



St Benedict's Centre Newsletter

December 2021

We continue to be delighted and grateful that since the summer we have been able to ease back into a rhythm of quiet days and learning here at St Benedict's Centre.

As we move into the season of Advent and Christmas, we can draw strength, hope and inspiration from the words of Isaiah [9.2]:

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined."

It is in that spirit and with that hope, that we introduce two new initiatives this month.

On the very first day of December, we are starting a new pattern of weekly Eucharist services at St Benedict's. They will be held on Wednesdays in the Pilgrim Chapel, starting

at 12.15, and last about 30 minutes. We are grateful to have a group of priests who will share the service.

Everyone is welcome at the Eucharist – so if you are passing please do come.

The other initiative starting in December is 'Walking with Jesus': a series of monthly walks that start out from St Benedict's Centre, reflecting on an aspect of Jesus' life.

The walks are all very easy, taking you through local woods and fields, and the first one will take place on Tuesday 21st December. More information is given below.

Life at St Benedict's Centre

We are delighted that our new bursar, Chinyelu Nwandu who joined us at the Centre at the beginning of November has already settled in very well.



Chichi brings a wealth of insight and experience to her role, stemming from her background in financial services; wealth, investment and relationship management, as well as regulatory compliance. Prior to now, she worked in the banking industry for over 18 years.

She worships and serves at St. Barnabas, St Paul's Cray, Orpington and is currently training as an Licensed Lay Minister.

A follower and friend of Jesus, Chichi is passionate about worship, hospitality and encouraging people. She enjoys a good laugh, and loves spending quality time with her family; she has three teenage daughters and a son.

Chichi will be managing your bookings and is very much looking forward to meeting you when you visit the Centre.

We also remain grateful for our regular volunteers who come to the Centre weekly and others who are able to help welcome guests on a more occasional basis.

We continue to enjoy a very close working and prayerful relationship with the Abbey community as well as tutors and students of St Augustine's College.

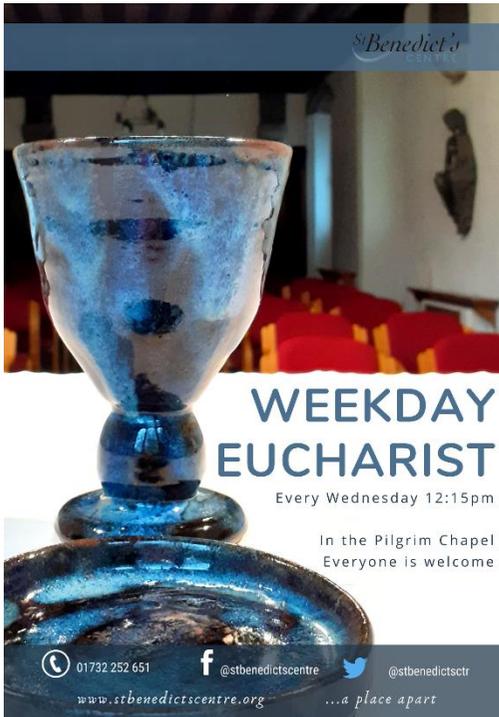
It is really good to be a flourishing place of welcome once again. We look forward to seeing you here soon!



