

# The Parish of St George's, Benenden

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

## Our Worship: Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June

### The First Sunday after Trinity

**Collect:** O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; 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

**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/aR527pzM0yw>

**Service booklet:** <https://1drv.ms/b/s!Agkc8nXuU17kgvMIWhsXxd5myRBqqA?e=ejiZc8>

#### 10.45am Zoom Virtual Coffee Morning, 10:45am:

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.

**Meeting ID: 746 9637 3479 Password: 7gD3Ry**

#### 6pm EVENING PRAYER

conducted by Revd David Commander at the Rectory

### THE WEEK AHEAD

8am Morning Prayer – at St George's on Monday, Wednesday & Friday & at the Mission Church on Tuesday (**please see notice below**).

6pm Evening Prayer – every day

Daily prayer services are conducted daily by Revd David at the Rectory – unless indicated above or conducted by Revd Rosemary at her home.

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 21<sup>st</sup> June – The Second Sunday after Trinity**

### **10am COMMUNION SERVICE**

led by Revd David Commander at the Rectory

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

### **6pm EVENING PRAYER**

#### **Readings: Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June**

##### ***Romans 5:1-8***

##### ***Results of Justification***

<sup>5.1</sup>Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. <sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

##### ***Matthew 9:35-10:8***

##### ***The Harvest Is Great, the Labourers Few***

<sup>9.35</sup> Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. <sup>36</sup>When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup>Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; <sup>38</sup>therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

##### ***The Twelve Apostles***

<sup>10</sup>Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. <sup>2</sup>These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; <sup>3</sup>Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup>Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

##### ***The Mission of the Twelve***

<sup>5</sup> These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, <sup>6</sup>but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup>As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." <sup>8</sup>Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

## **Opening of churches for individual private prayer (St George's Benenden)**

### **Iss. 2 (Update: Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June)**

I am sure you will have heard the news about the easing of restrictions so that we may consider opening our church buildings for individual private prayer from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June. This is welcome news and a step towards being able to worship in church again (in some way) in the future. The Churchwardens and I have met to discuss if we felt we could open our church buildings in a safe way and, if so, how to do this. I am delighted to say that as of Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June St George's Church will be open for individual private prayer. To ensure this can be done safely for everyone the following has been agreed:

- The church building will have had a "spring clean" by Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June.
- The church will be open – unsupervised\* - from 9am to 5pm, seven days a week.
- I will conduct Morning Prayer at 8am at St George's on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. You may, if you are around, join me in private prayer whilst I conduct the Daily Office. (Social distancing must be observed.)
- The north-door door handles (internal and external) will be sanitised every day when the church is unlocked.
- Hand sanitiser will be provided in the porch and inside the church. Everyone must use the hand sanitiser on entry to - and exit from - the church. (There will also be E45 cream to use as well for those with sensitive skin conditions.)
- No one should come into the church for individual private prayer if they have Covid-19 symptoms or have been in contact with someone in the last 14-days who has the symptoms
- Social distancing (2m) must be maintained if more than one person is in the church at the same time.
- Notices will be prominently displayed regarding hand sanitising, social distancing, and the restriction if you have symptoms,
- The open-plan area at the back of the church will be cordoned off, and all paperwork has been removed to reduce "multiple contact" surfaces. (I am working on a way to try and provide prayer resources that can be used in church that minimise the risk of transfer of the virus.)
- The church will be cleaned once a week - as previously - but pew shelves (a potential point of multiple-contact) will be sanitised not just dusted.

\*Ideally we would like the church to be manned when it is open. This to provide a personal welcome to people, but also so that we can encourage everyone to hand sanitise on entry/exit; we can also then gauge the "footfall" into church and assess whether we can relax any of the above or need to do more to ensure the safety of all. If you feel you can volunteer some time, either during the week or at a weekend, then please contact me. (And if no one visits when you are there it would also be a wonderful time for you to have your own peace and quiet with God in a place of sanctuary and centuries of prayer.)

Caution: The restrictions have been eased, but the virus has not gone away; it is still a serious threat. We all need to play our part in keeping our church open for private prayer. If we do not all comply with the requirements to hand sanitise and social distance then it will simply delay the day we can open the churches for worship.

I look forward to seeing you in church at some time for prayer or just for a chat, and to the day when we can worship together. In the meantime: keep well, keep safe and keep praying. God bless. Revd David Commander