

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 9th August

The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Collect: Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church: open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; 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.

Sunday 9th August - Benefice Services:

Readings: 1 Kings 19:9-18; Matthew 14:22-33

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

THE WEEK AHEAD

*Revd David returns from holiday on Friday 14th August.
Should you require the services of a Priest while he is away 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 16th August – The Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Readings: Romans 11:1-2a & 29-32, Matthew 15:21-28

- 8am** **HOLY COMMUNION AT ST NICHOLAS, SANDHURST**
led by Revd David Commander
- 10am** **HOLY COMMUNION AT ST GEORGE'S, BENENDEN**
led by Revd David Commander & Vicki Young

**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/>



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance for churches

Last updated:

Wednesday 5 August at 17:38

WHO NEEDS TO WEAR A FACE COVERING DURING SERVICES?

We understand that the Government intends to issue the following guidance in the coming days, subject to final approval:

In England, face coverings are currently required by law to be worn in shops, supermarkets, indoor transport hubs, indoor shopping centres, banks, building societies, post offices and on public transport.

From 8 August, face coverings are also required by law to be worn in a greater number of public indoor settings including places of worship, museums, galleries, cinemas and public libraries.

*There are valid exemptions for some individuals and groups not to wear a face covering in these settings. In particular, **those who are leading services** or events in a place of worship, and those who assist them (for instance by **reading, preaching, or leading prayer**) do not always need to wear a face covering, although one should be worn especially if physical distancing cannot be maintained (i.e. distributing consumables). This exemption does not apply to worshippers, who should wear face coverings consistent with the requirements for any other public space.*

We will update our detailed guidance documents once the government has published the revised regulations and guidance.

(downloaded from the Church of England website: 06 09 20)

Readings: Sunday 9th August - 9th Sunday after Trinity

(NB first reading changed from the schedule, as requested by Revd Rosemary)

1 Kings 19.9-18

⁹At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' ¹⁰He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.'

Elijah Meets God at Horeb

¹¹ He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; ¹²and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' ¹⁴He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.' ¹⁵Then the LORD said to him, 'Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.'

Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus Walks on the Water

²² Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

²⁸ Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' ²⁹He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. ³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' ³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

Bellringing at St George's: It is hoped that regular weekly bellringing practice at St George's will resume on a Wednesday evening. Confirmation to follow but Wednesday weekly practice usually takes place from 7 to 9pm.

All necessary Covid19 government regulations re social distancing and the wearing of masks will be adhered to. Likely practice times may be from 7.30 to 8.30pm whilst the regulations are in place.

Wearing of face masks: NB PLEASE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE LATEST CHURCH OF ENGLAND ANOUNCEMENT, ABOVE.

The latest Guidelines from the Church of England were issued in our Diocese by Bishop Rose on the 23rd 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 24th 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: FACEMASKS MUST be worn by the congregation in church from 8th 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