December events at the Centre

Weekly Wednesday Eucharist

1 December, 12.15 – 12.45pm, in the Pilgrim Chapel

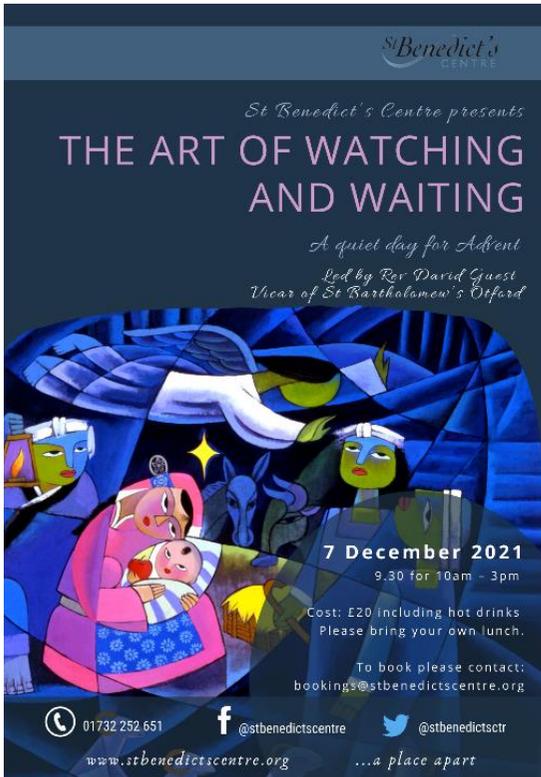


The first of a new pattern of weekly 30-minute Eucharist services at St Benedict's.

No booking required.

Advent Quiet Day: The art of watching and waiting

7 December 2021, 9:30 for 10am – 3pm



St Benedict's Centre

St Benedict's Centre presents

THE ART OF WATCHING AND WAITING

A quiet day for Advent
Led by Rev David Guest
Vicar of St Bartholomew's Otford

7 December 2021
9.30 for 10am - 3pm

Cost: £20 including hot drinks
Please bring your own lunch.

To book please contact:
bookings@stbenedictscentre.org

01732 252 651 @stbenedictscentre @stbenedictscr

www.stbenedictscentre.org ...a place apart

This Quiet Day will be led by Revd David Guest of St Bartholomew's Otford, who will be helping us to be still and prepare ourselves anew for Christmas. Paintings will be used as a springboard for our reflections.

The cost is £20, coffee and tea will be available, but please bring your own lunch.

To book contact bookings@stbenedictscentre.org

Walking with Jesus

Tuesday 21st December 9.30am for 10am – 3.30pm

St Benedict's
CENTRE

WALKING WITH JESUS

a monthly walk from St Benedict's Centre reflecting on an aspect of Jesus' life

St Benedict's Centre
Tuesday 21 December
9.30am for 10am - 3.30pm

Cost £20
Includes hot drinks please bring your own lunch and wear suitable clothing for a potentially muddy walk!

Join us for a leisurely walk through local woods as we reflect on Jesus the light of the world using the Advent cry
O BRIGHT MORNING STAR

To book please contact:
bookings@stbenedictscentre.org
52 Swan Street, West Malling, ME19 6JX

01792 252 651 @stbenedictscentre @stbenedictscnr

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Join us for a leisurely walk through local woods as we reflect on Jesus, light of the world using the Advent cry: "O bright morning star", which the antiphon for the Magnificat set for 23rd December.

It reminds us that Jesus came into darkness as the light of the world.

We will gather at 10am to reflect on this theme before setting off to walk at 10.30, aiming to be back in time to join the Sisters for Sext at 12 noon.

After lunch you will have the opportunity to retrace the morning walk again on your own or with a small group; walk in the Centre grounds, or just to sit and reflect

further on our Advent hope – Jesus, our bright morning star.

We conclude with an act of worship in the Pilgrim chapel at 3pm.

Cost for the day is £20 including hot drinks. Please bring lunch with you and please come prepared for a muddy walk!

To book contact bookings@stbenedictscentre.org

Day Guests



So many people have appreciated the opportunity for a day apart in the current challenges of ministry, and we continue to offer the space to do so

throughout the remaining months of the year leading up to Christmas.

You can book an individual study/retreat room for £12. This includes hot drinks, the use of the beautiful grounds and the opportunity for private prayer in the pilgrim chapel and of joining the Sisters in their offices.

Did you know we offer gift vouchers for individual quiet days – the perfect gift for someone in ministry.

To book your day of rest and retreat, or to purchase a voucher contact: bookings@stbenedictscentre.org.

Don't forget you can find us on:
www.stbenedictscentre.org twitter: @stBenedictsCtr
Facebook: @StBenedictsCentre

Christmas and New Year. Please note the Centre will be closed from 23rd December 2021 – 4th January 2022