

WORTH PARISH

St Nicholas, Worth & St Barnabas, Pound Hill



Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'.

Sunday March 23rd 2014
Third 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: Revd Angela Martin
 10.00 Eucharist at St Barnabas
Celebrant & Preacher: Canon Anthony Ball
 17.00 Conformation at
 St Mary's Southgate
Celebrant & Preacher: Bishop Martin

Next week's Readings

1 Samuel 16. 20 - 28
 Psalm 127
 2 Corinthians 1. 3 - 7
 Luke 2. 33 - 35

The Rector writes:-

Those of us in the Lent Group who are following in Jesus' footsteps and travelling *Beyond the Edge* with Andrew Mayes will already have encountered the Samaritan woman by the well whose story we hear about in today's gospel reading. The passage is preceded by one in which Jesus and his disciples discuss the issue of "purification" with a Jew, giving us the context for this encounter: what is it that makes us OK in the sight of God and of others. Or, what is our self-worth and what kind of God do we believe in? These are profound questions, appropriate for Lenten reflection. Picking up Andrew's image of Jesus taking his disciples on a physical and spiritual journey, one of the moves we can see in this story is from exclusivity to inclusion. We have here a God who is generous and accepting, the giver of living water. We have here a God who calls us to look hard at what are our true thirsts and true hungers. We have here a God who gives us love and the freedom to choose how to respond to it. There is here a two-fold challenge: Can we accept that making a commitment to work at a loving relationship is going to change us and our lives, and that of those around us? Can we accept that God might be reaching out to others through us and that we need to show that same generous and accepting love to draw them in to our family?

Every blessing in your Lenten journey,
Anthony

READINGS for the day.

Collect –

FIRST READING

Exodus 17. 1 – 7

A Reading from the Book of Exodus.

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, ‘Give us water to drink.’ Moses said to them, ‘Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?’ But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, ‘Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?’ So Moses cried out to the Lord, ‘What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.’ The Lord said to Moses, ‘Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.’ Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, ‘Is the Lord among us or not?’

Psalm. 95 Response

**‘We shall rejoice in the strength
of our salvation’**

SECOND READING

Romans 5. 1 – 11

A Reading from Paul’s Letter to the Romans.
Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us,

because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

GOSPEL

John 4. 5 - 42

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

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, ‘Give me a drink’. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, ‘How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?’ (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, ‘If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, “Give me a drink”, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.’ The woman said to him, ‘Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?’ Jesus said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.’ The woman said

to him, ‘Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Go, call your husband, and come back.’ The woman answered him, ‘I have no husband.’ Jesus said to her, ‘You are right in saying, “I have no husband”; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!’ The woman said to him, ‘Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.’ The woman said to him, ‘I know that Messiah is coming’ (who is called Christ). ‘When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I am he, the one who is speaking to you.’ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, ‘What do you want?’ or, ‘Why are you speaking with her?’ Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ‘Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?’ They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, ‘Rabbi, eat something.’ But he said to them, ‘I have food to eat that you do not know about.’ So the disciples said to one another, ‘Surely no one has brought him something to eat?’ Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, “Four months more, then comes the harvest”? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds

true, “One sows and another reaps.” I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.’ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, ‘He told me everything I have ever done.’ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, ‘It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.’

Post Communion Prayer –

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 12.00 Lady Day service

– **St Barnabas**

Wed 12.15 Lent meditations – St Barnabas
15.00 Messy Church

– St Barnabas Hall

Thurs 10.30 Eucharist – St Nicholas

Fri 17.00 Stations of the Cross

– St Barnabas

Sat – NO Weddings

Services next Sunday

Mothering Sunday, Forth Sunday of Lent

08.00 Holy Communion (BCP) – St Nicholas
09.45 Family Eucharist – St Nicholas
10.00 Eucharist – St Barnabas

Did you know... that the clocks
spring forward 1 hour next Sunday
March 30th ?

100 Club March Results

21	Mary Sharpe	£100.00
6	Pam Marson	£ 50.00
30	Gillian Osborne	£ 25.00
14	Sheila Dring	£ 25.00

NOTICES

Friday lunches in the Pastoral Centre.
Please purchase tickets by March 25th for
March 28th (01293 883362)
Two courses plus tea/coffee **£5.50**.

BOOK QUIZ must be handed in today to Jan Brooks, Karen Fly, Ann Lane, Phyl Pennell or Jane Stanford. Thank you.

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 at 12.15pm. Donations in aid of Parish World Bank.

Tuesdays in Lent until & including April 8th Lent Bible Study 7.30-9.00pm Refreshments from 7.00pm at CURC. Books **£7.75** from Joan Tick.

***TODAY - Sunday March 23rd APCM 11.30am** at St Barnabas. **Everyone** is invited to attend the Annual Meeting, coffee will be served before the Meeting in the Pastoral Centre. Copies of the Parish Year Book & Accounts, in both churches.

***TODAY - Sunday March 23rd Deanery Confirmation** at 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. Followed by a light lunch

Thursday March 27th Mothers' Union meet at 7.30 in Pastoral Centre. No service

Saturday March 29th Spring Cleaning at St. Nicholas: 9.30am to 12.30pm approx. – Bring your own hoover if you wish. Contact Jill Freeborn 883631.

Thanks to those who supported the Jumble Sale on March 15th £318.61 was raised for church funds.

Saturday March 29th Gardening and cleaning at St. Barnabas, 8.30- 11.30 am.

Please help us. Many hands make light work. Refreshments provided.

Thursday April 3rd St Nicholas Circle meets 8.00pm in the Pastoral Centre. Stewart & Ann Sole talk on 'Places of worship around the world.' All are welcome.

Friday April 4th a visit to Chichester Cathedral for tea & Evensong when our Parish is prayed for. Joan Tick 884695

DIARY NOTES

Saturday May 10th Plant Fair and Market. If anyone has any small plant pots they no longer need or unwanted hanging baskets, we would be pleased to have these ASAP in preparation for the Plant Fair. Phyl (01293) 883362.

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

Rector

Canon Anthony Ball 01293 882229
rector@worthparish.org.uk

Assistant Rector

Revd Angela Martin 01293 404127
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

office@worthparish.org.uk

Website: www.worthparish.org.uk



facebook.com/WorthParish