

The Parish of St George's, Benenden

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

Our Worship: Sunday 28th June The Third Sunday after Trinity

Collect: Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father: give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God; 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.

10am ON-LINE COMMUNION SERVICE

led by Revd David Commander at the Rectory

Bishop Rose is preaching

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/ZEGgLm9_4d0

Service booklet: <https://1drv.ms/b/s!Agkc8nXuU17kqvMIWhsXxd5myRBqqA?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: 711 1459 4387 Password: 5pB4wR

6pm EVENING PRAYER

conducted by Revd David Commander at the Rectory

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

(please see notice below re the safe opening of our churches).

6pm Evening Prayer – every day

Evening prayer is conducted by Revd David at the Rectory.

Thursday's Morning Prayer is 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 5th July – The Fourth 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 28th June

Genesis 22.1-14 The Command to Sacrifice Isaac

22.1 After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.'
2He said, 'Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt-offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.'
3So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt-offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him.
4On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away.
5Then Abraham said to his young men, 'Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.'
6Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together.
7 Isaac said to his father Abraham, 'Father!' And he said, 'Here I am, my son.'
He said, 'The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?'
8Abraham said, 'God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt-offering, my son.'
So the two of them walked on together.
9 When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.
10Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son.
11But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.'
12He said, 'Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.'
13And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt-offering instead of his son.
14So Abraham called that place 'The Lord will provide'; as it is said to this day, 'On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Matthew 10.40-end Rewards

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

10.40 'Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.
41Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous;
42and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

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 or so.

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.

There has also been the news that we can consider opening for public worship from next weekend. This we would like to do, but we are still awaiting the guidelines from the CoE and the Diocese giving the restrictions that we will have to adhere to in order to do this. Until we get this and have reviewed it I cannot pass on any details of what we'll be doing. (i.e. what services there will be, where they'll be, what time they'll be; nor whether we will be having a Communion service, or if we'll be allowed to sing etc. etc.

**I wish I could tell you more - I will as soon as I can; but it is all very frustrating presently.
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