

St Nicholas Church, Sandhurst

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

Our Worship: Sunday 17th May

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Sunday after Ascension Day

Collect: O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 17th May – The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 1.6-14, John 17.1-11

8 am	1662 BCP HOLY COMMUNION AT ST NICHOLAS led by Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie
10 am	SUNG EUCHARIST AT BENENDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL led by Revd David Commander & David Harmsworth

THE WEEK AHEAD

Revd David will be on holiday from Wednesday 20th to Monday 25th May inclusive.

Should you require the services of a Priest during this time, please contact your Churchwardens:

Bob Houlden (until 15th June): Tel 01580 850 278, Catherine Elliott: Tel 01580 850 300

Monday 18 th	8 am	Morning Prayer at the Rectory
	7.30 pm	Sandhurst Home Group at the Mission Church
Tuesday 19 th	8 am	Morning Prayer at the Mission Church
	10 am	Holy Communion at the Mission Church led by Revd Rosemary Kobus van Wengen <i>No Benenden Home Group – next meeting 26th May</i>
Wednesday 20 th		<i>No Morning Prayer today</i>
	9 – 11 am	Drop in Café & Toddler Group at the Mission Church
	7 for 7.30 pm	Central Weald Filling Station at Benenden Primary School
Thursday 21 st	10 – 11.30 am	Rhythm of Life Community Choir at the Mission Church
Friday 22 nd		<i>No Morning Prayer today</i>
	9 – 11 am	Cakes & Chaos Toddler Group at the Mission Church
Saturday 23 rd		<i>No 'Connect Four' today (half term holiday)</i>

Sunday Next: 24th May – Pentecost – Whit Sunday

Readings: Acts 2.1-21, John 20.19-23

8 am	HOLY COMMUNION IN THE CHANCEL AT ST GEORGE'S led by Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie
10 am	SUNG EUCHARIST AT ST NICHOLAS led by Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie & Sarah Emanuel

Christian Aid: On Sunday 24th May the collection will be given to Christian Aid, so would you please bring CASH if you wish to donate to this worthy charity. Many thanks.

Readings: Sunday 17th May – The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1.6-14

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' ⁷ He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.' ¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

John 17.1-11

¹ After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶ 'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

Home Groups:

Sandhurst: Meets on Monday 18th May, at 7.30 pm, at the Mission Church.

Benenden: Next meets **on Tuesday 26th May** at 7.30 pm at David & Julia Collard's.

APM & APCM: Thank you to those who attended these two Annual Meetings at St Nicholas. Those who did not attend missed an interesting, information and enjoyable talk about the history of your parish church. It was disappointing that so few attended. (Please put next year's date in your diary now: Monday 19th April 2027.) You also missed that Bob Houlden is stepping down as Churchwarden after fourteen years of service to our church. Thanks were given to Bob for his commitment and dedication to our church.

At the Annual Parish Meeting two Churchwardens were elected: Catherine Elliott and Zena Kemp; thank you both. They will be sworn into office at the Archdeacons' Visitation Service during Choral Evensong at Canterbury Cathedral, 5.30pm, on Monday 15th June (the date that Bob formally steps down); I hope you might consider coming to the service to support your Churchwardens. Revd David

“Teas in the Churchyard”

Join us at St Nicholas Church,
Church Road, Sandhurst TN18 4NS
on Sunday 7th June 2026
from 2pm until 5pm



- Tea and cakes for sale
- Plant spotting for children
- See the architecture through the years
‘Cherish your Churchyard’ week

Archdeacons’ Visitation Service

Choral Evensong at Canterbury Cathedral

5.30pm on Monday 15th June

At this service your newly elected Churchwardens

Catherine Elliott & Zena Kemp will be sworn into office.

Please consider supporting them and put this date in your diary.

**Central Weald Filling Station
At Benenden Primary School
Wednesday 20th May
7 for 7.30 pm**

The speaker for May is area leader James Nickols. It is always a blessing and encouragement to have James with us.

*James is passionate about encouraging and equipping us for Christian life, helping us walk with God, hear His voice more clearly and have adventures with Him.
All are welcome.*



The Dingledean Open Gardens last weekend raised in excess of £1,800 for the St George's 'Restore Renew Rejoice' Project. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of this fundraiser and to everyone who visited the gardens.

St Nicholas Church: Contacts	
Church Office	Cathy Baker, Benefice Administrator. The Mission Church, Back Road, Sandhurst TN18 5JU Tel: 01580 850 849 E-mail: benendenchurch@gmail.com
St Nicholas Churchwardens	Bob Houlden Tel: 01580 850 278 E-mail: bob.houlden@btinternet.com (from 15 th June: Zena Kemp) Catherine Elliott Tel: 01580 850 300 E-mail: Elliotts@sandhurstcross.co.uk
St Nicholas Parish Safeguarding Officer	Anne Tylden-Wright Tel: 01580 850 281 - E-mail: tyldenwright@btinternet.com
Priests	Revd David Commander, Rector. The Rectory, The Green, Benenden TN17 4DL Tel: 01580 240 658 E-mail: revdavidcommander@gmail.com (NB The Rector's day off is Thursday) Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie, Associate Priest 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
	StNicholasSandhurst
Website	https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12099/