

St George's Church, Benenden

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

Our Worship: Sunday 8th March The Third Sunday of Lent

Collect: Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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 8th March – The Third Sunday of Lent

Readings: Romans 5.1-11, John 4.5-42

8 am **1662 BCP HOLY COMMUNION in the Chancel at St George's**
led by Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie

10 am **MORNING WORSHIP at Benenden Primary School**
led by David Harmsworth

Hymns: 761 *Praise the Lord, Ye heavens adore him!*
 682 *In the cross of Christ I glory*
 592 *As the deer pants for the water*
 652 *Guide me, O thou great Redeemer*

The Week Ahead

Monday 9 th	8 am	Morning Prayer at the Rectory
	7.30 pm	Sandhurst Home Group <i>at the Rectory (this week only)</i>
Tuesday 10 th	8 am	Morning Prayer at Sandhurst Mission Church
	10 am	Holy Communion at Sandhurst Mission Church led by Revd David Commander <i>No Benenden Home Group this week</i>
Wednesday 11 th	8 am	Morning Prayer at Sandhurst Mission Church
	5 pm	RRR Project: internal progress meeting at Richard's
	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice at St George's
Thursday 12 th	10 – 11.30 am	Rhythm of Life Community Choir at Sandhurst Mission Church
	7 – 8 pm	Choir Practice at Iden Green Congregational Church
Friday 13 th	8 am	Morning Prayer at the Rectory
	9 – 11 am	Cakes & Chaos Toddler Group at Sandhurst Mission Church

Sunday Next: 15th March – MOTHERING SUNDAY

Readings: 2 Corinthians 1.3-7, John 19.25b-27

8 am **HOLY COMMUNION in the Chancel at St George's**
led by Revd Rosemary Kobus van Wengen

10 am **MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE with INFORMAL COMMUNION at Benenden Primary School** led by Revd David Commander

Readings: Sunday 8th March – The Third Sunday of Lent

Romans 5.1-11

⁵Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

John 4.5-42

⁵So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' ¹¹The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' ¹³Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' ¹⁵The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.' ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' ¹⁷The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' ¹⁹The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' ²¹Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' ²⁵The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' ²⁶Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'

²⁷Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' ²⁸Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' ³⁰They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' ³²But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' ³³So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' ³⁴Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.'

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of his word. ⁴²They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

Home Groups:

Sandhurst: Meets at 7.30 pm on Monday 9th March at Rectory (this week only).

Benenden: There will be no meeting at David and Julia Collard's on Tuesday 10th March. We hope to meet on Tuesday 17th March.

PCC Secretary: Julia Collard will be stepping down as our PCC Secretary at this year's APCM in May. (Monday 18th May - an advanced date for your diary!) Julia has carried out this role with dedication for many years; for which we are very grateful. With Julia stepping down, it does mean though that we need to begin thinking about who might take up this role. Is this a way that you might serve our church? If you are wondering what is involved, then please speak to Julia, or to David Collard (David has served as PCC Secretary in the past), or to one of the Churchwardens or myself. Please give this some prayer and thought. Thank you. Revd David.

St George's Church Electoral Roll: There is about to be a revision of the Church Electoral Roll. The Roll opens on Sunday 5th April and closes on Sunday 26th April, If you wish to be added to the roll, or if you wish to be removed, please contact David Collard at a 10 am service or via email to d.collard49@btinternet.com or on Tel 01580 241044.

Lent 2026: 'Into the Wilderness'

There is a Weald Deanery Lent resource available with a daily scripture, image, reflection and prayer. As we journey through Lent towards Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday, I encourage you to make use of this resource. Hard copies were given out at the service on Ash Wednesday and a copy has been emailed to everyone on the church-family email distribution list. If you've not got one and would like one, or would like a hardcopy, please email me or benendenchurch@gmail.com.

We are looking at these Lent Reflections in the Home Group on a Monday evening. If you would like to join us for that, you would be very welcome. Revd David

Dates for your diary: Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th May 2026: Dingledden Open Gardens: Judy Williams, Peter & Sylvia Kellest and Steve & Angie Lambert will be opening their gardens **from 10 am to 4 pm each day - in aid of the St George's Restore: Renew: Rejoice Appeal** and a charity for the deaf (name tbc): More details to follow. There will be teas and plant sales - and parking!

Confirmation: There is a Weald Deanery Confirmation service on Sunday 31st May 2026; if you, or a family member, are interested in Confirmation, please speak to Revd David.

IMPORTANT NOTICE – re all Benenden 10am services & events – Benenden Primary School is a "Nut-free" School. No nuts, of any kind, are to be brought into School on, or in, cakes or as personal snacks please. Revd David

To donate to the 'Restore: Renew: Rejoice' project and to support the reordering of St George's, please give via this secure website:

<https://givealittle.co/c/restorerenewrejoicebenenden>

MOTHERING SUNDAY - 15th MARCH

at 10 am

FAMILY SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION AT BENENDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL



ALL WELCOME!

St George's Church: Contacts	
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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, Associate Priest 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
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