

WORTH PARISH

St Nicholas, Worth & St Barnabas, Pound Hill



Sunday February 16th 2014
Third Sunday before Lent

*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: Revd Angela Martin

09.45 Sung Eucharist at St Nicholas

Celebrant & Preacher:

Canon Meurig Williams

10.00 All-age Worship at St Barnabas

Celebrant & Preacher: Revd Angela Martin

Next week's Readings

Genesis 1. v.1 – ch2. v.3

Psalm 136. 1 – 9. 23 - 26

Romans 8. 18 – 25

Matthew 6. 25 – 34

The Assistant Rector writes:-

Dear All.

As I write I am wondering if it is just a coincidence that we remembered St Valentine last Friday or if today's readings have been selected to simply coincide. I suspect the former. Very little is known about Valentine except perhaps his name and that he died in about 269. The love connection may have come from the old belief that the birds mated on the Ides of February, which is the 14th. It was also linked to the pagan Lupercalia festival which was a time for a good spring clear! I'm sure we all long to be able to have the windows wide open and let the fresh air in and perhaps we all do between the showers.

A fresh start and new life is a great way to summarize our text for today. Jesus is pointing out that we need to follow the commandments, which are all about living together in harmony with the most important being to love – to love God with your whole heart and to love one another as we are loved. When we fall out, to take time to own up to our part in what ever is wrong and make amends – to start afresh. It's a very grown up thing, spiritually, to be able to make amends, to be big enough to admit your part in a wrong. It is the ability to stand before God and say 'I am heartily sorry' – it is also a very grown up thing to offer forgiveness and allow a fresh start. Love as you are loved, forgive as you are forgiven. This is how we live our life together in Christ.

With love to you all, your sister in Christ,

Ange x

READINGS for the day.

Collect –

Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; 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

Deuteronomy 30. 15 - 20

A Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy.

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Psalm 119. 1 - 8

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 3. 1 - 9

A Reading from Paul's first Letter to the Corinthians.

And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, 'I belong to Paul', and another, 'I belong to Apollos', are you not merely human? What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labour of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

GOSPEL

Matthew 5. 21 - 37

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

'You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, "You shall not murder"; and "whoever murders shall be liable to judgement."' But I say to you

that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgement; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, "You fool", you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery." But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell. It was also said, "Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce." But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, "You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord." But I say to you, do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear

by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be "Yes, Yes" or "No, No"; anything more than this comes from the evil one.



Lord, as we come to you, forgive us, heal us and guide us, we pray, as we will forgive others. Amen.



Post Communion Prayer –

Go before us, Lord, in all we do with your most gracious favour, and guide us with your continual help, that in all our works begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy receive everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

Fri 13.00 Funeral (Gwynneth Mercer)
– St Nicholas

Sat 14.00 Holy Matrimony–St Nicholas

Services next Sunday

Second Sunday before Lent

08.00 Holy Communion (BCP)

- St Nicholas

09.45 Sung Eucharist - St Nicholas

10.00 Eucharist - St Barnabas

12.00 Holy Baptism – St Nicholas



Sunday March 9th Parish Eucharist at **St Barnabas 10.00am. NO 9.45 service** at St Nicholas. Sunday School for all 3 – 12 year olds at St Barnabas that day.

NOTICES

Friday lunches in the Pastoral Centre.

Please purchase tickets by February 18th for **February 21st** (01293 883362)

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

The Pastoral Centre is now open on Tuesdays and Fridays 10.30 - 12.30 as well as Saturdays 10.00am - 12 noon. Please pop in for a drink, snack and a chat.

Thanks to those who supported the **Parish Quiz** on February 8th. **£294.30** was raised for church funds.

TODAY - Sunday February 16th is the next 'regular meeting' for the **St Nicholas** congregation after the 9.45 service.

TODAY - February 16th, Tea Dances and Sunday 23rd – St Barnabas Church Hall 3.00 – 5.00pm call Gill 01293 513421 or Parish Office 03001118150 to book a place.

Thursday February 27th Mothers' Union AGM Meeting 8.00pm in the Pastoral Centre. The Meeting is preceded by a Eucharist at St Barnabas at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

DIARY NOTES



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Lent Soup Lunches will be available in the Pastoral Centre 12.30pm on **Wednesdays during Lent** (March 5th - April 16th), preceded by a short meditation with Rev'd Angela. Donations in aid of Parish World Bucket (charities).

See posters for details.

Saturday March 8th Parish Away Day at Rowfant House 10.00 -16.00. **Speaker Rev'd Andrew Mayes. Sign-up & Booking sheets at the back of both churches.** More details from Joan Tick, Stuart Sharpe, Rosemary Cordan or Myrtle Taylor.

Tuesday March 11th Lent Bible Study begins at CURC 7.30pm – 9.00pm for 6 weeks. See posters for details, sign-up sheets at the back of both churches, books **£7.75**, from Canon Anthony or Joan Tick.

Saturday March 15th 9.30am Parish Jumble Sale, in St. Barnabas Hall. Please save your jumble for us but do not bring it to St. Barnabas before March 11th as we have nowhere to store it.

Sunday March 23rd APCM 11.30am

St Barnabas. Everyone is invited to attend the Annual Meeting.

100 Club February Draw

29	Gerald Sandwell	£100.00
41	Joan Tick	£ 50.00
38	Trevor Stokes	£ 25.00
30	Gillian Osborne	£ 25.00

CONTACTS

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PARISH OFFICE

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

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facebook.com/WorthParish

Did you know...a consultation about proposed developments in the churchyard (providing a Garden of Remembrance and improved access paths) is launched today ? Please visit the display in St Nicholas and offer feedback.