

The Parish of St George's, Benenden

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

Our Worship: Sunday 3rd May

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Collect: Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

10am ON-LINE COMMUNION SERVICE

led by Revd David Commander at the Rectory

Service available on-line Sunday morning via the church websites

<http://www.benendenchurch.org/>

<https://stnicholassandhurst.org/>

5pm EVENING PRAYER

led by Revd David Commander at the Rectory

THE WEEK AHEAD

Prayer services are conducted Monday to Saturday by Revd David at the Rectory. Thursday Prayer is also conducted by Revd Rosemary at her home on behalf of the Benefice.

Daily Scripture and Reflection is posted on the St George's website and Facebook page every day of the week. Please take a look.

Sunday Next: Sunday 10th May – The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 7.55-end, John 14.1-14

10am COMMUNION SERVICE

led by Revd David Commander at the Rectory

Service available on-line Sunday morning via the church website

<http://www.benendenchurch.org/>

5pm EVENING PRAYER

We trust you are keeping well in these extraordinary times, and you are surviving the lock-down period. We look forward to being able to meet again to worship our living, loving God together in person. God bless. Revd David

Readings: Sunday 3^d May

Acts 2.42-end

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Life among the Believers

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

John 10.1-10

Jesus the Good Shepherd

¹⁰Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

News and Notices from Revd David:

Email notifications re church services and updates: At present I update 110 people re our online church services via email. If you, or someone you know in the church family would like to be on this email list please do let me know.

"Daily Hope": The Church of England have launched a resource called "Daily Hope"; this is for folk who cannot access the internet. Full details are on our St George's and St Nicholas websites.....but it relies on us passing the information on verbally to those who do not use email or the internet! So please check out our website, find the information about Daily Hope, and pass it on as where you know there is a need.

"Virtual coffee time": Would anyone be interested if I set up a "virtual coffee time" on Zoom immediately after our 10 o'clock service on a Sunday? We can share some fellowship together, with a cup of something, as we usually do at the back of church. If there is some positive feedback I will look at trying to set this up. If you want to, please drop me an email, I will then schedule Zoom meetings for 10:45am and invite you via email with the Zoom meeting details.

Revd David. E-mail: revdavidcommander@gmail.com

PLEASE KEEP AN EYE ON THE CHURCH WEBSITES AND / OR FACEBOOK PAGES FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION REGARDING SERVICES HELD ON LINE AT THE RECTORY. PLEASE JOIN REVD DAVID FOR THESE SERVICES 'IN SPIRIT'.

Church Websites: <http://www.benendenchurch.org/>
<https://stnicholassandhurst.org/>

Church Facebook Pages: @StGeorgesBenenden
@StNicholasSandhurst

A Church Near You: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>

Our church buildings may be closed – but our church is alive and active.

Prayer:

Although the buildings are closed, **it is important that you know that prayer is still happening every day.** I will be saying Morning Prayer at 8am and Evening Prayer at 5pm, Monday to Saturday, at the Rectory. Please join me **"in spirit"** to pray for our community, our nation, and the world. I will be using this resource: "Worship at Home"; follow this link: https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/midweek_worship_at_home_0.pdf for a copy of the Daily Prayer. **If there is something particular you would like prayer for, please send me an email or give me a call.**

On Sunday I will be taking Communion on our behalf – at the Rectory. I encourage you to join me "in spirit". My hope is that we will all be able to gather in our own homes, at 10 o'clock and share, remotely, the Eucharist.

Care:

***"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength . . . Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these."* (Mark 12:30-31)**

Now really is the time to care for your neighbour. Please, pick up the phone, speak to them. We are a strong community, a caring community. Together we will get through this.

Finally, I encourage you to use these prayers when you get up and when you go to bed:

A prayer in the morning:

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, 'I am with you always'.

Be with me today, as I offer myself to you.

Hear my prayers for others and for myself, and keep me in your care. **Amen.**

A prayer in the evening:

God our Father, by whose mercy the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light: we place in your hands our unfinished tasks, our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes, knowing that only what you bless will prosper.

To your love and protection we commit each other and all those we love, knowing that you alone are our sure defender, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** **Revd David**

Contacts			
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