

St George's Church, Benenden

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

Our Worship: Sunday 23rd August The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of 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 23rd August – The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Readings: Romans 12.1-8; Matthew 16.13-20

8 am HOLY COMMUNION IN THE CHANCEL AT ST GEORGE'S

led by Revd David Commander

10 am MORNING WORSHIP AT BENENDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

led by Revd Rosemary Kobus van Wengen

Hymns: 291 Christ is made the sure foundation

805 There is a Redeemer

761 Praise the lord ye heavens adore him

641 Glorious things of thee are spoken

2 – 4 pm St George's Summer Teas at the Memorial Hall

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 24 th	8 am	Morning Prayer at the Rectory
	7 pm	RRR Events Committee – meeting in the Chancel
Tuesday 25 th	8 am	Morning Prayer at Sandhurst Mission Church
	10 am	Holy Communion at Sandhurst Mission Church
		led by Revd Rosemary Kobus van Wengen
	7.30 pm	Home Group at David & Julia Collard's
Wednesday 26 th		<i>No Morning Prayer today – Revd David on holiday</i>
Thursday 27 th	7.30 – 9.15 pm	Bellringing Practice at St Nicholas
Friday 28 th	8 am	Morning Prayer at the Rectory

Sunday Next: 30th August – The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Readings: Romans 12.9-end. Matthew 16.21-end

No 8 am service in the Benefice today

10 am BENEFICE COMMUNION AT ST NICHOLAS

led by Revd David Commander & Revd Vicki Young

2 – 4 pm St George's Summer Teas at the Memorial Hall

NEXT SUNDAY: 30th August :10 am BENEFICE SERVICE: Revd Vicki Young - who is about to start the last year of her Curacy - will be with us for the 10 o'clock benefice service at St Nicholas Sandhurst on Sunday 30th August. Vicki will be leading, preaching and presiding at this service. It will be a lovely opportunity to welcome her back to the parish and benefice that nurtured her and set her on her way to becoming ordained. ***There will be no 8 am or 10 am service at St George's on 30th August.***

Readings: Sunday 23rd August – The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Romans 12.1-8

¹²I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Matthew 16.13-20

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' ¹⁴And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' ¹⁵He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.



**Revd David's Sponsored Walk
"The Pilgrims' Way"**

From Winchester Cathedral to Canterbury Cathedral, via Guildford Cathedral and a little detour to Rochester Cathedral. This route has been walked by thousands of pilgrims over many, many centuries.

Revd David will be experiencing that pilgrimage.

Length: 147 miles **Duration:** 13 days

Starting: Thursday 10th September
at Winchester Cathedral

Ending: Tuesday 22nd September
at Canterbury Cathedral

If you would like to sponsor Revd David for this walk and raise funds for the St George's Restore: Renew: Rejoice project, please pick up a leaflet.

Sponsorship can be "per mile" or a lump-sum donation.

If you are a UK tax payer and are willing to Gift-Aid your donation it will be enhanced by 25%. Please take a look at the leaflet for full details.

If you are considering joining Revd David for a day's walking, could you please drop him an email - revdavidcommander@gmail.com. You will then be sent an itinerary of where he will be walking from/to each day, and the start time.

The Friends of Kent Churches "Ride & Stride"

Saturday 12th September

This is an annual sponsored event run by The Friends of Kent Churches when hundreds of churches and chapels open up to welcome cyclists, walkers and motorised scooterists. Among them will be St George's and also Benenden Catholic Chapel, Iden Green Congregational Church and St Nicholas Church, Sandhurst.

Over many years we have, in the past, benefited from Geoff Davison's participation. This year Jo Clube and Richard Stewart have kindly volunteered to ride for St George's. Please consider sponsoring them.... 50% of all sponsorship money goes directly to the church nominated by a participant, and 50% to the Friends of Kent Churches for distribution to other churches. St George's benefited from last year's distribution by a generous £5,000 to the RRR appeal.

There are three ways in which you could support this good cause:

- **Join in** yourself or as a group for a sporting or cultural or spiritual day out
- **Sponsor (or find sponsors for) Jo Clube or Richard Stewart** who have already kindly enlisted to ride for St George's (please look out for their sponsorship forms).
- **Volunteer to spend some time at St George's** welcoming participants and offering refreshments (and/or search out others who would be prepared to offer help!)

