

**St Nicholas' Parish Church, Worth & St Barnabas' Church, Pound Hill**

'Who do people say that I am?'
Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah.'

**Sunday September 13th
Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity**

*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: Rev'd Gordon Parry
09.45 Sung Eucharist at Nicholas'
Celebrant & Preacher: Rev'd Steve Burston
10.00 Family Eucharist at St Barnabas'
Celebrant & Preacher: Rev'd James Grant
12.00 Holy Baptism at St Nicholas'
Presiding: Rev'd Steve Burston
13.30 Holy Baptism at St Nicholas'
Presiding: Rev'd Steve Burston

Next week's Readings

Wisdom of Solomon 1.16 – 2.1, 12 - 22
Psalm 54
James 3.13 - 4.3, 7-8a
Mark 9. 30 - 37

The Rector writes

Words are powerful – more powerful than we sometimes realise. Words can tug at the heart-strings: Josephine, a lovely, kind, cultured young lady from the church I led in Damascus wrote this week “last night ISIS tried to attack my village ... today was a bad day, we were asked by security to leave the village.” More ‘internally displaced’; friends not numbers. Words can build up and encourage: Isaiah has been given the gift of “sustaining the weary with a word”. Do you offer that kind word to a suffering neighbour? Are you going to look out the refugees to be housed in Crawley to extend a word of “welcome”? Words can express profound truths: “You are the Messiah” says Peter, barely comprehending the meaning and significance of what he says in response to Jesus’ question. Words will allow us to convey our experiences, doubts, confusion and understanding when we (OK only about 30 of us signed up so far) meet for the Alpha evenings and find it’s OK to get it wrong sometimes – as Peter does in today’s gospel. Words can also tear down: they don’t have to be “full of deadly poison” to hurt and undermine others – a sarcastic comment; the hint or insinuation in some ‘harmless gossip’ is enough. The adage “You are what you eat” is familiar and we try to limit our excesses. But do we think that “you are what you say” and take as much care over that? If we are deliberate about holding back angry words, or the temptation to boost our ego by diminishing another but instead look out opportunities to offer a kind, encouraging or welcoming word we (individually and as a Church) will be offering clear, sweet water not a brackish poison. We can’t offer both. How will you use the power of your words? Which are we to be?

Anthony

READINGS for the day.

Collect:

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 50. 4 - 9a

A Reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

Psalm 116. 1 – 8

NEW TESTAMENT READING

James 3. 1 – 12

A Reading from the letter of James.

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you

know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine, figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

GOSPEL

Mark 8. 27 - 38

A Reading from the Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, ‘Who do

people say that I am?’ And they answered him, ‘John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.’ He asked them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Peter answered him, ‘You are the Messiah.’ And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, ‘Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.’

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.’

Post Communion

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sunday October 18th 1.00pm Lucy (nee Dobson) & Richard Laing invite you to attend the Baptism service of their son Toby, at St Nicholas’.

SERVICES during next week

St Nicholas'

Mon. Wed. & Fri.

07.30 Morning Prayer & Eucharist

NB → Sat. 07.30 this week only (19/9)

Morning Prayer & Eucharist

Tues. & Thrs.

07.30 Morning Prayer

St Barnabas'

Mon. Tues. Thrs. Fri. & Sat.

17.00 Evening Prayer (BCP)

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**Tues.** 10.30 Eucharist - St Barnabas'

**Thurs.** 10.30 Eucharist – St Nicholas'

**Sat.** No weddings – St Nicholas'

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Services next Sunday

Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

08.00 Holy Communion (BCP)

- St Nicholas'

09.45 Sung Eucharist - St Nicholas'

10.00 Eucharist - St Barnabas'

11.30 Nic's & Holy Baptism

-St Nicholas'

12.30 Holy Baptism - St Nicholas'

The Pastoral Centre Café is open **every week Tuesdays, Fridays, & Saturdays**

10.30 -12noon Do pop in. **Monday afternoon 2pm - 4.00pm** tea / drinks, cake & a chat.

We need more volunteers for Mondays please, call **Phyl 883362** or **Sheila 513469** if you can help.

Flowers for St Barnabas'

If you would like to donate either money or a floral display for the Parish Eucharist at St Barnabas' church the weekend of October 3rd & 4th please contact Jane Stanford 01293 543065. Thank you.

Start collecting for the **Parish Jumble Sale** in the Hall 9.30 - 11.15am on Saturday October 31st but please hold on to it awaiting further details.

NOTICES

Friday lunches 12.30pm in the Pastoral Centre - 2 courses plus tea / coffee - £5.50 Please purchase tickets by **Sept. 15th** for Sept. 18th at the Centre or phone **513469**

Sundays Festival Choir rehearsals 4.00pm – 6.00pm at St Nicholas', come and join us.

Monday September 14th St Barnabas' Julian Meeting 11.00am in the Pastoral Centre. Everyone welcome.

Saturday September 19th Men's Breakfast 8.30am at the Pastoral Centre – **sign-up sheets** in both churches last chance to sign up today !

Saturday September 19th, Come and Sing... Musicals at St Nicholas' Church. 11.00am start all day workshop (bring lunch & £5 to cover music hire) or come to the **concert at 7.00pm** (£5 entry, free refreshments for all, details on worthparish.org/comeandsing

Tuesday September 22nd 7.30pm St Barnabas' Church Hall—starting **Alpha Course**, 'Is there more to life than this?' For more information email steve.burston@worthparish.org.uk or phone the Parish Office. We are looking for volunteers to help serve the meal or setting up. Course **Sign-up sheets** in both churches as well as invitations to distribute to friends and neighbours.

Friday September 25th 7.00pm– 9.00pm **Crawley Interfaith network** invite you to an evening of Sufi Poetry, Music & Dance at St Barnabas' Church Hall. See announcements in both churches.

Saturday September 26th a gardening and cleaning session at St. Barnabas' **9.00** - 11.30am. Please help us if you can. Refreshments available.

Sunday September 27th 11.30am St Nicholas' – Nic's all-age Animal Service

Thank you to all who attended the St Barnabas' Anniversary Tea £136.20 was raised for Church Funds.

Thank you to all who worked hard to prepare for the Tea, well done !

DIARY NOTES

Friday October 2nd 7.30 pm. A concert at St. Barnabas', celebrating our 60th anniversary. FREE ENTRY. ALL WELCOME. See poster for details

Sunday October 4th – our Annual Pork Roast will follow the Parish Eucharist, Bishop of Horsham presiding, at St Barnabas' concluding the 60th Anniversary celebrations. £10 per adult or family ticket £25 Sign-up sheets in both churches

Saturday October 10th Mothers' Union invite you to their Coffee Morning & cake and book sale, with a Raffle—donations of cakes, books & prizes welcome too, thank you.

Saturday October 17th Parish Quiz at St Barnabas' Church Hall.

Saturday October 31st 6.30 for 7.00pm – Canon Anthony Stidolph & his school choir performing at St Nicholas'.

CONTACTS

Rector
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Curate
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Churchwardens
Phyl Pennell - 01293 883362
Sheila Dring - 01293 513496

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

0300 111 8150

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