

The Benefice of St George's, Benenden & St Nicholas, Sandhurst

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

Our Worship: Sunday 13th September The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

Collect: Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; 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 13th September - Benefice Services:

Readings: Readings: Readings: Romans 14.1-12, Matthew 18.21-35

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

10am **HOLY COMMUNION AT ST NICHOLAS, SANDHURST**
led by Lyn Hayes & Revd Rosemary Kobus van Wengen

THE WEEK AHEAD

8am **Morning Prayer – at St George's on Monday, Wednesday & Friday**
– at the Mission Church, Sandhurst on Tuesday

10am **Alternate Tuesdays – first service being 15th September**
Holy Communion at the Mission Church, Sandhurst

Friday 18th September

6pm – Wedding Rehearsal at St George's

Saturday 19th September

3pm – Wedding of Phoebe Parvin & Luke Smith at St George's

Sunday Next: Sunday 20th September– The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Readings: Philippians 1.21-end, Matthew 20.1-16

8am **HOLY COMMUNION AT ST NICHOLAS, SANDHURST**
led by Ylva Blid-Mackenzie & Revd David Commander

10am **HOLY COMMUNION AT ST GEORGE'S, BENENDEN**
led by Ylva Blid-Mackenzie & Revd David Commander

Readings: Sunday 13th September – 14th Sunday after Trinity

Romans 14.1-12

Do Not Judge Another

¹⁴Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.'

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Matthew 18.21-35

Forgiveness

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' ²²Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

²³ 'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." ²⁹Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

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/>

COVID19 - UPDATE FROM THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Last updated Friday 11th September at 09.30

The Government has announced that new regulations relating to the 'rule of six' are being prepared.

Those regulation will not come into effect until Monday September 14th 2020.

Until then all of the current advice continues to apply as before. The Church of England is engaging with the Government and will provide new advice to churches but we do not expect to be in a position to provide that *until the week beginning September 14th*

Regarding this week's announcement by the Government, and the latest Church of England update, above, I have proposed the following to the Churchwardens: (*decisions to be confirmed asap*). For now we:

- *Carry on* with the Sunday and the midweek Communion services.
- *Carry on* with the Sandhurst APCM at St. Nicholas Church on Monday 14th September. (On the basis this is not a "social gathering" but church business; and we have Covid restrictions in place: hand sanitising, 2m distancing, and face coverings.)
- *Review* the Benenden APCM when the new guidelines are issued next week
- *Suspend* "Blend" until the "rule of 6" has been lifted. (The "6" includes children; and Blend is a social event not worship.)

Revd David

**St Nicholas Church APCM
7pm - Monday 14th September
in St Nicholas Church**

**St George's Church APCM
scheduled for
7.30pm – 23rd September
in St George's Church**

St Nicholas: The Churchyard has been put to bed for the winter! Huge thanks to Bob Houlden who has spent many, many hours in recent weeks tidying the Garden of Remembrance. Now that the flowers have set seed, he has strimmed the Churchyard. Thank you Bob - it looks great. ATW

Please note – the relaunch of the THE WEALD GREENHOUSE – VIA ZOOM – on Thursday 17th September has been postponed. It is felt that the timing for this is now not right.

**Sponsored Pilgrimage Walk from Etchingam to Canterbury
by Phillip Hinde, PCC Treasurer of The Assumption of Blessed Mary
& St Nicholas, Etchingam**

“Back in May I had planned a Christian Aid fundraising pilgrimage walk from my home parish in Etchingam to Canterbury (a couple of years ago I did a successful walk from Etchingam to our own mother church in Chichester). Because of Covid that was curtailed and during Christian Aid Week itself, due to the lock-down, I was only able to walk to our neighbouring parish of Salehurst and to the historic site of Robertsbridge Abbey. However generous sponsors helped me reach my initial fundraising target of £1500 and, to repay their faith, I will be setting out in the third week of September to complete my route and hopefully raise a few more £s.

I plan to pass St Nicholas Church, Sandhurst at around 2.30pm on Tuesday 15th September. Meeting people, as I did when I walked to Chichester, is difficult, but I hope you will at least hold me and the work of Christian Aid in your thoughts and prayers.”

Phillip has a flier ‘Walking to Canterbury 2020 – A difficult pilgrimage!’ (copies in church). Any sponsorship would be most welcome to help him reach his new target of £2,000.

More info at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Phillip-Hinde>

Contacts

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Priests	Revd David Commander, Rector. The Rectory, The Green, Benenden, TN17 4DL Tel: 01580 240 658 E-mail: revdavidcommander@gmail.com <i>(NB The Rector’s day off is Thursday)</i> Revd Dr Rosemary Kobus van Wengen Tel: 01580 764 857 Email: rosemaryvanwengen@gmail.com