

The Parish of St George's, Benenden

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

Our Worship: Sunday 10th May

The Fifth 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.

10am ON-LINE COMMUNION SERVICE

led by Revd David Commander at the Rectory

This morning we will remember the 75th anniversary of VE Day and also the start of Christian Aid Week

Service available On-line on Sunday morning via the church website:

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

6pm EVENING PRAYER

led by Revd David Commander at the Rectory

THE WEEK AHEAD

8am Morning Prayer

6pm Evening Prayer

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 Nicholas church website and Facebook page every day of the week. Please take a look.

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

Readings: Acts 17.22-31, John 14.15-21

10am COMMUNION SERVICE

led by Revd David Commander at the Rectory

Service available on-line Sunday morning via the church website, as above

6pm 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 10th May

Ezekiel 37.1-14

The Valley of Dry Bones

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord GOD, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.'

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.'

Matthew 25.31-45

The Judgement of the Nations

'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me."

"Virtual coffee time": Immediately after our 10 o'clock service this Sunday we have "virtual coffee time" via Zoom. Time to share some fellowship together, with a cup of something, as we usually do at the back of church. To join the meeting click the link on the Church website or Facebook pages. Or type in:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73791295584?pwd=Y0xTZ0k0K0crTIBkdDRnS0JoTzUrZz09>

Meeting ID: 737 9129 5584

Password: 9bNBcp



Christian Aid Week 10-16 May

Christian Aid Week (CAW) gives us an opportunity to celebrate and share the lifesaving work Christian Aid undertakes with your support. Last year CAW raised over £7.5 million through a combination of church collections, events, and house-to-house fundraising. As I am sure you understand, sadly, due to the coronavirus outbreak, much of our usual fundraising cannot go ahead this year. We value our volunteers enormously and want to ensure you all keep safe when fundraising for CAW.

In these challenging times many churches have already made bold steps, streaming services online and harnessing technology and social media to reach out to communities. In this way we hope that our supporters will be able to continue to donate. We will not be collecting door-to-door. Instead, we have set up an online JustGiving page. Our target is to raise £3000 and all donations will go directly to Christian Aid. Every little helps.

Should you wish to donate, please go to:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/benenden-idengreencaw

I very much hope that you are able to join us in celebration and support of Christian Aid Week this year as we pray for all those affected by this new virus.

Tracy Claridge

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.

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

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