

The Benefice of Benenden & Sandhurst

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

Our Worship: Sunday 28th February The Second Sunday of Lent

Collect: Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

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.

Link: <https://youtu.be/AceoYLQGqus>

(Link also available via the church websites)

followed at 11am by an **ONLINE COFFEE MORNING VIA ZOOM**

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3971102878?pwd=UkpkY2R2Z1IXbmJqNUdzdzB2RVZUUT09>

(Link also available via the church websites)

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 3rd

10 am

MLT meeting via Zoom

7.30 pm

Lent Course Week 2 – via Zoom – joining info below

NEXT SERVICE: Sunday 7th March - The Third Sunday of Lent

Readings: 1 Cor. 1.18-25; John 2.13-22

10 am **ONLINE HOLY COMMUNION**

led by Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie & Revd David Commander. Service link to be published Saturday prior to the service. **Followed by Zoom coffee morning**

Readings: Sunday 28th February

Romans 4.13-end

God's Promise Realized through Faith

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶ For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' ²³Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Mark 8.31-end

Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

Prayers, Benenden - Trish Evans passed away on 16th February; her funeral is on 17th March - Charing Crematorium followed by a funeral service for the family at St George's. Please hold Trish's husband, Bob, and daughters Annabel, Jo and Sarah in your prayers

LENT COURSE 2021

Lent Meditations with Julian of Norwich

Our five week Lent course **continues on Tuesday 2nd March at 7:30 pm** via Zoom
all are welcome to join us.

Here is the Zoom link for Tuesday 2nd March

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3971102878?pwd=UkpkY2R2Z1lXbmJqNUdzdzB2RVZUUT09>

At the first Lent Course meeting, Tim Bentley mentioned a video on Julian of Norwich. If you wish to watch it, here is the link: <https://youtu.be/VptjqJN8wy0>

Thank you for providing this, Tim.

The material for this week's Zoom is below.

Material and links are also available via the church websites and Facebook pages.

Lent Meditations with Julian of Norwich – Week 2 – Tuesday 2nd March



Julian's first vision was of the crucifix that was held up for her to rest her eyes on during her final hours. As she explains:

'That's when my sight began to fail. Everything grew dim, until the whole room was as dark as night. The only thing I could see was the cross, which was bathed in a rather ordinary light. I couldn't figure out how it was possible that only this single object was illuminated. Everything except the cross looked ugly to me, as if it were all tainted by demons.

All of a sudden, I saw the red blood trickling down from under his garland of thorns. The blood flowed hot and fresh, just as abundantly as it had during the time of his passion when the actual thorns pressed into his blessed head. As I watched, I realized that it was Christ himself who was showing this vision to me—he who was both God and man, who suffered like this for

me—and that he was revealing himself directly, without anyone or anything between us. In the midst of this showing the blessed Trinity also revealed itself to me and filled my heart to overflowing with joy. I realized that this is what it will be like in the world to come, for all beings, and for all time. For the Trinity is God, and God is the Trinity. The Trinity is our creator and our sustainer, our Beloved forever and ever, our endless joy and bliss. I saw all this in the first revelation and in every showing after that. Whenever Christ appeared, I seemed to understand the blessed Trinity, as well.'

This is typical Julian. She sees a vision of Christ on the cross, sees his suffering, but is in the same instant filled with joy. Joy because she is shown the deeper meaning, the love that undergirds all.

The best of all for Julian, is that our Lord is her friend. Christ explains to her that his friendship is like that of a nobleman to a simple commoner: 'The highest honour a person of power can give to a less powerful person is friendliness, especially when he enthusiastically demonstrates his affection, both in private and in public. This makes the less powerful person think, *Oh! How could such a noble being honour me any more completely and give me any greater joy than to share with me (who is so ordinary) his personal friendship? This means far more to me than if he were to lavish me with expensive gifts but treat me in a cold and distant manner.*'

When you look at His face, do you meet with a friend? Can you see the love he has for you?



'Of all the showings revealed to me, the one that gave me the most comfort was that our sweet Lord—who is infinitely exalted and alone is worthy of worship—is also utterly simple and friendly. This realization filled me to overflowing with feelings of delight and soul-safety.

This showing was so vivid and uplifting, it ravished my heart, and in light of his tender intimacy, I lost myself in joy and almost forgot who I was altogether. That's how it is with our sweet Lord. The one who is highest and mightiest, most noble and honourable, is also nearest and gentlest, most humble and accessible. Someday we shall all see him face-to-face, and he will personally manifest his friendship to each one of us. Our Beloved wants us to believe this with all our hearts—to trust in

this and rejoice in it—and use this promise to console ourselves as best we can, with his grace and his help, until the time comes when we experience it for ourselves. As I see it, the greatest blessing we could ever receive is this wonderful courtesy and familiarity from our Father, who is our Creator, through our sweet Jesus Christ, who is our Brother and our Saviour.'

**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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