

**THE PARISH OF WORTH, POUND HILL &
MAIDENBOWER***St Nicholas, Worth & St Barnabas, Pound Hill****"My heart praises the Lord."*****Sunday December 15th
2013****Third Sunday of Advent***Welcome to our churches today.**If you have time afterwards, please
stay for refreshments.**At the Distribution of Communion all
are welcome to come to the altar rail
to receive a blessing or, if baptised,
the Communion.**Children are welcome at all our
services, and there are soft toys and
children's books at the back of the
church for their use.***SERVICES TODAY****08.00 Holy Communion (BCP)****at St Nicholas*****Celebrant & Preacher:* Canon Anthony Ball****09.45 Sung Eucharist at St Nicholas*****Celebrant & Preacher:*****Bishop Geoffrey Rowell****10.00 Eucharist at St Barnabas*****Celebrant & Preacher:* Rev'd Angela Martin****16.00 Celebration for Christmas****at St Barnabas*****Presiding:* Rev'd Angela Martin****Next week's Readings****Isaiah 7. 10 - 16****Psalm 80. 1 - 8****Romans 1. 1 - 7****Matthew 1. 18 - 25****The Assistant Rector writes:-**

Dear All,

Today is Gaudete Sunday which means Rejoice! This is our refreshment Sunday during our time of Advent waiting so it is no surprise that as we think of heaven today our readings are about God creating beauty and fertility out of the desert. This is also our prayer today. That for each and everyone of us, God will refresh and create a place of growth and fertility in our barrenness. Over the last year together we have achieved a great deal. If you have been collecting the DYK bits of the pew sheet you will recall that among other things, the sound system at St N's has been completed and work to repair the path is making good progress and the churchyard has regained it's tranquillity. At St B's the rainwater goods have been replaced, there are more hirers for the hall and pastoral centre and our storage space is growing almost daily! Not to mention the new fence in the Jubilee garden and the paint on the doors. All this helps us to see God working among us, creating and recreating. REJOICE, and again I say REJOICE - rejoice in the Lord always and be mindful of all that is being done for us not just the material refreshment but also our spiritual refreshment. Take a moment today to reflect on what brings you JOY and give thanks to God for it.

In joy and in love,

Ange

Collect & Post-Communion Prayer

Collect –

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer –

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

Did you know...the name for the "North East Sector" development has been agreed as "Forge Wood". We should know in the New Year whether it will have a CofE school.

The Pastoral Centre

Remember we are still open on **Friday and Saturday** mornings for light snacks, drinks, sale of cards and Fair Trade items, etc. Do pop in for a chat and support YOUR Centre. Thank you.



Lord of all creation, of the heavens and the earth, this Advent bring to birth in us the light we need to help us through the dark times.



Amen.

SERVICES during next week

St Nicholas

Mon -Fri 07.30 Morning Prayer

Sat 08.30 Morning Prayer

St Barnabas

Mon - Sat 17.00 Evening Prayer

Tues 10.30 Eucharist – St Barnabas

13.30 Christmas Readings &
Carols - Lanehurst Gdns.

Wed 15.00 Messy Church –

St Barnabas Hall

Thurs 10.30 Eucharist -St Nicholas

Fri 11.30 Chat & Pray – Pavilion Café
Maidenbower

Sat No Weddings

Services next Sunday

Third Sunday of Advent

08.00 Holy Communion (BCP)

- St Nicholas

09.45 Sung Eucharist - St Nicholas

10.00 Eucharist - St Barnabas

18.30 Nine Lessons & Carols –

St Nicholas



Christmas Services

Sunday December 22nd

6.30pm Nine Lessons & Carols –

St Nicholas

Tuesday Christmas Eve

December 24th

4.00pm Crib Services –St Barnabas &

St Nicholas

11.00pm Carols & Midnight Mass –

St Nicholas

11.30pm Midnight Mass – St Barnabas

Wednesday Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion – St Nicholas

9.45am Sung Eucharist – St Nicholas

10.00am Family Eucharist – St Barnabas

NOTICES

Friday lunches in the Pastoral Centre.

These will be available **EVERY** Friday from January 3rd.

Two courses plus tea/coffee **£5.50**.

TODAY Sunday December 15th –

***Joy, peace, hope, love* - a Celebration of Christmas with Carols for All at St Barnabas 4.00pm;** this service will be



followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the Pastoral Centre.

Donations of unwrapped **toys and gifts** for **Golden Lions Children's Trust and Social Services families** will be collected at this service, thank you.

Thanks to those who supported the Saturday Market on December 7th, **£88.79** was raised for church funds and the 'Knit 'n' Natter' stall raised £35 for the St. Barnabas Double Glazing Project.

Christingle collection envelopes are available for **you** to collect money from now until Christmas Eve for the **Children's Society**. Please pick up an envelope and return it in time for the Crib Services at both churches, thank you.

Today Sunday December 15th 4pm **Advent Organ Concert at Worth Abbey** by resident organist, D'Arcy Trinkwon, a selection of music meditating on the mystical period of Advent. Entry is free.

Christmas Greetings Boards are now in both churches, suggesting that people might prefer to complete a message to friends on a gift tag as an **alternative to sending Christmas cards**. Money that would be spent on cards can then be donated (gift aided if possible) to our Christmas charities.

DIARY NOTES



Donations of unwrapped toys and gifts

for the Golden Lions Children's Trust and Social Services families can also be made at the 4.00pm Crib Services on Christmas Eve both at St Barnabas & St Nicholas.

Thank you.

Children's Society Savings Boxes –

arrangements will be made early in 2014 for collection and counting of the money in these boxes held by our supporters in the parish.

CONTACTS

PARISH OFFICE

for enquiries about weddings, baptisms, hall bookings, etc.

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Website: www.worthparish.org.uk



[facebook.com/WorthParish](https://www.facebook.com/WorthParish)

Remember to save used postage stamps, this Christmas and place them in the boxes provided at the Pastoral Centre and at the back of both churches, they help such charities as St. Catherine's Hospice & Blond McIndoe etc.