

The Parish of St George's, Benenden

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

Our Worship: Sunday 21st June The Second Sunday after Trinity

Collect: Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you. Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake, 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/JDL8p-xg_tE

Service booklet: <https://1drv.ms/b/s!Aqkc8nXuU17kgvMIWhsXxd5myRBqqA?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: 753 6250 0502 Password: 2RpSWX

6pm EVENING PRAYER

conducted by Revd David Commander at the Rectory

THE WEEK AHEAD

8am Morning Prayer this week – at St George's on Monday & Friday this week. At the Mission Church on Tuesday **(please see notice below re the safe opening of our churches).**

6pm Evening Prayer – every day (but not Wednesday this week).

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 28th June – The Third 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 21st June

Romans 6:1b-11 Dying and Rising with Christ

⁶ 1b Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 10:24-39 24

'A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; ²⁵it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

Whom to Fear

²⁶ 'So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. ³⁰And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³² 'Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; ³³but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

Not Peace, but a Sword

³⁴ 'Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

³⁶ and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

³⁷Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

St. George's Church open for individual private prayer

I hope you may have found an occasion to pop into church for some quiet time with God in the past week.

If you haven't.....try and find some time this coming week.

Thank you to the Churchwardens for their hard work in making this happen, to the team of cleaners, and to those who have volunteered to man the church for a few hours so that there are occasions when there is a welcoming face and voice too. (Don't forget to hand-sanitise on entry and exit, and to maintain social distancing!) There are prayer resources available for your use; please DO NOT put these back but take them away with you after you have used them. If you want to read some scripture when you're in church, please bring your own Bible. Revd David

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

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 15th 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 15th 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 15th 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