

WORTH PARISH

St Nicholas, Worth & St Barnabas, Pound Hill



Sunday January 12th 2014
Baptism of Christ
First Sunday of Epiphany

*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: Rev'd Gordon Parry
10.00 Eucharist at St Barnabas
Celebrant & Preacher: Rev'd Angela Martin
12.00 Holy Baptism at St Nicholas
Presiding: Rev'd Angela Martin

Next week's Readings

Isaiah 49. 1 - 7
Psalm 40. 1 - 12
1 Corinthians 1. 1 - 9
John 1. 29 - 42

The Rector writes:-

Why are the churches still decorated after 12th night (Eve of Epiphany) I have been asked. It's not just a personal push-back on the fact that for most people the Christmas celebrations conclude with Christmas (whereas for the Church that period is Advent and our "celebration" of Christmas only begins on 25th December - or, in keeping with the biblical way of counting days, after sunset on the 24th. Although the Christmas season proper (Christmas to Epiphany) is a 12 day period of joy and festivity the *Common Worship* calendar also makes it clear that, following Christmas, there is a forty day period focusing on the incarnation that lasts until Candlemas on 2nd February (also known as The Presentation of Christ in the Temple or Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary). This 25th anniversary year of restoration of St Nicholas after the fire, we are organising two important choral events there to mark the end of the Christmas/ Epiphany season. This forty day period parallels the forty days after Easter that focuses on the resurrection. Just as we have the Easter 'decorations' up in church to remind us of this 'resurrection' season, so we have the Christmas ones up to help us focus on the 'incarnation' season. *Common Worship* stresses this by calling the Sundays we now celebrate "of Epiphany" rather than "after Epiphany" as the *BCP* has them. For the first three Sundays at least we are given readings about three great bible stores of the revelation of Christ's glory (the coming of the Magi, the Baptism of Christ and the Wedding at Cana). Perhaps it is a good time for us each to reflect on how we, individually and as a church family, intend to focus outwards to incarnate and reveal Christ in our community in the year ahead?

With season's blessings

Anthony

READINGS for the day.

Collect –

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; 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. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 42 1 – 9

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come

to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Psalm 29

SECOND READING

Acts 10. 34 - 43

A Reading the Acts of the Apostles.

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'



GOSPEL

Matthew 3. 13 – 17

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

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

Post Communion Prayer –

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God, the Father



We pray for all baptised Christians and for those preparing for Baptism & Confirmation, for parents and godparents to be given the grace and perseverance to keep faithfully the promises they made. **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

Thurs 10.30 Eucharist – St Nicholas

Sat **No Weddings.**
Wedding Preparation Day

Services next Sunday

Second Sunday of Epiphany

08.00 Holy Communion (BCP)

- St Nicholas

09.45 Sung Eucharist - St Nicholas

10.00 All-age worship - St Barnabas

Did you know..... at present there are 6 adults and 10 pupils from Worth School preparing for Baptism / Confirmation. Please pray for them and those accompanying them on the journey.



If you are interested in learning more about the Bible, prayer or developing your faith see the leaflets at the back of church or call 01273 425693.

NOTICES

Friday lunches in the Pastoral Centre.

Please purchase tickets by January 14th for **January 17th** (01293 883362)

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

Monday January 13th St. Barnabas

Julian Group will meet at 11.00am.

Please meet initially in the Narthex. Old and new friends very welcome

Sunday January 19th a service for the Week of Christian Unity 3.00pm

at the **Friary Church**, Haslett Ave.

ALL welcome. See posters for details

Tuesday January 21st there will be a meeting of Pastoral Centre volunteers - and would be volunteers

at 9.30am in the Pastoral Centre **ALL** welcome.

Tuesday January 21st 7.30pm and for several weeks, **Confirmation Course for adults** - new *Pilgrim* resources. If you or someone you know would like to explore, refresh their faith or join our Confirmation candidates please contact the clergy.

Thursday January 23rd Mothers' Union

meets for a New Year Fish & Chip supper at 7.30pm in the Pastoral Centre.

Monday January 27th 7.45pm

at St John's Church Hall, Crawley start of a 4 week Course in Daily Prayer & the Eucharist. Contact 01273 421021 to enrol – cost £12. See Posters.

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**Planned Givers** – there is a letter for you to collect at the back of church if you have not already done so.

**FYI** --the Church Council meets on Jan16th. Do speak to a PCC member if there is anything you want to feed in.

## **DIARY NOTES**

### **Saturday February 1st at 7:30pm**

**Dunottar Chamber Choir Concert** will be held at **St Nicholas**. Tickets £5 includes refreshments.

### **Sunday February 2nd Choral Evensong**

**6.30pm** at St Nicholas.

### **Saturday February 8th Quiz Night**

7.30pm in the Hall, see poster for details. Tickets £5 each now on sale from Jan Brooks, Karen Fry, Ann Lane, Phyl Pennell, Jane Stanford & Pastoral Centre.

### **Sundays- February 9th, 16th & 23rd**

### **Tea Dances – St Barnabas Church Hall**

**3.00 – 5.00pm** more details next week.

### **Saturday February 15th Valentine's Tea**

3.00-5.00pm in the Pastoral Centre Tickets £5.50 each now on sale from Jan Brooks, Karen Fly, Ann Lane, Phyl Pennell, Jane Stanford and the Pastoral Centre.

**Sunday February 16th** the next 'regular meeting' for the **St Nicholas** congregation will be after the 9.45 service.

### **Saturday March 8th Parish Away Day**

at Rowfant House 10.00 -16.00. **Speaker Rev'd Andrew Mayes. Sign-up sheets at the back of both churches.** More details from Joan Tick, Stuart Sharpe, Rosemary Cordan or Myrtle Taylor.

## **CONTACTS**

### ***Rector***

Canon Anthony Ball 01293 882229  
[rector@worthparish.org.uk](mailto:rector@worthparish.org.uk)

### ***Assistant Rector***

Rev'd Angela Martin 01293 404127  
[asst.rector@worthparish.org.uk](mailto:asst.rector@worthparish.org.uk)

### ***Churchwardens***

Rosemary Cordan - 01342 842088  
Phyl Pennell - 01293 883362  
David Anderson - 01293 409914  
Richard Turpie - 01293 886357

### ***PARISH OFFICE***

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

☎ **0300 111 8150**

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