend Sandhurst
 #BlendSMC

All items for the weekly notices should be sent to benendenchurch@gmail.com by 10am the preceding Wednesday please.

Contacts			
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Priests	Revd David Commander, Rector The Rectory, The Green, Benenden, Kent TN17 4DL Tel: 01580 240 658 E-mail: revdavidcommander@gmail.com (Note the new ministry email address) (N.B. The Rector's day off is Thursday) Revd Dr Rosemary Kobus van Wengen Tel: 01580 764 857 Email: rosemaryvanwengen@gmail.com		
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