

WORTH PARISH

St Nicholas, Worth & St Barnabas, Pound Hill



**“Take the child and his mother,
and flee to Egypt.”**

Sunday December 28th 2014

The Holy Innocents

*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 Morning Prayer (BCP)
at St Nicholas
Presiding & Preaching: Revd Steve Burston
09.45 Sung Eucharist & Holy Baptism
at St Nicholas
Celebrant & Preacher: Revd Susan Suddaby
10.00 Family Worship at St Barnabas
Presiding: Revd Steve Burston
12.00 Holy Baptism at St Nicholas
Presiding: Revd Steve Burston

Next week's Readings

Isaiah 60. 1 - 6
Psalm 72. 10 - 15
Ephesians 3. 1 - 12
Matthew 2. 1 - 12

The Curate writes:

Do you know that feeling when you just had an argument or disagreement with someone either in the street, driving the car, on the phone or even in Church and you wish you had said that or said this? In the heat of the moment you can't find the words and it is only as you replay the altercation slowly in your mind afterwards that you can bring to mind the perfect cutting words that would have seen you victorious from the exchange. Likewise there are times when we find the strength to stand up for someone or do the right thing - when we say afterwards - I don't know where that came from. If you're like me - I've done and still do both. On Boxing Day we celebrated the feast of St Stephen the first Christian Martyr. St Stephen (Acts 7) is confronted with the hottest altercation. He was pulled in front of the Jewish authorities and accused of blaspheme. St Stephen did not struggle like us to do find the right cutting words for his accusers, but he does find the strength to do the right thing. He delivers a long speech defending Jesus and when he is condemned for this and is being stoned - he still does the right thing - he asks for his killers to be forgiven. So maybe if we allow Jesus at the front of our minds, like St Stephen, we will more often than not be wondering where we found the strength to do or say the right thing - rather than thinking I wished I had said this or that put down. Maybe when we can't find the right cutting words we are being protected from ourselves.

Christmas Blessings - Steve

READINGS for the day.

Collect:

Heavenly Father, whose children suffered at the hands of Herod, though they had done no wrong: by the suffering of your Son and by the innocence of our lives frustrate all evil designs and establish your reign of justice and peace; 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.

powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31. 15 - 17

Reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah.

Thus says the Lord: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more. Thus says the Lord: Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for there is a reward for your work, says the Lord: they shall come back from the land of the enemy; there is hope for your future, says the Lord: your children shall come back to their own country.

PSALM 124

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1. 26 - 29

Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were

GOSPEL

Matthew 2. 13 - 18

A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.' When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'



Post Communion

Lord Jesus Christ, in your humility you have stooped to share our human life with the most defenceless of your children: may we who have received these gifts of your passion rejoice in celebrating the witness of the holy innocents to the purity of your sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; for you are alive and reign, now and for ever.

Amen.

Services during next week

St Nicholas

Mon–Sat **NO** Morning Prayer

St Barnabas

Mon – Sat **No** Evening Prayer

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**Tues** No service at St Barnabas

**Thurs** No service at St Nicholas

**Sat.** **No weddings.**

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Services next Sunday

The Epiphany

08.00 Holy Communion (BCP)

- St Nicholas

09.45 Sung Eucharist

- St Nicholas

10.00 Eucharist

- St Barnabas

11.30 Nic's Christingle

- St Nicholas

Daily Offices in 2015

Morning Prayer at **St Barnabas** will be said at 8.30 a.m. daily (except Sunday) with Eucharist on Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat. **Evening Prayer (BCP)** at **St Nicholas** will be said at 5.00 p.m. daily (except Sunday)

We will remember them !

On New Years Day the bell ringers will commemorate and remember the death of the 2nd person listed on the war memorial in St Nicholas. Unlike 'our' first casualty, Alan Parsons (died 01/01/1915) was by comparison a very ordinary person; one of the many thousands of ordinary people who would die over the coming years. It's unclear whether his death shortly after arriving in France was due directly to enemy action, later as a result of wounds, or as a result of illness that killed so many during the war. Nevertheless it was of great significance to his widowed mother Emma who was then postmistress in Three Bridges; she sacrificed three sons by the end of the war; Alan, Douglas and William (who is one of those buried in Worth churchyard with a CWGC headstone). She gathered together the sum of 4s 11d (that's 4 shillings and 11 pence or less than 25p for the youngsters) to have the personal message 'Peace Perfect Peace' engraved on his gravestone at 31/2 pence per letter; a message she would use again a few years later on William's headstone.

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We are pleased to announce the birth of
Georgina Rose Margó to Fay (née
Sanders) & Oriol – on December 14th
2014.



Lord, your Son taught us that to welcome a child is to welcome Him. Today we pray for children at risk on the streets, those here in England and on war torn streets of the world. Help us to see these lost, lonely and abused children through your eyes and to find ways to help them and bring them to safety. Amen.

NOTICES

Canon Anthony and our Curate Steve will be on holiday until January 6th. Steve is available for pastoral emergencies &

Sunday services (Contacts List for ) The Parish Office will be closed until Monday Dec. 29th; then closed January 1st & reopening January 2nd

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 for the collection and counting of monies in the saving boxes held by the supporters of this Charity.

Pastoral Centre is now closed and will re-open on **January 2nd** at 10.30a.m.

Friday lunches in the Pastoral Centre at 12.30p.m. resume on **January 2nd**. Tickets £5.50 (2 courses plus tea/coffee).

Sunday January 4th Canon Anthony Stidolph will be celebrating and preaching at St Nicholas 9.45 service.

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

DIARY NOTES

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. There is a list in both churches for refreshment donations. All contributions gratefully received. Thank you.

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.

Used postage stamps, printer cartridges, redundant mobile phones and spectacles can be placed in the boxes provided at the Pastoral Centre and at the back of both churches - **ALL YEAR ROUND**. Proceeds from the sale of these helps such charities as St. Catherine's Hospice, Blond McIndoe etc.

CONTACTS

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PARISH OFFICE

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

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