

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

**“no one can enter the kingdom of God
without being born of water and Spirit”**

**Sunday March 16th 2014
Second Sunday of 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 Anthony Ball

10.00 Family Service at St Barnabas

Celebrant & Preacher:

Revd Angela Martin

Next week's Readings

Exodus 17. 1 – 7

Psalms 95

Romans 5. 1 – 11

John 4. 5 – 42

The Assistant Rector writes:-

Dear All,

This week's gospel text is rich indeed and reminds us that above all we must trust in God. Abram left home and family to follow a call from, what was at the time, an unknown God. Abram stepped out into the desert in blind faith. In our gospel reading, Nicodemus is finding it hard to believe what Jesus is telling him. His head was not allowing him to understand what Jesus was trying to explain. He was looking too hard at the facts, the fact that you cannot be reborn ! If only he had been able to shut his eyes, and be blind to the facts, he may have seen more clearly what it was the Lord was telling him. Then at the end of the text we are reminded that just as all those who were sick and dying in the desert with Moses were healed by looking at the serpent on his staff, we too are reminded that we only need to lift our eyes to see Jesus – forgetting all around us and focus on him alone and we will be healed.

It is far too easy for each of us to get caught up in the facts of daily life, the business of working and doing all day long. I wonder how Abram first heard that call to step out in faith. Was he stood out in the sunshine one day with his eyes shut and just experiencing that feeling of being bathed in the warmth of the sun? Now that we too have got a bit of sunshine I invite you to take a moment out of your busy day and stand with your eyes shut, experience being bathed in warmth and know it's a gift from your Heavenly Father. Stay with him for just a minute and listen to him, forgetting the facts of the daily routine, which you will soon return to, and be refreshed and healed.

Wishing you all a special moment with God this week,

Angela x

READINGS for the day.

Collect –

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Genesis 12. 1 – 4a

A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Psalm 121

SECOND READING

Romans 4. 1 – 5, 13 – 17

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans.

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by

works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

GOSPEL

John 3. 1 – 17

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

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the

‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and

SERVICES during next week

St Nicholas

Mon – Tues 07.30 Morning Prayer
Wed. St Joseph **07.30** **Eucharist**
Thurs – 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 Memorial Service

– St Nicholas

17.00 Stations of the Cross

– St Barnabas

Sat - NO Weddings

Services next Sunday
Third Sunday of Lent

08.00 Holy Communion (BCP)

- St Nicholas

09.45 Sung Eucharist - St Nicholas

10.00 Eucharist - St Barnabas

17.00 Deanery Confirmation

- St Mary's Southgate

N.B. More volunteers are needed to help in the **Pastoral Centre on Saturday mornings 10.00 am - 12 noon.** or on **Tuesday mornings 10.30-12.30** Phyl Pennell 883362 roger.pennell@Zen.co.uk

NOTICES

Janet Mann's Funeral & Committal service will take place at St Richard's Chapel at the Crematorium on Friday March 21st at 11.15am for anyone wishing to attend.

A service of Thanksgiving for Janet's life will take place also on March 21st 1.00pm at St Nicholas, followed by refreshments in church. Everyone welcome.

Friday lunches in the Pastoral Centre.

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

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

BOOK QUIZ LAST CHANCE Copies on sale **TODAY £1 each** from Jan Brooks, Karen Fly, Ann Lane, Phyl Pennell or Jane Stanford. **Return by March 23rd.**

LENT SOUP LUNCHES will be available in the Pastoral Centre 12.30pm **Wednesdays in Lent until April 16th** after a short meditation with Revd Angela. Donations in aid of Parish World Bank.

Tuesdays in Lent until & including April 8th Lent Bible Study at CURC 7.30pm – 9.00pm books £7.75 from Joan Tick.

Thursday March 20th Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer 3.00- 4.00pm meeting initially in the Narthex. Everyone welcome

Sunday March 23rd APCM 11.30am St Barnabas. **Everyone** is invited to attend the Annual Meeting, coffee will be served before the Meeting in the Pastoral Centre. Pick up a copy of the Parish Year Book & Accounts, in either church.

Sunday March 23rd Deanery Confirmation St Mary's Southgate 5.00pm. Please pray for our Candidates **Ashleigh Butler & Victoria Lewis** and come and support them.

Tuesday March 25th Lady Day service 12.00noon St Barnabas, Bishop Martin
Celebrating & Preaching, **everyone welcome to attend**, especially Mothers' Union members.

Saturday March 29th Spring Cleaning
at St. Nicholas: 9.30 a.m. onwards (we usually finish about 12.30 – but the more who come the quicker it will be done !)
Do please come and join us – it's a busy but sociable morning and we would love to see you. Bring your own Hoover if you wish. Contact Jill Freeborn 883631.

DIARY NOTES

Saturday May 17th Men's Breakfast 8.30am in the Pastoral Centre.

Sunday June 8th Evensong – 6.30pm at St Nicholas.

Saturday June 14th Ladies' Breakfast 8.30am in the Pastoral Centre

CONTACTS

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PARISH OFFICE

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

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