WHEN? Saturday 12th September from 10am - 6pm

HOW? Please contact David Harmsworth for details or go to <https://www.kentrideandstride.co.uk>

Forms and lists of the hundreds of participating churches and chapels are provided, as is advice about good, safe practice. It's a well-oiled organization. Please consider taking part or sponsoring.

Home Groups:

Sandhurst: Meets again after the summer holidays - on Monday 7th September at Sandhurst Mission Church. **Benenden:** Meets on Tuesday 25th August.

Iden Green Jazz & Blues: 2 – 6 pm, Saturday 29th August – at Iden Green Pavilion.

Restore: Renew: Rejoice:

KCC have made a donation of £500 towards the toilet extension and Cllr Russell will come and visit St Georges on 28th September.

On behalf of the whole Benenden Community,
thank you KCC and Cllr Russell.

Thanks also to Sally Ann Marks for the suggestion.

Visit <https://stgeorgeschurchbenenden.co.uk> to see a video explaining about the toilet extension and how you can sponsor a floor tile and Revd David's fundraising walk.

Supported by



Water for Benenden Action Group



**Open public meeting
Benenden Girls School
School Hall
Monday 7th Sept. 2026
6:30 – 8:30pm**

St George's Summer Teas at the Memorial Hall
Every Sunday throughout August - from 2 to 4 pm. All Welcome!

Notice from the Diocese of Canterbury:

As you may be aware INEQE Safeguarding Group have been commissioned to conduct Independent Safeguarding Audits of the Church of England to make sure dioceses and cathedrals are doing all they can to create environments where everyone feels safe, valued and respected.

As part of the audit process for Canterbury, INEQE hope to engage with parishioners and members of the parish community through an online survey which will act as a mechanism through which individuals can comment on any matters relevant to the Audit's focus.

The survey is both anonymous (we are not seeking to identify you) and confidential (you will not be identified). We would therefore ask you to be open and honest with your responses. The survey results are received directly by INEQE's Audit Team and not by the Church of England. The survey is now live and will close at 11.30 pm on Wednesday 2nd September 2026.

To access the survey relevant to you please scan the QR code below or visit
<https://ineqe.com/churchofengland/canterbury/>



Local Pilgrimage Walk – Around Bodiam
Saturday 26th September

Meet at Bodiam Castle Car Park - 9.45 am for a 10.00 am start

Come and join us for a gentle pilgrimage through the beautiful countryside around Bodiam. We'll follow quiet lanes, footpaths and byways, pausing along the way for short reflections and taking time to appreciate the beauty of creation, enjoy good conversation, and simply walk together.

The route is approximately **3½–4 miles**, using mainly off-road paths, and we'll finish back at Bodiam Castle for a well-earned cup of tea and our traditional slice of cake!

Parking: National Trust members can park free in the castle car park. For non-members, parking costs **£5 per vehicle**, or free parking may be available in the nearby lay-by or on the road opposite the castle.

Please note: The route includes several stiles and may not be suitable for dogs.

Everyone is welcome – whether you're a regular pilgrim or joining us for the first time. We look forward to walking with you.

We would love to walk with you - if you have further questions please get in touch with Revd David, 07710 416978, revdavidcommander@gmail.com or Lyn Hayes 07792 332904, lindapin@aol.com
[Revd David and Lyn Hayes](#)

St George's Church Contacts

Church Office	Cathy Baker, Benefice Administrator. The Mission Church, Back Road, Sandhurst TN18 5JU Tel: 01580 850 849 - E-mail: benendenchurch@gmail.com
Churchwardens, St George's	Deborah Jenkins Tel: 01580 240 454 - E-mail: deborahjenkins26@btinternet.com Cathy Presgrave Tel: 07500 119 189 - E-mail: cathy.presgrave@gmail.com
St George's Parish Safeguarding Officer	Ian Malaugh Tel: 07944 793 238 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 Dr Rosemary Kobus van Wengen Tel: 01580 764 857 Email: rosemaryvanwengen@gmail.com
	StGeorgesBenenden
Websites	https://benendenchurch.org/ https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12091/