

The Parish of St George's, Benenden

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

Our Worship: Sunday 29th November The First Sunday of Advent

Collect: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 29th November – The First Sunday of Advent

Readings: 1 Corinthians 1.3-9, Mark 13.24-end

10.00am **ON LINE HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE**
followed by coffee and chat on Zoom

Links to the above will be posted on the church website, Facebook and A Church Near You pages shortly before the service.

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

Facebook Page: [@StGeorgesBenenden](https://www.facebook.com/StGeorgesBenenden)

A Church Near You: <https://www.achurchnearlyou.com>

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 30th **8am** **Morning Prayer at St George's (closed service)**

Tuesday 1st **8am** **Morning Prayer at the Mission Church (closed service)**

Wednesday 2nd **8am** **Morning Prayer at St George's**
 1pm **Funeral of t/l Sheila Clarke**

Friday 4th **8am** **Morning Prayer at St George's**

Sunday Next: Sunday 6th December – The Second Sunday of Advent

Readings: 2 Peter 3.8-15a, Mark 1.1-8

8 am **BCP HOLY COMMUNION PATRONAL SERVICE AT
ST NICHOLAS, SANDHURST**
led by Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie & Revd David Commander

10am **HOLY COMMUNION AT ST GEORGE'S**
led by Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie & Revd David Commander

5pm **ADVENT SERVICE OF LIGHT AT ST GEORGE'S**
led by Revd David Commander

Readings: Sunday 29th November

1 Corinthians 1.3-9

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— ⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— ⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mark 13.24-end

The Coming of the Son of Man

²⁴ 'But in those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

²⁸ 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

The Necessity for Watchfulness

³² 'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

Prayers:

Sheila Clarke passed away on the 9th November. Her funeral takes place at St George's next Wednesday 2nd December at 1pm, followed by a Committal service at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium. Please hold John, her husband, and the family in your prayers.

Andrew Prentice has sadly passed away. His funeral will be on Monday 7th December at 10am at St George's. Please hold Andrew's family in your prayers.

ADVENT SERVICE OF LIGHT

Sunday 6th December 5pm

at St George's

CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN BENENDEN

We hope to hold the following actual services:

- Advent "Service of Light" on Sun 6th Dec at 5pm.
- Benefice Carol Service streamed on-line on Mon 21st Dec at 7:30pm.
- A Nativity Service on Christmas Eve at the top of The Green at 3pm.
- Midnight service on Christmas Eve at 11.30pm.
- Christmas Day: 8am Communion, followed by **two** short family services, **ticketed with numbers restricted to 100**, at 9:30am, and at 10:45am

Further details, including how to reserve tickets, will be confirmed and published in December.



Comfort and Joy is the Church of England's Christmas campaign for 2020.

It holds together the hope that Christmas will bring joy and celebration after a uniquely difficult year with an acknowledgement that – for those who have lost loved ones or livelihoods, or who are potentially still not able to be together with loved ones – it may be the Church's role, both nationally and locally, to provide consolation, rather than assume everyone will be ready to join in jubilation.

We also have to anticipate there may be further spikes.

This Christmas the Church will need, in the words of St Paul in Romans 12.15, to 'Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep'. We will aim to celebrate where we can together in one place – but also embrace a wider community that wants to join in the celebration but may not be physically able – or emotionally ready – to do so. We hope that Comfort and Joy will enable us to build a campaign that both enables us to reconnect with the rich and joyous traditions of the past and to offer God's consoling love in the present.

Daily Scripture and Reflection is posted on the St George's Church website and Facebook page every day of the week.

PLEASE KEEP AN EYE ON THE CHURCH WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION REGARDING OUR CHURCH SERVICES

Website: <http://www.benendenchurch.org/>
Facebook Page: @StGeorgesBenenden
A Church Near You: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com>

Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance for churches

Last updated: Friday 27th November

We are registered with the NHS "Track and Trace", please make use of this if you have downloaded the app to your smartphone.

Live services in church resume on 2nd December.
We are open for individual private prayer every day.

**If you come into church please remember:
"Hands. Face. Space."**

Please hand sanitise on entry and exit. Wear a face covering. And maintain 2m social distancing from others not in your household or social bubble. Please do not come to church if you have Covid-19 symptoms.

We follow the guidelines issued by the Church of England. If you wish to read these in full, they are available on the CoE website:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>

(More information available on the Coronavirus page of our website.)

There are prayer resources available as you come into church. (Please take them away with you when you leave if you use them.) If you wish to read some scripture when you come to church for private prayer, please bring your Bible with you. Keep safe. Keep well. Keep praying. And God bless you.

Revd David

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