

# The Benefice of St George's, Benenden

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

## & St Nicholas, Sandhurst

**Our Worship: Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August**

**The Eighth Sunday after Trinity**

**Collect:** Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August - Benefice Services:**

*Readings: Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21*

- 8am**            **HOLY COMMUNION AT ST NICHOLAS, SANDHURST**  
led by Revd Rosemary Kobus van Wengen
- 10am**          **HOLY COMMUNION AT ST GEORGE'S, BENENDEN**  
led by Revd Rosemary Kobus van Wengen

### **THE WEEK AHEAD**

*Revd David is currently on holiday, returning on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August.  
Should you require the services of a Priest during this time please contact  
your Churchwardens:*

*St Nicholas: Anne Tylden-Wright Tel 850 281*

*St George's: David Collard Tel 241 944 and Tracy Claridge Tel 240 454*

### **Sunday Next: Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August – The Ninth Sunday after Trinity**

*Readings: Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33*

- 8am**            **HOLY COMMUNION AT ST GEORGE'S, BENENDEN**  
led by Revd Rosemary Kobus van Wengen
- 10am**          **HOLY COMMUNION AT ST NICHOLAS, SANDHURST**  
led by Revd Rosemary Kobus van Wengen

**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 OUR CHURCH SERVICES**

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

**Facebook Pages:**    @StGeorgesBenenden                    @StNicholasSandhurst

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

# Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance for churches

**LATEST ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
DATED 31<sup>st</sup> JULY 2020**

The Prime Minister has outlined plans to make face coverings mandatory in Places of Worship from 8<sup>th</sup> August and has withdrawn guidance to permit indoor professional performances with immediate effect. We will study detailed government regulations and guidance once they are available and will update our guidance accordingly.

In the meantime, we continue to strongly advise that face coverings should be worn by all those attending a place of worship, including ministers, worshippers, staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors, where there may be other people present; remembering that they are mainly intended to protect other people, not the wearer, from coronavirus (COVID-19) and that they are not a replacement for physical distancing and regular hand washing.

**Last updated: Friday 31 July at 15:35**

**Readings: Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August – 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**Romans 9:1-5**

**God's Election of Israel**

<sup>9</sup>I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—<sup>2</sup>I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. <sup>3</sup>For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup>They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; <sup>5</sup>to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

**Matthew 14:13-21**

**Feeding the Five Thousand**

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. <sup>14</sup>When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. <sup>15</sup>When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' <sup>17</sup>They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' <sup>18</sup>And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' <sup>19</sup>Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. <sup>20</sup>And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. <sup>21</sup>And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

**Wearing of face masks: NB PLEASE NOTE THE LATEST CHURCH OF ENGLAND ANNOUNCEMENT, ISSUED 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY, DETAILED ABOVE.**

The latest Guidelines from the Church of England were issued in our Diocese by Bishop Rose on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July. There are two Q&A's to draw to your attention:

**1.Q. *Should I wear a face covering in a church building?***

**A. *Face coverings are currently mandatory on public transport and will be mandatory in shops and in supermarkets from 24 July 2020. People are also encouraged to wear face coverings in enclosed public spaces where there are people they do not normally meet, such as a place of worship.***

***We strongly advise that face coverings should be worn by all those attending a place of worship, including ministers, worshippers, staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors, where there may be other people present; remembering that they are mainly intended to protect other people, not the wearer, from coronavirus COVID-19 and that they are not a replacement for physical distancing and regular hand washing.***

It then goes on:

**3. Q. *Why should we wear face coverings?***

**A. *Coronavirus (COVID-19) can spread predominantly by droplets and perhaps aerosols from coughs, sneezes and speaking. The best available scientific evidence is that, when used correctly, wearing a face covering can reduce the spread of coronavirus droplets in certain circumstances, helping to protect others. Because face coverings are mainly intended to protect others, not the wearer, from coronavirus (COVID-19) they are not a replacement for physical distancing and regular hand washing.***

It became mandatory to wear a face covering in shops in England from the 24<sup>th</sup> July; it has been mandatory on public transport for some time. No one will be barred from coming into church if they are not wearing a face covering; it is your choice. This is however the first time the CoE has, to my knowledge, used the expression, "We strongly advise" in their Guidelines, so I simply ask you to consider the advice for yourself and for others. (Disposable face coverings are available at church as you enter.)

As the wearing of face coverings is for the "protection of others", it would seem pastorally insensitive if I, as the parish priest, did not. (The use of a face visor does not comply with the definition of a face covering in these new Guidelines - as it does not sit securely round the side of the face.) I will therefore be wearing a face mask at services from Sunday, and have asked the rest of the Ministry Leadership Team to do the same - at least when they are leading. I realise that this will cause upset for some who will consider it unnecessary, but for others it will allay their anxiety. The virus has not gone away. As we meet more people the risk of transmission is increased; hence the advice to wear a face covering in a building when other people are present.

Revd David

## **St. George's and St Nicholas Church are open for public worship "Praise the Lord!"**

**But we are not "back to normal"; there are many restrictions:**

- Everyone must hand sanitise on entry and exit.
- Everyone is strongly advised to wear a face mask (available in church) **NB: EVERYONE MUST wear a face mask from 8<sup>th</sup> August 2020.**
- Everyone must 2m social distance at all times. "Households" can sit together.
- Use alternate pews (Marked with "green tick" and "red cross").
- A register of names of people attending is being kept for 21 days.
- If someone is in the "70+" or another "vulnerable, at risk" group, they are advised not to come to church. But it is your choice; you will be very welcome if you do come. (But as part of the Government guidelines we have to advise of the increased risk in an indoor public gathering.)
- Organ music, but no hymns, at the 10 o'clock service.
- Communion distribution (wafer only) standing at the chancel step; plus one-way system to return. The priest will wear a face visor during distribution. (Only the priest to receive the wine.)
- Service Booklet to basket when leaving. These will be quarantined for at least 48hrs.
- No refreshments or fellowship time after the service, in church nor in the churchyard.
- Exit: St. George's - north and west doors; St. Nicholas - west door.
- Numbers will also be limited. (We estimate that St. George's can seat 60 people in "households" and St. Nicholas 40 at the 2m social distance.)

Our 8am and 10am Sunday services continue to alternate weekly between St. George's and St Nicholas. Hopefully each week we will have some bells rung for 15 minutes prior to the 10 o'clock service at the relevant church.

The Risk Assessment is available on the website, should you wish to read the detail. This will be reviewed, and if necessary amended, as required.

I look forward to worshipping God with you.

Revd David