

WORTH PARISH*St Nicholas, Worth & St Barnabas, Pound Hill**Wishing you a happy Chrsitmas !***Hope, peace, joy, love !****Sunday December 21st 2014****Fourth Sunday of Advent***Welcome to our church 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 Ball09.45 **No Service** at St Nicholas10.00 **Parish** Family Eucharist

at St Barnabas

Celebrant & Preacher:

Canon Anthony Ball

18.30 Nine Lessons & Carols

at St Nicholas

Presiding: Canon Anthony Ball**Next week's Readings**

Jeremiah 31. 15 - 17

Psalm 124

1 Corinthians 1. 26 - 29

Matthew 2. 13 - 18

The Rector writes:-

Many people are fascinated by angels. A couple of years ago I attended the launch party for *Angels* - a delightful book by Jane Williams. In it she traces the story of angels in the Jewish and Christian traditions – showing how angels interact with humans at key moments in history. They not only comfort and encourage, but also help to move people forward in important ways at special moments. Although angels and their deeds populate the pages of Scripture we have few visual clues to confirm the images of glorious creatures that adorn our Christmas cards. Nevertheless, the idea is a powerful one and many people today believe they have seen angels – either heavenly beings or humans displaying angelic capabilities. In her book Jane explains that angels are all around us but they are only seen when they have a particular job to do. Do you ever wonder what, or who, an angel might be for you or how you might react to an encounter? Can we sometimes be the angel to another, bringing life-changing moments? Today's gospel reading invites such questions. Gabriel bursts into Mary's world and her life is changed forever. For most people the actual moment of such a breaking-in passes without bells ringing and it is only with hind-sight that we appreciate what was at work. Spiritual disciplines or practices such as the Ignatian *examen* in which we review the day in the presence of God can be a real help in allowing us to reflect regularly on God's place in our lives. In doing so, we improve our chances of not missing those precious moments of annunciation in our own lives. *May God's richest blessings be yours this Christmas.*

READINGS for the day .

Collect:

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, .in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 7. 1 - 11, 16

Reading from the Second Book of Samuel.

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, ‘See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.’ Nathan said to the king, ‘Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.’ But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’ Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that

they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

SECOND READING

Romans 16. 25 - end

A Reading from Paul’s Letter to the Romans.

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

GOSPEL

Luke 1. 26 - 38

A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.’ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will

name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"' as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Post Communion

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SERVICES during next week

St Nicholas

Mon–Wed only 07.30 Morning Prayer

St Barnabas

Mon & Tues only 17.00 Evening Prayer

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**Tues 10.30** Eucharist - St Barnabas

**Wed** Christmas Eve – see below

**Thurs** Christmas Day – see below.

**Sat. 12.00 Holy Matrimony**  
– St Nicholas

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Services next Sunday

Holy Innocents

08.00 Morning Prayer - St Nicholas

09.45 Sung Eucharist & Holy Baptism
– St Nicholas

10.00 Family Service - St Barnabas

12.00 Holy Baptism - St Nicholas

Updated



Christmas Services

Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib Services at
St Nicholas & St Barnabas

11.00pm Carols at St Nicholas

11.30pm Midnight Mass at St Nicholas

Celebrant: Canon Anthony Ball

Preacher: Revd Steve Burston

11.30pm Midnight Mass at St Barnabas

Celebrant & Preacher: Revd Gordon Parry

Christmas Day

8.00am BCP Holy Communion –
St Nicholas

Celebrant & Preacher: Revd Gordon Parry

9.45am Sung Eucharist – St Nicholas

Celebrant & Preacher: Canon Anthony Ball

10.00am Family Eucharist – St Barnabas

Celebrant & Preacher: Bishop of Horsham

Daily Offices in 2015

Morning Prayer at St Barnabas will be said at 8.30 a.m. daily (except Sun.) with Eucharist on Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat.

Evening Prayer (BCP) at St Nicholas will be said at 5.00 p.m. daily (except Sun).

NOTICES

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Florence Sale on December 5th, a former member of St Barnabas congregation, Florence's funeral will take place tomorrow (22nd) in the Memorial Chapel at the crematorium at 2.30pm.

TODAY Sunday December 21st Nine Lessons & Carols at St Nicholas 6.30pm

Sunday December 21st Worth Abbey Advent Carol Service 4.00pm.

Refreshments afterwards and Retiring collection to send a sick pilgrim to Lourdes.

Wednesday December 24th Christmas Eve Crib services at both St Barnabas & St Nicholas, unwrapped gifts for needy children & adults will be accepted at these services.

The order for new **double glazed windows and doors** for the **Pastoral Centre** has been placed. Cost £11,500. Installation is scheduled for **Jan. 26-28th**

The Children's Society. Arrangements will be made early in 2015 to collect and count the money in the saving boxes.

DIARY NOTES

Sunday January 4th 11.30am Nic's Christingle service at St Nicholas, all welcome.

Tuesday January 13th 7.30pm Eucharist with the **Licensing** of the Revd James Grant as Associate Vicar by the **Bishop of Horsham** and **Installation** by the Archdeacon at St Barnabas. Please contact Phyl Pennell if you can help with refreshments after the service.

Sunday January 18th 10.00 am. Parish Eucharist at St Barnabas for Fr James' first Sunday.

No 9.45am service at St Nicholas that day.

Thursday January 29th, 6.30 pm Service to Commemorate the **60th Anniversary of the Laying of the Foundation Stone** of St Barnabas. Bishop of Lewes to preside. Refreshments after the service.

It is not too late !

Instead of buying Christmas cards for all your church friends why not write them a cheery message on one of our gift tags, pin it on one of the boards which are at the back of each church and give a donation to our chosen Christmas Charities (preferably in a yellow envelope - gift aided). Thank you.



December Church Draw



5	Mary Harrison	£100.00
2	Christopher Butcher	£ 50.00
43	Anthony Ball	£ 25.00
11	Cecil Henman	£ 25.00

CONTACTS

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PARISH OFFICE

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

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