

St Nicholas Church, Sandhurst

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

Our Worship: Sunday 16th August The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

Collect: O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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 16th August – The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

Readings: Romans 11.1-2a, 29-32, Matthew 15.21-28

8 am	1662 BCP HOLY COMMUNION AT ST NICHOLAS led by Revd David Commander
10 am	SUNG EUCHARIST AT BENENDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL led by Revd David Commander & Sarah Emanuel
2 – 4 pm	St George's Summer Teas at Benenden Memorial Hall

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 17 th	8 am	Morning Prayer at the Rectory
	2 pm	Benefice Churchwardens meeting
Tuesday 18 th	8 am	Morning Prayer at the Mission Church
	10 am	Holy Communion at the Mission Church led by Revd David Commander <i>No Benenden Home Group this week</i>
Wednesday 19 th	8 am	Morning Prayer at the Rectory
Friday 21 st	8 am	Morning Prayer at the Rectory

Sunday Next: 23rd August – The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Readings: Romans 12.1-8; Matthew 16.13-20

8 am	HOLY COMMUNION IN THE CHANCEL AT ST GEORGE'S led by Revd David Commander
10 am	SUNG EUCHARIST AT ST NICHOLAS led by Revd David Commander
2 – 4 pm	St George's Summer Teas at the Memorial Hall

Readings: Sunday 16th August – The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

Romans 11.1-2a, 29-32

¹¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ²God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. ²⁹for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Matthew 15.21-28

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' ²⁴He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' ²⁶He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' ²⁷She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

Home Groups:

Sandhurst: Meets again after the summer holidays - on Monday 7th September at Sandhurst Mission Church.

Benenden: Next meets on Tuesday 25th August.

St Nicholas Churchyard - Grass raking! Due to the continuing dry weather Bob has strimmed the whole of the churchyard early this year, thus removing a very serious fire risk around the church. If you can spare a morning or afternoon, please come and help to rake up and move the dried grass to complete the job for this year. As well as a rake, if you have a spare builder's bulk bag, they are most useful for moving the dried grass. BH

Sunday 30th August - 10 am - Benefice service at St Nicholas: Revd Vicki Young - who is about to start the last year of her Curacy - will be with us for the 10 o'clock benefice service at St Nicholas on Sunday 30th August. Vicki will be leading, preaching and presiding at this service. It will be a lovely opportunity to welcome her back to the parish and benefice that nurtured her and set her on her way to becoming ordained.

The Friends of Kent Churches "Ride & Stride"

Saturday 12th September - 10am - 6pm

The second Saturday in September is always 'Ride & Stride', the bike ride round the churches.

David Carter and his son in law will be cycling on behalf of St Nicholas again this year, which is wonderful. It is a really fun family thing to do - especially if you do the Romney Marsh churches - the roads are quiet and it is flat!

If you would like to take part I have plenty of sponsor forms and am very happy to help plan your route.

St Nicholas gets 50% of the sponsor money. The other 50% goes to The Friends of Kent Churches, who have very generously given St Nicholas grants towards recent projects.

It would be good to support them both. Anne Tylden-Wright tel 01580 850281.

St George's Summer Teas at Benenden Memorial Hall

Every Sunday throughout August from 2 to 4 pm. All Welcome!

Local Pilgrimage Walk – Around Bodiam

Saturday 26th September

Meet at Bodiam Castle Car Park - 9.45 am for a 10.00 am start

Come and join us for a gentle pilgrimage through the beautiful countryside around Bodiam. We'll follow quiet lanes, footpaths and byways, pausing along the way for short reflections and taking time to appreciate the beauty of creation, enjoy good conversation, and simply walk together.

The route is approximately **3½–4 miles**, using mainly off-road paths, and we'll finish back at Bodiam Castle for a well-earned cup of tea and our traditional slice of cake!

Parking: National Trust members can park free in the castle car park. For non-members, parking costs **£5 per vehicle**, or free parking may be available in the nearby lay-by or on the road opposite the castle.

Please note: The route includes several stiles and may not be suitable for dogs.

Everyone is welcome – whether you're a regular pilgrim or joining us for the first time. We look forward to walking with you.

We would love to walk with you - if you have further questions please get in touch with Revd David, 07710 416978, revdavidcommander@gmail.com or Lyn Hayes 07792 332904, lindapin@aol.com
[Revd David and Lyn Hayes](#)



BUSTER KEATON'S
in
THE GENERAL

WITH LIVE PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT FROM
the talented
MR. MIKE HATCHARD

UNDER 12'S GO FREE!

★ AN EVENING OF NOSTALGIA AND FUN! ★

★ A 'NOT SO SILENT' MOVIE NIGHT WITH REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE ★

TIME: 7PM FOR A 7.30PM START

DATE: FRIDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2026

PRICE: £15.00 PER TICKET

★ VENUE: ★
ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH
SANDHURST KENT TN18 5NS

The General is a 1926 American silent comedy film released by United Artists. It was inspired by the *Great Locomotive Chase*, a true story of an event that occurred during the American Civil War. The story was adapted from the 1889 memoir *The Great Locomotive Chase* by William Pittenger. The film stars Buster Keaton, who also co-directed it along with Clyde Bruckman.



Revd David's Sponsored Walk "The Pilgrims' Way"

From Winchester Cathedral to Canterbury Cathedral, via Guildford Cathedral and a little detour to Rochester Cathedral. This route has been walked by thousands of pilgrims over many, many centuries; Revd David will be experiencing that pilgrimage.

Length: 147 miles **Duration:** 13 days

Starting: Thursday 10th September
at Winchester Cathedral

Ending: Tuesday 22nd September
at Canterbury Cathedral

If you would like to sponsor Revd David for this walk and raise funds for the St Nicholas Church organ fund, please pick up a leaflet in church.

Sponsorship can be "per mile" or a lump-sum donation.

If you are a UK tax payer and are willing to Gift-Aid your donation it will be enhanced by 25%. Please take a look at the leaflet for full details.

Notice from the Diocese of Canterbury:

As you may be aware INEQE Safeguarding Group have been commissioned to conduct Independent Safeguarding Audits of the Church of England to make sure dioceses and cathedrals are doing all they can to create environments where everyone feels safe, valued and respected.

As part of the audit process for Canterbury, INEQE hope to engage with parishioners and members of the parish community through an online survey which will act as a mechanism through which individuals can comment on any matters relevant to the Audit's focus.

The survey is both anonymous (we are not seeking to identify you) and confidential (you will not be identified). We would therefore ask you to be open and honest with your responses. The survey results are received directly by INEQE's Audit Team and not by the Church of England. The survey is now live and will close at 11.30 pm on Wednesday 2nd September 2026.

To access the survey relevant to you please scan the QR code below or visit <https://ineqe.com/churchofengland/canterbury/>



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	Catherine Elliott Tel: 01580 850 300 E-mail: Elliotts@sandhurstcross.co.uk Zena Kemp: Tel: 07765 029 494 E-mail: kempzena@gmail.com
St Nicholas Parish Safeguarding Officer	Revd David Commander, Rector Tel: 01580 240 658 E-mail: revdavidcommander@gmail.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 Dr Rosemary Kobus van Wengen Tel: 01580 764 857 Email: rosemaryvanwengen@gmail.com
 StNicholasSandhurst Website https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12099/	