



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



**Sunday December 13th 2015
Third Sunday of Advent**

Welcome to our churches today.

*If you have time after the services,
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 St Nicholas'

Celebrant & Preacher: Rev'd Gordon Parry

10.00 Family Eucharist at St Barnabas'

Presiding & Preacher: Canon Anthony Ball

Next week's Readings

Micah 5. 2 – 5a

Psalm 80 1 – 8

Canticle: Magnificat – Luke 1. 46 – 55

Hebrews 10. 5 – 10

Luke 1. 39 – 45

The Curate writes:-

John the Baptist would have been a difficult character to be around. Camel haired shirt, locust eating prophet whose words came straight from the hip. If I was preaching this weekend I might seek to avoid the Gospel reading and concentrate much more on the more palatable Philipians reading – Rejoice and pray. Now I can do that – and it will cause me little harm – I can rejoice and pray with the best of them. However, would John the Baptist be shouting at me and others – 'you brood of vipers'? Would he be saying just because you come to Church and wear a dog collar what makes you think that you are safe? John the Baptist makes us feel uncomfortable just as he made King Herod uncomfortable enough to have him beheaded. So rather than ignore John's words in our gospel, I think Advent is time to lean into the readings to help us prepare to celebrate the coming of the King. Advent has become a word that lost its power and seems old and archaic. However, to me Advent should be an important season of preparation and anticipation. Preparation – that we are able to do by leaning into the words of John's warning and checking our own hearts in the light of them, to ensure that we are not sitting smugly behind a dutiful type of faith but have hearts that are transformed by the following of Jesus Christ. If we have self reflected as some did on our Quiet Day and prepared properly for Advent – then we can be full of joyful anticipation for the coming of Jesus. It is only when we are prepared and in a state of anticipation that we are more likely to see God's glory now in the everyday and in the ordinary. To see God's glory in those that God has placed around us. –

Steve

READINGS for the day

Collect:

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Zephaniah 3. 14 - 20

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Zephaniah.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

Canticle: Isaiah 12. 2 – 6 or

Psalm 146 4 – 10

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Philippians 4. 4 - 7

A Reading Paul's first Letter to the Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL

Luke 3. 7 - 18

A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.' And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we

do?’ He said to them, ‘Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.’ Soldiers also asked him, ‘And we, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.’ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, ‘I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Post Communion

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.
Amen.

Thanks to those who supported the Saturday Market on December 5th **£69.72** was raised for church funds. A further **£24.55** was raised by the Knit n Natter stall.

Natasha and Irene, Claire Popoff's daughters, invite those attending Claire's funeral to 11 Dene Tye, Pound Hill afterwards.

Footpath at St Nicholas'

This was not resurfaced last week due to the inclement weather, please be aware that the footpath **may not be accessible on December 21st & 22nd** - contact the Parish Office for confirmation - 0300 111 8150. Thank you.

SERVICES during next week

St Barnabas'

Wed. & Fri.

09.00 Morning Prayer & Eucharist

Tues. & Thurs.

09.00 Morning Prayer

St Nicholas'

Sat. 09.00 Morning Prayer & Eucharist

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**Mon.** 11.00 Christmas Readings & Carols – Lanehurst Gardens

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

**Wed.** 15.00 Messy Church – St Barnabas' Church Hall

**Thurs.** 10.30 Eucharist – St Nicholas'  
13.15 Funeral (Agnes Rixon) – St Nicholas'

**Fri.** 14.30 Funeral (Claire Popoff) – St Nicholas'

**Sat.** NO WEDDINGS – St Nicholas'

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Services next Sunday

Fourth Sunday of Advent

08.00 Holy Communion (BCP)

- St Nicholas'

09.45 Sung Eucharist - St Nicholas'

11.30 Nic's All-age - St Nicholas'

16.00 Carols for All - St Barnabas'

18.30 Nine Lessons & Carols – St Nicholas'

Parking at Bishop's Lodge and access to the Cottage. Please do not park at Bishop's Lodge or attempt vehicular access to the Cottage.



Instead of sending Christmas cards to other members of the congregation why not write a message on a gift label and make a donation to our chosen Christmas charities. **See the boards displayed in both churches.**

PEW SHEET

After 4.5 years the current compiler of the pew sheet is planning to retire at the beginning of January 2016. If you are interested in this role please contact the Rector or Joan Tick.

NOTICES

Christmas lunch....

Friday December 18th in the Pastoral Centre at 12.30pm menu includes turkey, accompaniments, Christmas pudding and mince pies, fruit juice, tea/coffee (bring your own alcohol). **Tickets cost £10.50 each and must be bought in advance by December 15th** from the Pastoral Centre or (01293) 883362.

Gifts of toys, games, books etc. suitable for ages 0 - 12years. These donations will go to the Golden Lions Children's Trust and **toiletries, non perishable foodstuffs, warm clothing**, for Crawley Open House. **All items must be NEW AND UNWRAPPED** although donations of wrapping paper is also welcome. Thank you. Bring to the following **4.00pm** services ----

St Barnabas' - December 20th at Carols for All & the Christmas Eve Crib Service on **December 24th**

St Nicholas' - Christmas Eve Crib Service on December 24th

Monday December 14th 11.00am

St Barnabas' **Julian Group** meets in church. Everyone welcome.

Christmas is coming !

Remember www.easyfundraising.org.uk is a great way to raise funds for the Church.

Christmas holidays - the Pastoral Centre will be open as usual on Saturday December 19th but then closed until Saturday January 2nd.



Thursday December 17th 5.30 – 7.30pm Crawley URC invite everyone to sing Carols with them at Three Bridges Station, inside the station, just by the shops, collecting for Crawley Open House.

DIARY NOTES

Sunday December 20th Services –

St Barnabas' 4.00pm Carols for All followed by refreshments of mince pies & mulled wine. Donations of mince pies would be welcomed please.

St Nicholas' 6.30pm Nine Lessons & Carols followed by mulled wine.

Christmas Cash Collections.

A percentage of the collections at both churches, from all Christmas services, that are not Gift Aided to the Parish will be donated to the three chosen Charities.

A Public Notice re the work of double glazed windows and door at St. Barnabas is displayed at both churches. The Notice will be displayed until December 31st 2015. It is hoped that the work will be carried out before Easter 2016.

CONTACTS

Rector

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Curate

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Churchwardens

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PARISH OFFICE

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

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