

**THE PARISH OF WORTH, POUND HILL &
MAIDENBOWER***St Nicholas, Worth & St Barnabas, Pound Hill****"Prepare the way of the Lord."*****Sunday December 8th 2013
Second Sunday of Advent
& St Nicholas Patronal***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 Patronal Family Eucharist at

St Nicholas

Celebrant & Preacher: Canon Anthony Ball

10.00 Eucharist at St Barnabas

*Celebrant & Preacher: Rev'd Angela Martin***Next week's Readings**

Isaiah 35. 1 - 10

Psalm 146. 4 - 10 or Magnificat

James 5. 7 - 10

Matthew 11. 2 - 11

The Rector writes:-

This week the main services at St Nicholas and St Barnabas have a slightly different focus – with St Barnabas keeping the 2nd Sunday of Advent and the 9.45 St Nicholas congregation celebrating the Patronal Festival (St Nicholas' Day having been on 6th December). Thankfully the traditions surrounding St Nicholas also resonate with the themes of Advent as we prepare ourselves to receive anew the Christ child into our lives and hearts. As I was reflecting on this I received news that, in its meeting earlier in the week, our Charities & Community Committee had chosen the charities we are supporting in our collections this Christmas to have a particular emphasis on children and the homeless. St Nicholas would certainly have approved! This year these 'special' collections will be divided with a quarter each going to:

(local charity) **Golden Lions Children's Trust**

(national charity) **the Samaritans**

(international charity) **Habitat for Humanity** and our parish ministry.

This is, of course, in addition to the collections for the Children's Society (the Christingle services and the collection boxes/tubes in many of our homes at present) and also the collection of (unwrapped, please!) gifts for children and families that are brought to the "Celebration of Christmas" service

(15 Dec) and the Crib Services (24 Dec).

May the experience of sharing some of what we have with those who have less bring us all a deep sense of gratitude and joy.

*Every blessing,**Anthony*

Collect & Post-Communion Prayer

Collect –

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer –

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

December 6th Feast Day of St Nicholas

Nicholas was a native of the western part of what is now Asiatic Turkey. He became Bishop of Myra in the fourth century, and there are many stories of his love for God and for his neighbour; Nicholas, became Bishop of Myra, c.326 and was present at the Council of Nicaea.

He is Patron Saint of pawn brokers, sailors, children and others, also many countries and churches.



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

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 Family Eucharist - St Barnabas

16.00 A Celebration of Christmas –
St Barnabas

A Gift for YOU

A collection of Advent & Christmas Bible readings to help you prepare & celebrate the real reason of this special time will be distributed at today's services.

Please make sure you get your **FREE** copy

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.

Did you know...St Nicholas now has a new loop and sound reinforcement system?
Many thanks to the generous individuals whose legacies and donations have made this possible.

Christmas Lunches in the Pastoral Centre £10; tickets for December 13th must be purchased by Tuesday December 10th. Menu includes turkey & trimmings, Christmas pudding, mince pies, glass of wine, tea/coffee, etc

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.

Monday December 9th at 11.00am.

St. Barnabas Julian Group will meet initially in the Narthex. Old and new friends very welcome.

Thursday December 12th St Nicholas Julian Meeting in the Chapel at 2.30pm

Everyone welcome for a period of contemplative prayer.

Saturday December 14th 11.00 -12.30 a 'Brunch with Santa' event at CrawleyURC Bacon or Sausage Butties toast with baked beans £4.00 adults £2.00 children under 10 years of age plus Santa's Lucky Dip £1.00

Saturday December 14th 3.00 - 5.00pm Christmas Tea in the Pastoral Centre Tickets £5.50 each, **please buy these**

TODAY - available now from Jan Brooks, Karen Fly, Ann Lane, Jane Stanford or Phyl Pennell.

Sunday December 15th – Celebration of Christmas at St Barnabas 4.00pm
Donations of unwrapped toys and gifts for local children and families will be collected at this service, thank you.

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.

DIARY NOTES



Donations of unwrapped toys and gifts for local children and families can also be made at the 4.00pm Crib Services on Christmas Eve both at St Barnabas & St Nicholas. Thank you.

CONTACTS

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PARISH OFFICE

for enquiries about
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☎ 0300 111 8150

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Website: www.worthparish.org



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

Gill Osborne has some hardy winter cyclamen and clematis plants for sale at **75p each** 01293 513421

Slips are now available in both churches for people who would like to nominate a charity for the parish to support with our Christmas collections.

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 McIndo