

The Parish of St Nicholas, Sandhurst

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

Our Worship: Sunday 22nd November Christ the King (The Sunday Next before Advent)

Collect: God the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory.

Sunday 22nd November – Christ the King

Readings: Ephesians 1.15-end, Matthew 25.31-end

10.00am **ON LINE HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE**
followed by coffee and chat on Zoom

Links to all Sunday services and Zoom meetings are posted on the church website, Facebook and A Church Near You pages shortly before the service.

Website: <https://stnicholassandhurst.org/>
Facebook Page: [@StNicholasSandhurst](https://www.facebook.com/StNicholasSandhurst)
A Church Near You: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com>

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 23rd	8am	Morning Prayer at St George's (closed service) Funeral of t/l Daisy Deadman (private service)
Tuesday 24th	8am	Morning Prayer at the Mission Church (closed service)
Wednesday 25th	8am	Morning Prayer at St George's (closed service)
Friday 27th	8am	Morning Prayer at St George's (closed service)

Sunday Next: Sunday 29th November – The First Sunday of Advent

Readings: 1 Corinthians 1.3-9, Mark 13.24-end

10am **ON LINE HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE**
followed by coffee and chat on Zoom

**Due to the Covid lockdown, there is no public worship in church during November. However, please make use the church though for individual private prayer whenever you want to.
Prayer resources are available in Church.**

Readings: Sunday 22nd November

Ephesians 1.15-end

Paul's Prayer

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Matthew 25.31-end

The Judgement of the Nations

³¹ 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

Prayers:

Daisy Deadman passed away on 30th October. Her funeral is taking place at St Nicholas Church on Monday 23rd November, followed by a Committal service at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium. Please hold her daughters, Irene Vidler and Jean Moore, in your prayers.

A Different Christmas

We will, hopefully, be coming out of lockdown on 2nd December and able to start thinking what Christmas might be like this year and how we will celebrate it together and with family. Over the last month or so I have been trying to re-imagine how we are going to conduct services under the Covid restrictions. The planned schedule of services will be publicised.....but may, of course, be subject to change!

Advent Sunday (29th Nov), occurs during lockdown. There will be an Advent "Service of Light" at St George's Church Benenden, but just delayed by one week to the 6th December – starting at 5pm, and slightly adapted. *The church* (we who gather) will be surrounded by candlelight rather than holding individual candles; we will have a service of readings, prayers and the choir singing five Advent carols. At the end of the service everyone will be invited to take an Advent candle and a prayer-card home for use each day through Advent.

The Parish Carol Service usually gathers more than can safely come together in church under Covid restrictions. This year, therefore, the service will be recorded – as a benefice service – in advance and then streamed on-line at 7:30pm on Monday 21st December. A copy of the carol service sheet will be distributed around the village and available in church. If you wish to print off more copies it will be available to download from the church website. Please consider a neighbour who may be alone that evening and, if we are allowed, and you and they feel safe – then why not invite them to join you.....socially distanced to sing the carols from your home.

The Crib Service is another that would exceed the safe Covid-capacity of St Nicholas Church. This year we are doing something different: a Nativity Service in the church field. Please gather – with chairs, warm clothes, and keeping socially distanced – for a short service starting at 3pm. (And pray for a dry afternoon!) Lyn Hayes requires help, in advance, with the nativity characters; please see her notice below. Contact Lyn on 01580 850201 or 07792 332904

The service to mark the First Communion of Christmas will go ahead at St. Nicholas – but will commence at 8pm on Christmas Eve. Regrettably, there is likely to still be no congregational singing. Also: please maintain social distancing, hand sanitise, and wear a face covering. The Christmas morning services should go ahead as normal, just with both services at the parish church. There will be a Communion service starting at 8:30am; this will be followed by a short family Morning Worship service at 10:00am.

It is a shame that we have the necessity for these changes but – providing the rules on gatherings do not change after lockdown – we can still worship together, praise God, and give thanks for the birth of His Son on earth. Doing it differently may just make us appreciate this great gift even more. God bless you and your families this Christmas time. **Revd David**

CHRISTMAS EVE CRIB SERVICE... Calling all "CRAFTY" people & families.

Our CRIB SERVICE this year will be a little different and for Covid safe reasons we will be holding it outside St Nicholas Church on the church field where we will build the nativity scene with life-size figures.

This is where YOU come in – we need to construct a Mary, Joseph, Three Wise Men, Shepherds, Angels & Animals etc. to make up the scene – each one being made in the style of a "scarecrow"

You know the type – a pair of old trousers or pyjamas for the legs, an old jumper or shirt for the torso etc. , all stuffed with whatever you can find to create the figures. You can let your imagination go – especially when it comes to dressing the figures!!

If you are up for the challenge please first of all contact me – Lyn Hayes on 01580 850201 or 07792 332904 to discuss which figure you would like to make!

CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN SANDHURST

We hope to hold the following services:

- Advent "Service of Light" on Sun 6th Dec at 5pm at St George's.
- Benefice Carol Service streamed on-line on Mon 21st December at 7.30pm
- Nativity Crib Service - Christmas Eve on Church Field at 3pm.
- First Communion of Christmas - Christmas Eve at 8pm.
- Christmas Day: 8.30am Communion. 10am Family Worship



Comfort and Joy is the Church of England's Christmas campaign for 2020.

It holds together the hope that Christmas will bring joy and celebration after a uniquely difficult year with an acknowledgement that – for those who have lost loved ones or livelihoods, or who are potentially still not able to be together with loved ones – it may be the Church's role, both nationally and locally, to provide consolation, rather than assume everyone will be ready to join in jubilation. We also have to anticipate there may be further spikes.

This Christmas the Church will need, in the words of St Paul in Romans 12.15, to 'Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep'. We will aim to celebrate where we can together in one place – but also embrace a wider community that wants to join in the celebration but may not be physically able – or emotionally ready – to do so. We hope that Comfort and Joy will enable us to build a campaign that both enables us to reconnect with the rich and joyous traditions of the past and to offer God's consoling love in the present.

Daily Scripture and Reflection is posted on the St George's Church website and Facebook page every day of the week. PLEASE KEEP AN EYE ON THE CHURCH WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION REGARDING OUR CHURCH SERVICES.

Website: <https://stnicholassandhurst.org/>
 Facebook Page: [@StNicholasSandhurst](https://www.facebook.com/StNicholasSandhurst)
 A Church Near You: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com>

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