

**THE PARISH OF WORTH, POUND HILL &  
MAIDENBOWER***St Nicholas, Worth & St Barnabas, Pound Hill**We wish you all a happy Christmas****"The light shines in the darkness"***

**Sunday December 22nd  
2013  
Fourth 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: Rev'd Angela Martin***09.45 Sung Eucharist at St Nicholas***Celebrant & Preacher: Rev'd Angela Martin***10.00 Eucharist at St Barnabas***Celebrant & Preacher: Canon Anthony Ball***18.30 Nine Lessons & Carols at St Nicholas***Presiding: Canon Anthony Ball***Next week's Readings**

Isaiah 63. 7 - 9

Psalm 148. 7 - 14

Hebrews 2. 10 - 18

Matthew 2. 13 - 23

**The Rector writes:-**

As we lit the Advent candle each week the prayer we have said reminds us of those who prepared for the coming of Christ. "The Patriarchs" (Advent 1) allows a focus on Abraham, our father in faith, and David, the ancestor in whose city Jesus was born; "the Prophets" (Advent 2) was an opportunity to reflect on the way the birth of the Messiah was 'foretold'; a natural link to John (Advent 3) who proclaimed the Saviour; and, this week (Advent 4), the Virgin Mary who bore him in her womb thereby becoming the Mother of God.

But rather than Mary's "Yes" to God, today's gospel reading highlights Joseph's response to God. In contrast to King Ahaz, Joseph trusts God simply and immediately, despite a certain amount of shame involved. So, even though the story could so clearly have gone on without him, Joseph's trusting response means he assumes an important role in the story of the world's salvation (however improbable or little understood it must have been at the time). Even so, Joseph's function is to be there for others, to forget himself and his needs or wants and to make room for God's action in the woman and child – whom he is called to protect. As we enter into these family-focused holy-days, it is a perfect time to reflect on how we might be more Joseph-like in our response to the vulnerabilities and needs of those in our family/community.

*Wishing you a blessed Christmas,**Anthony*

## **READINGS for the day.**

### **Collect –**

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

### **FIRST READING**

#### **Isaiah 7. 10 - 16**

*A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.*

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: ‘Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

#### **Psalm 80 1 - 8**

### **SECOND READING**

#### **Romans 1. 1 – 7**

*A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans.*

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, to all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **GOSPEL**

#### **Matthew 1. 18 - 25**

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.*

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the

child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

### **Post Communion Prayer** –

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Did you know... in 2011 the parish gave £7,631 to charity, last year the figure was £3,291? This year we're ahead of the 2012 figure and still have our Christmas Charities gifts to add.



Abba, Father, as we approach the festival of Christmas, we praise and thank you for your most precious gift to us, your Son, who came to bring us joy, hope, peace, love and to be the light that shines in our darkest hours. Amen.



### **SERVICES during next week**

#### **St Nicholas**

**Mon & Tues** 07.30 Morning Prayer

**Fri** 08.30 Morning Prayer

#### **St Barnabas**

**Mon** 17.00 Evening Prayer

**Sat** 17.00 Evening Prayer

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#### **Tues Christmas Eve**

16.00 Crib Service – St Barnabas

16.00 Crib Service – St Nicholas

23.00 Carols & Midnight Mass –  
St Nicholas

23.30 Midnight Mass –St Barnabas

#### **Wed Christmas Day**

08.00 Holy Communion –St Nicholas

09.45 Sung Eucharist – St Nicholas

10.00 Family Eucharist –  
St Barnabas

#### **Thurs Feast of St Stephen**

10.30 Eucharist - St Nicholas

#### **Fri Feast of St John**

17.00 Eucharist - St Barnabas

**N.B.**→ 14.00 Wedding Rehearsal –  
St Nicholas

#### **Sat Feast of the Holy Innocents**

08.30 Holy Communion – St Nicholas

13.00 Holy Matrimony – St Nicholas

### **Services next Sunday**

#### **First Sunday of Christmas**

08.00 Holy Communion (BCP)

- St Nicholas

09.45 Sung Eucharist - St Nicholas

10.00 Eucharist - St Barnabas

12.00 Holy Baptism – St Nicholas



### **100 Club December Results**

3	Alastair Wells	£100.00
29	Gerald Sandwell	£ 50.00
30	Gillian Osborne	£ 25.00
44	Ian Pallett	£ 25.00



## **NOTICES**

### **Friday lunches in the Pastoral Centre.**

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

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

**Thanks** to those who supported the Christmas Tea on December 14th - **£148.84** was raised for church funds.

**Our thanks** to all who worked so hard to prepare and serve the tea and to Elliot for the musical accompaniment; a wonderful time was had by all.

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

**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.

**TODAY Sunday December 22nd 6.30pm at St Nicholas**, Nine Lessons & Carols followed by Mince pies and mulled wine.

**Today Sunday December 22nd 4pm WORTH ABBEY** Advent Carol Service, refreshments to follow.



### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

There will be **no mid-week Eucharists** on Tuesday December 24th, 31st or Thursday January 2nd

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**STOP !** Give a little thought to those less fortunate, this Christmas, those who are hungry, homeless, refugees or mourning the loss of a loved one, say a little prayer for them and thank the Lord for our many blessings. **Thank you.**

**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.

## **DIARY NOTES**



### **Donations of unwrapped toys and gifts**

for the Golden Lions Children's Trust and Social Services families can 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.

**Saturday February 1st at 7:30pm Dunottar Chamber Choir Concert** will be held at **St Nicholas**. More details to follow.

## **CONTACTS**

### ***Rector***

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### ***Churchwardens***

Rosemary Cordan  
Phyl Pennell  
David Anderson-  
Richard Turpie

### ***PARISH OFFICE***

for enquiries about  
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