

# The Parish of St George's, Benenden

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

## Our Worship: Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May

## The Seventh Sunday of Easter

**Collect:** O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, 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

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

<http://www.benendenchurch.org/> or via the following links:

Service video (available from 8am Sunday): <https://youtu.be/Yq6ajqUnmOk>

Service booklet: <https://1drv.ms/b/s!Agkc8nXuU17kgusrq2rnlA2mFRskpQ?e=DRyhaG>

**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/74696373479?pwd=cUxWa05uK3ZqSmY0UGRhSTFrQVpoZz09>

Meeting ID: 746 9637 3479

Password: 6jLGZa

### 6pm EVENING PRAYER

led by Revd David Commander at the Rectory

### THE WEEK AHEAD

8am Morning Prayer – every day

6pm Evening Prayer – every day

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

**Daily Scripture and Reflection is posted on the St Nicholas & St George's church websites and Facebook pages every day of the week. Please take a look.**

**PLEASE KEEP AN EYE ON THE CHURCH WEBSITES AND / OR FACEBOOK PAGES FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION REGARDING SERVICES HELD ON-LINE. PLEASE DO 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/>

**Sunday Next: Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May – Day of Pentecost – Whit Sunday**

**Readings: Acts 2.1-21, John 20.19-23**

**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**

**Readings: Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May**

**Acts 1.6-14**

***The Ascension of Jesus***

<sup>1.6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' <sup>7</sup>He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

***Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas***

<sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. <sup>13</sup>When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup>All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

**John 17.1-11 Jesus**

***Prays for His Disciples***

<sup>17.1</sup> After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup> since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup>And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup>So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. <sup>6</sup> 'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; <sup>8</sup> for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup>All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup>And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

**Sad News & Prayers:** You may have heard of the passing of Margaret Sampson (she used to live in Standen Street) on 6<sup>th</sup> May. Margaret's funeral will take place as a committal service in the churchyard at St George's at 11am on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May. Please hold the family in your prayers.

## **Partial re-opening of our churches!**

St George's Church, St Nicholas Church and the Mission Church are now open for the following:

- All key-holders can now go into church if it is essential to do so. (If more than one key-holder is in church at the same time then social distancing will be observed. Those entering church must hand-sanitise on entry.)
- For Morning Prayer: Revd David will conduct Morning Prayer from St George's church (or from his study) at 8am – when it is expedient to do so. (This will, regrettably, be *behind closed-doors*.) When restrictions are lifted further, then Revd David's Tuesday and Wednesday Morning Prayer will resume from the Mission Church.
- Worship will continue as recorded services streamed on YouTube until at least the end of June. David and Helen will start recording these services in the sanctuary of St George's church.

**Full re-opening of our churches: At the very earliest this will be early July; but we await further guidance from the Diocese nearer the time.**

### **Ascension to Pentecost: 9-Days of prayer: "Novena..... Thy Kingdom Come":**

A 'novena' is an ancient Christian tradition – it is a nine-day period of prayer that traditionally falls between Ascension (when Jesus physically departed earth for heaven) and Pentecost (when the first disciples were gifted with the presence of the Holy Spirit.) It marks a time when Jesus' disciples are said to have prayed constantly – stuck in an 'in-between place', waiting to see what God would do next.

Every year, the Diocese of Canterbury marks this time by creating a booklet of scripture, prayers and artwork for each day of the Novena.

Our Novena theme for 2020 is "Listening on the Way". The scriptures chosen for these 9 days reflect encounters that have shaped Jesus and his followers through the centuries. These encounters - and the opportunities they offer - reveal our spiritual needfulness and underline the call to journey onwards, guided by the Spirit in challenging times. Each day's reflection invites us to pause and purposefully invite the Holy Spirit to engage with us through art, scripture and prayer.

Links will be posted on the St Nicholas and St George's church websites. Alternatively, please go to the Canterbury Diocese website:

<https://www.canterburydiocese.org/our-life/prayer/prayer-resources/novena-/novena-.php> for the resources. There you can also sign-up for a daily email to receive the resources each morning automatically.

### **Sunday Cash Collections (*From our Treasurer*)**

Since the lockdown there have been no cash plate/bag collections and, as expected, our collection income has dropped. (By approx. £2200 over 11 weeks.) If you are usually a cash contributor or a one-off white envelope donor and would like to continue your donations then please consider making a BACs transfer. The St George's Church PCC bank account details are as follows:

Benenden PCC Planned Giving  
Sort Code 60 06 18  
A/c No 59034742

White Envelope (Gift Aid) donors can download a form (attached) and send it to Clive Turner [clive\\_turner@btinternet.com](mailto:clive_turner@btinternet.com)

Your continued support of our church and the work we do is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

## Contacts

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<b>Priests</b>	<b>Revd David Commander, Rector</b> The Rectory, The Green, Benenden, Kent TN17 4DL Tel: 01580 240 658 E-mail: <a href="mailto:revdavidcommander@gmail.com">revdavidcommander@gmail.com</a> (N.B. The Rector's day off is Thursday)  <b>Revd Dr Rosemary Kobus van Wengen</b> Tel: 01580 764 857 Email: <a href="mailto:rosemaryvanwengen@gmail.com">rosemaryvanwengen@gmail.com</a>		
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