

St Nicholas Church, Sandhurst

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

Our Worship: Sunday 10th May The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Collect: God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; 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 10th May – The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 17.22-31, John 14.15-21

8 am **1662 BCP HOLY COMMUNION IN THE CHANCEL AT ST GEORGE'S**
led by Revd David Commander

10 am **ALL AGE COMMUNION AT ST NICHOLAS**
led by Revd David Commander & Lyn Hayes

Hymns: 30 *And can it be*
 270 *Jesus is Lord*
 172 *God is working His purpose out*
 4 *At the name of Jesus*
 14 *All heaven declares - Communion*

10 am – 4 pm **Dingleden Open Gardens TN17 4JU – in aid of the St George's Restore:
Renew: Rejoice Project & SignHealth**

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 11 th	8 am	Morning Prayer at the Rectory
	7 pm	Sandhurst PCC meeting at the Mission Church <i>No Sandhurst Home Group tonight</i>
Tuesday 12 th		<i>No Morning Prayer today</i>
	10 am	Holy Communion at the Mission Church led by Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie <i>No Benenden Home Group – next meeting 26th May</i>
Wednesday 13 th	8 am	Morning Prayer at the Mission Church
	9 – 11 am	Drop in Café & Toddler Group at the Mission Church
	7.30 pm	Weald Deanery Synod - Open Meeting – Goudhurst
Thursday 14th	10 – 11.30 am	Rhythm of Life Community Choir at the Mission Church
Ascension Day	7.30 pm	ASCENSION DAY COMMUNION AT ST NICHOLAS led by Revd Rosemary Kobus van Wengen
Friday 15 th	8 am	Morning Prayer at the Rectory
	9 – 11 am	Cakes & Chaos Toddler Group at the Mission Church
	5.30 pm	Wedding Rehearsal at St Nicholas
Saturday 16 th	11 am	Wedding of Joe Pearce & Amrita Dasgupta at St Nicholas conducted by Revd David Commander
	3 pm	Baptism of Iona Stephenson at St Nicholas conducted by Revd Rosemary Kobus van Wengen

Sunday Next: 17th May – The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 1.6-14, John 17.1-11

8 am **1662 BCP HOLY COMMUNION AT ST NICHOLAS**
led by Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie

10 am **SUNG EUCHARIST AT BENENDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL**
led by Revd David Commander & David Harmsworth

Readings: Sunday 10th May – The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17.22-31

²² Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.”

²⁹Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

John 14.15-21

¹⁵ ‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸ ‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.’

Home Groups:

Sandhurst: Next meets **on Monday 18th May**, at 7.30 pm, at the Mission Church.

Benenden: Next meets **on Tuesday 26th May** at 7.30 pm at David & Julia Collard’s.

APM & APCM: Thank you to those who attended the two Annual Meetings at St Nicholas last Monday. You missed an interesting, information and enjoyable talk about the history of your parish church. It was disappointing that so few attended. (Please put next year’s date in your diary now: Monday 19th April 2027.) You also missed that Bob Houlden is stepping down as Churchwarden after fourteen years of service to our church. Thanks were given to Bob for his commitment and dedication to our church.

At the Annual Parish Meeting two Churchwardens were elected: Catherine Elliott and Zena Kemp; thank you both. They will be sworn into office at the Archdeacons’ Visitation Service during Choral Evensong at Canterbury Cathedral, 5:30pm, on Monday 15th June (the date that Bob formally steps down); I hope you might consider coming to the service to support your Churchwardens. Revd David

Sandhurst's Got Talent: Katherine O'Neil and Barbara Simmons organised a wonderful weekend to show off the fabulous creations made by villagers. Model ships, embroidery, lace making, painting, wire animals and birds in mid-flight, acorn creations, knitting, mosiacs and even horse racing. This is a very talented village. The Tombola and Teas raised over £400. On Friday several people and children from the village performed for an audience and showed how many talented children and adults we have in the village. Thank you to all who came and supported the events. Catherine Elliott

Weald Deaner Synod Meeting – Wednesday 13th May at Goudhurst at 7.30 pm. This is an Open Meeting. The guest speaker is Jen Tobin, Diocesan Lead Officer for Children and Young People's Ministry.

Dingleden Open Gardens

TN17 4JU

Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th May 2026

10 am - 4 pm each day

Entry £5. Parking available

in aid of

**St George's Church, Benenden:
'Restore: Renew: Rejoice' project
& the deaf health charity SignHealth**

Judy Williams, Peter & Sylvia Kellett & Steve & Angie Lambert will be opening their gardens.

A unique opportunity to visit these private gardens on the High Weald Landscape Trail.

**The Laurels Nursery & private garden:
A stunning collection of standard wisteria will be in bloom.**

**Barnhill Cottage, garden & vegetable patch:
Light refreshments here.**

**No 3 New Buildings:
The hidden treasure.**

Fundraising in aid of:

<https://signhealth.org.uk/>

<https://stgeorgeschurchbenenden.co.uk/>

Ascension Day Service

Thursday 14th May at 7:30 pm

at St Nicholas

Archdeacons' Visitation Service
Choral Evensong at Canterbury Cathedral
5.30pm on Monday 15th June

*At this service your newly elected Churchwardens
 Catherine Elliott & Zena Kemp will be sworn into office.
 Please consider supporting them and put this date in your diary.*

"Teas in the Churchyard"


Join us at St Nicholas Church
 on Sunday 7th June 2026
 from 2pm until 5pm



Tea and cakes for sale.
 Plant spotting for children.
 See the architecture through the years.
 'Cherish your Churchyard' week



St Nicholas 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
St Nicholas Churchwardens	Bob Houlden Tel: 01580 850 278 E-mail: bob.houlden@btinternet.com (from 15 th June: Zena Kemp) Catherine Elliott Tel: 01580 850 300 E-mail: Elliotts@sandhurstcross.co.uk
St Nicholas Parish Safeguarding Officer	Anne Tylden-Wright Tel: 01580 850 281 - E-mail: tyldenwright@btinternet.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, 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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