

St George's Church, Benenden

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

Our Worship: Sunday 2nd May The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Collect: Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 2nd May – The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 8.26-end, John 15.1-8

PUBLIC WORSHIP IN CHURCH

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

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 3 rd		Bank Holiday
Tuesday 4 th	8am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
Wednesday 5 th	8am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
Friday 7 th	8am	Morning Prayer via Zoom

Zoom link to Morning Prayer:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3971102878?pwd=UkpkY2R2Z1lXbmJqNUdzdzB2RVZUUT09>

Meeting ID: 397 110 2878 Passcode: 658989

Sunday Next: 9th May – The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 10.44-end, John 15.9-17

PUBLIC WORSHIP IN CHURCH

- 8 am** **HOLY COMMUNION AT ST GEORGE'S**
led by Revd Rosemary Kobus van Wengen & David Harmsworth
- 10 am** **HOLY COMMUNION AT ST NICHOLAS**
led by Lyn Hayes, David Harmsworth & Revd Rosemary Kobus van Wengen

Readings: Sunday 2nd May– The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8.26-end

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

²⁶ Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' ³¹ He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.'

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

John 15.1-8

Jesus the True Vine

¹⁵ I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

**St. George's Annual Parochial Church Meeting is on
Monday 24th May 2021 at 7.30 pm in the church**

Before then nominations are needed for new PCC members.

There are four vacancies for a three-year term and one vacancy for a one-year term. There are also elections for two Churchwardens and two Deanery Synod Representative for two years. If you know anyone who might like to take up one of these vacancies, please give them encouragement. A folder has been left at the back of the church with some information and application forms. Advice can be obtained from Rev. David Commander, David Collard or myself.

Soon after the beginning of May I will be leaving invitation letters to the APCM to all church members on the Electoral Roll. I would be grateful if you could collect your letter and perhaps deliver any to those who live near you.

Julia Collard, PCC Secretary

Prayers: Those of you who knew **Wendy Clifford**, who was for many years a member of our congregation at St George's, will be sad to know that she has died, at the age of 91. She died peacefully at home on Easter morning after a short illness. We remember Wendy, and her family, in our prayers. Revd Rosemary

Please pray for the family of **Shirley Foss**, who passed away on Friday 16th April at Staplehurst Manor Care Home. Shirley would have been 93 years old on Monday 19th.

Shirley's funeral is to take place on Monday 17th May at 10.45am at Charing Crematorium. Attendance is limited due to Covid restrictions and is by invitation from the family only please. The service, led by Revd Christopher Smith, will however be live-streamed and will be available to view for 28-days after the service. The service can be accessed using the following link, username, and password:

<https://www.obitus.com/>

Username: pefi2843

Password: 827256

The following notes regarding the live webcast have been provided by the Funeral Directors:

You can login to our website at any time to view a test connection (and we strongly recommend you do this) but you'll only be able to view the Live Webcast approx. 5 mins before the service start time. Please be aware this is a public building and the timing of the Live webcast is semi-automated to allow for services running early or late – please use your discretion if you can see activities not applicable to the service you are here to watch. Once the service has finished, it will take us up to 3 working days to get the 28-day Watch Again onto the website.

The revision of the Electoral Roll closes today, Sunday, 2nd May. Application forms can be found at the back of the church. Anyone wishing to apply to join the roll should fill in an application form and hand it to David Collard or deliver it to 7 Fuggles Court asap.

A little bit more normality returns! Assuming there are no further restrictions imposed and the four-stage Government road-map out of Covid continues, we are planning on:

Recommencing the midweek Communion service on Tuesday 18th May
(10am on Tuesdays at the Mission Church) and

Recommencing the Toddler Groups in both parishes: these will restart the week commencing 7th June. (We considered restarting on 19th May, but then there would be only two sessions before we broke up for half-term.) The toddler group in Sandhurst will restart on Wednesday 9th June, 9-11am at the Mission Church. "Cakes & Chaos" will restart on Friday 11th June, 9-11am, at St. George's Church.

The fourth stage of the Government Covid recovery road-map, with all restrictions lifted, does not come into effect until the 21st June at the earliest. So, until the end of June numbers at the toddler groups will have to be restricted. Please contact Helen for more details. (T: 01580 240658 E: helenjcommander@gmail.com)

Ascension Day - Thursday 13th May

**There will be a Communion service at St George's Church
at 7.30pm to mark the ascension.**



Christian Aid week 2021

Tracy Claridge has set up a Benenden & Iden Green JustGiving page for Christian Aid 2021. Our target this year is £3,000.

The JustGiving link is available via the St George's Church website and Facebook pages.

Or access the page from your mobile phone using this QR code:



Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. When you donate your money is sent directly to Christian Aid. So it is the most efficient way to give - saving time and cutting costs for the charity

St George's Church Choir

Dates for the diary:

Thursday 27th May. Choir practice in church 7-8pm
for Sundays 30th May and 6th June.
Thursday 17th June. Choir practice in church 7-8pm
for Sunday 20th June. Richard Fisher

Fundraising for the Weald Family Hub & Benenden Church of England Primary School

Many of you know Lindsay Roberts, the Executive Headteacher at Benenden Primary School. At the end of May Lindsay is doing a skydive to raise funds for the Weald Family Hub, our primary school and Goudhurst & Kilndown Primary School.

To find out more, and to sponsor Lindsay please take a look at her Just Giving page:
<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/lindsay-roberts-3>

Benenden Memorial Hall

We hope to be able to open the hall from 21st June for normal use.
We may be able to open for small groups from 17th May.
Applications to rent the hall should still be sent to Jackie Liffen:
Email: memhall@daisystar.co.uk

Contacts: St George's Church, Benenden

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St George's Churchwarden	Mr David Collard Tel: 01580 241 944 E-mail: julia.collard@btinternet.com
St George's Parish Safeguarding Officer	Ian Malaugh Tel: 01580 240 999 E-mail: ianmal@sky.com
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 Ylva Blid-Mackenzie, Curate Tel: 01233 820100 Mobile: 07766 711957 Email: rev.ylva@gmail.com Revd Dr Rosemary Kobus van Wengen Tel: 01580 764 857 Email: rosemaryvanwengen@gmail.com