

**THE PARISH OF WORTH, POUND HILL &
MAIDENBOWER***St Nicholas, Worth & St Barnabas, Pound Hill***Wishing everyone a happy New Year**

**‘Get up, take the child and his mother,
and flee to Egypt.’**

**Sunday December 29th
2013
First Sunday of Christmas**

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: Canon Anthony Ball

10.00 Eucharist at St Barnabas

Celebrant & Preacher: Rev’d Sue Suddaby

12.00 Holy Baptism at St Nicholas

Presiding: Canon Anthony Ball

Next week’s Readings

Isaiah 60. 1 - 6

Psalms 72. 10 - 15

Ephesians 3. 1 - 12

Matthew 2. 1 - 12

The Rector writes:-

A warm welcome to Rev’d Sue Suddaby at St Barnabas this morning!

Whether you are in church today or reading this subsequently or on our web-site, I do hope you have had a wonder-full Christmas with the opportunity to spend some quality time with family and friends. We will each have our ‘favourite’ service or moment that helped capture the spirit of joy and awe at “God with us” - there has certainly been a range of exceptionally good (and well-attended) church services to celebrate Christmas, each with a unique atmosphere. I’ve tried to make it clear to many of those offering the positive comments I have received over the last couple of weeks that it is a ‘family effort’. Thank you – even though it can seem that your contribution may be ‘overlooked’ in the celebrations, each and every one is appreciated and part of the ‘success’. Most of us will make some sacrifices for the ‘common good’ over this Christmas period - small or large, more or less obvious and in all sorts of different contexts. Few will pay the price of those children whose massacre we read about in Saturday’s gospel - the Holy Innocents, remembered in the church’s calendar on Dec. 28. Perhaps reading this you can bring to mind a sacrifice you have made recently and one that you know someone has made for you and give thanks to God for them both? Maybe also spare a thought for those whose sacrifice is much greater or harder (not least as this week we enter the centenary year of the start of World War I).

Wishing you the very best in 2014 –

Anthony

READINGS for the day.

Collect –

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 63 7–9

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, ‘Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely’; and he became their saviour in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.



‘He lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.’

Psalms 148 7 - 14

SECOND READING

Hebrews 2 10 - 18

A Reading from Paul’s Letter to the Hebrews.

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, ‘I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.’

And again, ‘I will put my trust in him.’

And again, ‘Here am I and the children whom God has given me.’

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.



GOSPEL

Matthew 2. 13 - 23

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

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.' When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might

be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

Post Communion Prayer –

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

SERVICES during next week

St Nicholas

Mon & Tues 08.30 Morning Prayer

Wed No Morning Prayer

Thrs - Sat 08.30 Morning Prayer

St Barnabas

Mon & Tues 17.00 Evening Prayer

**Wed-Naming & Circumcision of Jesus
17.00 Eucharist**

Thrs – Sat 17.00 Evening Prayer

Services next Sunday

Epiphany

08.00 Holy Communion (BCP)

- St Nicholas

09.45 Sung Eucharist - St Nicholas

10.00 Eucharist - St Barnabas

11.30 Nic's All-age Informal service –
St Nicholas

Did you know..... St Barnabas and St Nicholas have both received Christmas presents from anonymous donors? Pew cushions for St N. and cupboards for the upstairs meeting room at St B. Thank you !

NOTICES

Friday lunches in the Pastoral Centre.

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

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

Thank you to all who donated toys and gifts at Christmas for those less fortunate than ourselves, they are very much appreciated.

Thanks to those who used the Christmas Greetings Boards, as an alternative to sending Christmas cards and donating money to our Christmas charities.

Friday January 3rd. Following the Christmas closure the **Pastoral Centre re-opens** for drinks and light snacks.

There is also a **lunch at 12.30 pm** - tickets for this should be ordered by December 31st (01293 883388).

Thursday January 9th St Nicholas Circle meets at 8.00pm in the Pastoral Centre for an illustrated talk "Out & about in Austria", given by Bill & Helen Puttick; everyone welcome.

Tuesday January 21st there will be a meeting of Pastoral Centre volunteers - and would be volunteers at 9.30am in the Pastoral Centre on **ALL** welcome.

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.

Remember we are starting a monthly



Bible Study Group in the New Year.

Contact Joan Tick (884695) or Stuart Sharpe (873873) to join.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

There will not be a mid-week Eucharist on Tues Dec 31st or Thurs Jan 2nd.

DIARY NOTES

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.

March 8th

Parish Away Day

at Rowfant House

10.00 -16.00

Our Speaker The Rev'd Andrew Mayes

Put the date in your diaries now.

CONTACTS

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PARISH OFFICE

for enquiries about
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Lord, bless our year, giving us time for the task, peace for the pathway, wisdom for the work, friends for the fireside and love to the last. Amen.