

**WORTH PARISH***St Nicholas, Worth & St Barnabas, Pound Hill*

**'No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp-stand.'**

**Sunday February 9th 2014**  
**Fourth 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 Gordon Parry

09.45 Sung Eucharist at St Nicholas

*Celebrant:* Canon Anthony Ball

*Preacher:* Revd Gordon Parry

10.00 Eucharist at St Barnabas

*Celebrant & Preacher:* Revd Angela Martin

12.00 Holy Baptism at St Nicholas

*Presiding:-* Revd Gordon Parry

**Next week's Readings**

Deuteronomy 30. 15 - 20

Psalms 119. 1 - 8

1 Corinthians 3. 1 - 9

Matthew 5. 21 - 37

**The Rector writes:-**

Last weekend was marked as one "of music", this weekend perhaps "of fun" with the quiz night yesterday and Strictly Inspiring this afternoon. We certainly seem to be taking seriously the enjoinder to show what great joy there is in being part of the Christian family and faith! There was no chance of anyone accusing us of hiding our light "under the bushel basket" during our Candlemass celebrations – with a church full of uplifting music (a 40-strong choir including ex- and current choristers) and lit candles forming a fitting "farewell" to the 40-day Christmas/Epiphany season. With the trees, cribs and decorations all gone we turn ourselves towards the cross as we enter the count-down to Lent. However today's gospel reminds us that we need to preserve, and share, that sense of joy – the gospel is, after all, Good News. We are called to be "salt of the earth" and to live lives that show forth God's gift of faith in a way that attracts others. Yes, as Paul says in today's reading, this gift is a "mystery"; but it is a mystery that empowers us to put others before ourselves, to care for God's world as God does, so that we are incomplete whilst others suffer. It is a mystery that allows us to do that with cheerful countenances (even when it feels like God might have forgotten his promise to Noah after the Great Flood!). Perhaps we need to reflect a bit more on how we can 'package' that energy and joy so that, together as family, we can share it more widely in our local community (as well as further afield !) and so make a greater impact?

Wishing you every blessing, *Anthony*

## **READINGS for the day.**

### **Collect –**

O God, you know us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; 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 58. 1 - 9a**

*A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah*

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practised righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgements, they delight to draw near to God. Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice? Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I

choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

#### **Psalms 112. 1 - 9**

### **SECOND READING**

#### **1 Corinthians 2. 1 - 12**

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

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our

glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, ‘What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him’— these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God’s except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

### **GOSPEL**

#### **Matthew 5.13-20**

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

‘You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ‘You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. ‘Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be

called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

### **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

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**Tues** 10.30 Eucharist – St Barnabas  
**Thurs** 10.30 Eucharist – St Nicholas  
**Sat** **No Weddings.**

### **Services next Sunday**

#### **Third Sunday before Lent**

08.00 Holy Communion (BCP)  
- St Nicholas  
09.45 Sung Eucharist - St Nicholas  
10.00 Family Service - St Barnabas

Did you know... our buildings are surviving the extreme weather quite well? However, both St B (narthex) and St N (bell tower) have sprung leaks indicating longer-term issues.

## NOTICES

It is with sadness we report that Gwynneth Mercer passed away on January 30th; she had been a member of both churches & the Mothers' Union. A service of thanksgiving for Gwynneth's life will be Friday **February 21st 1.00pm at St Nicholas, then at St Richard's Chapel 2.15pm everyone is welcome at both services and afterwards at Rowfant House.**

### Friday lunches in the Pastoral Centre.

Please purchase tickets by February 11th for **February 14th** (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 Saturday Market on February 1st. **£64.50** was raised for church funds and Knit n Natter raised **£30.50** for St. Barnabas Double Glazing Project

### **STARTS TODAY - February 9th, Tea Dances and then Sundays 16th & 23rd - St Barnabas Church Hall 3.00 – 5.00pm**

call Gill 01293 513421 or Parish Office 03001118150 to book a place.

**Monday February 10th St Barnabas Julian Group** meeting at 11.00am. Please meet initially in the Narthex. Old and new friends very welcome.

**Thursday February 13th St Nicholas Julian Group** meets in the Chapel at St Nicholas 2.30pm for contemplative prayer, everyone welcome.

**Saturday February 15th Valentine's Tea** 3.00 - 5.00pm in the Pastoral Centre Tickets £5.50 each. Please **buy tickets TODAY** from Jan Brooks, Karen Fly, Ann Lane, Phyl Pennell, Jane Stanford and at the Pastoral Centre.

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

## DIARY NOTES

**Tickets are on sale now for** Worth Abbey's charity - Outreach Peru, 'The Sixteen' choir Sunday June 15th at 7.30pm. Box Office 01904651485 or [www.ncem.co.uk/thesixteen](http://www.ncem.co.uk/thesixteen) Tickets cost £25 and £20.

**Lent Soup Lunches** will be available in the Pastoral Centre 12.30pm on Wednesdays during Lent (5th March - 16th April), 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

## CONTACTS

### *Rector*

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### *Assistant Rector*

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### *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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