



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

**2016**  
**HAPPY**  
**NEW YEAR**

**Sunday January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016**  
**Feast of the Epiphany**

*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 Steve Burston

10.00 Eucharist at St Barnabas'

*Presiding & Preacher:* Rev'd Gordon Parry

11.30 Nic's All-age at St Nicholas'

*Presiding:* Rev'd Steve Burston

**Next week's Readings**

Isaiah 43. 1 - 7

Psalms 29.

Acts 8. 14 - 17

Luke 3. 15 - 17, 21 - 22

**Thoughts for the New Year:-**

**Happy New Year to you all !**

A new year, new beginnings, a new life.

When a new year begins we often look back on the year gone-by to reflect on its joys, sadness, achievements, failings and then we make a resolution to improve, to move forward with determination to do better. That is my theory anyhow but at the end of 2016 will I, will you, look back again and wonder, what and why, or will we be really impressed with our achievements ?

In 2016 there are a lot of new things to plan, new ventures there for some of us, for me too, I hope and pray - but what and for whom? We cannot make the decisions on our own, we should not rush headlong into something; we need to pray, to think and to consider what God would want us to do. We do not know His plans but we do know He will show us the way, if we let Him in to our hearts and minds; we need to be still, quiet and listen for that still, small voice that is calling us, then we may have an idea.

Next week we will celebrate the Baptism of Christ and all over Christendom, including here in our Parish Eucharist, there will be new Christians baptised, born in to the family of God, not knowing what they will do with their lives but knowing it is a new beginning for them; just as a new calendar year is a new beginning for everyone, with all its joys and sorrows, all its uncertainties. I pray that all of us may go forward with the Lord as our guiding light, helping, healing and leading us on the right path; showing us why things happen and how we can turn to Him for our strength and salvation.

Go forward, as I shall, with hope, joy, peace and love in my heart and mind, and attempt to work " 'to the greater glory of God' . "

*Joan Tick - (retiring) Pew Sheet compiler*

## **READINGS for the day**

### **Collect:**

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; 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**

#### **Jeremiah 31. 7 - 14**

*A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah.*

For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, 'Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel.' See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labour, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock. For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

### **Psalms 72. 10 - 15**

### **NEW TESTAMENT READING**

#### **Ephesians 1. 3 - 14**

*A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians.*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation,

and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

## **GOSPEL**

### **Matthew 2. 1 - 12**

*A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."' Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

## **Post Communion**

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

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

11.00 Home Communion –  
Lanehurst Gardens.

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

**Sat.** NO WEDDINGS – St Nicholas'

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#### **Services next Sunday**

#### **First Sunday of Epiphany**

#### **The Baptism of Christ**

**08.00 Holy Communion (BCP)**

- St Barnabas'

09.45 **Parish Eucharist** - St Nicholas'

10.00 **NO SERVICE** - St Barnabas'

## **NEXT SUNDAY**



### **PARISH EUCHARIST**

**& Baptism – Sunday January 10<sup>th</sup>**

**9.45 a.m. at St Nicholas'.**

The **8.00 a.m.** (BCP) Holy Communion will be celebrated at **St Barnabas'** and there will not be a 10.00 Family Eucharist there.

## NOTICES

**Friday lunches** 12.30pm in the Pastoral Centre - 2 courses plus tea / coffee - £5.50  
Please purchase tickets by **Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>** for January 8<sup>th</sup> at the Centre or phone **883362**

**TODAY the weekly Parish Giving envelopes** are available for collection from the back of both churches. Please remember to collect yours, thank you.

**Tuesday January 5<sup>th</sup> - Following the Christmas holidays -** the Pastoral Centre will **reopen** at 10.30am. *Please do pop in for a drink & chat.*

**Thursday January 7<sup>th</sup> St Nicholas' Circle** meets **8.00pm** at the Pastoral Centre. Charlotte Jones from Trading Standards talks about doorstep selling & scams; everyone welcome.

**Saturday January 9<sup>th</sup> the first Saturday Market of 2016** takes place in the Pastoral Centre 10.00 am - 11.45am. All welcome.

**Monday January 11<sup>th</sup> - St Barnabas' Julian Group** meets at **11.00am** everyone welcome.

**Tuesday January 12<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm** the first one of our New Home Groups begins at 28 Saxon Road, Worth- all welcome - anyone wanting to attend please contact Rev'd Steve or the Parish Office, 0300 111 8150.

**Thursday January 14<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm Julian Group** meets in the chapel at **St Nicholas'** Everyone welcome.

**Saturday January 16<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm "Late Christmas Quiz"** at St Barnabas' Church Hall, book tickets from Parish Office 03001118150, £5 per person. If bringing a 'Take Away' please arrive at 7.00pm. Please bring your own drinks & nibbles (glasses/plates/cutlery provided) Come as a Team of 6 or join one there.

**Home Groups:** In January four new home groups will meet fortnightly on Tuesdays (7.30pm), Wednesdays (7.30pm) and Thursdays (11.30am). Contact the clergy or Parish Office to express an interest or for more information.

We are sad to announce that Gerry Colyer (a one time Sidesperson and member of St Nicholas congregation, with his wife, Ann) died peacefully at home in Lincolnshire on December 29<sup>th</sup> 2015. We hold Ann and family in our thoughts and prayers.

## PEW SHEET

We are grateful to Sue Walshe for her generous offer to "have a go" at compiling the Pew Sheet from the middle of January 2016.

## Postage Stamps

Remember to place used postage stamps (of any nationality) in the collection boxes available at the back of both churches. These raise funds for St. Catherine's Hospice (please let us have your stamps all year round, not only at Christmas time.)

## DIARY NOTES

### The Children's Society

Arrangements will be made early in 2016 for the collection and counting of monies in the **savings boxes** held by supporters of this Charity.

## CONTACTS

### *Rector*

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

### *Curate*

Revd Steve Burston 01293 279028  
*steve.burston@worthparish.org.uk*

### *Churchwardens*

Phyl Pennell - 01293 883362  
Sheila Dring - 01293 513496

### **PARISH OFFICE**

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

**☎ 0300 111 8150**

**E-mail-** *office@worthparish.org.uk*

**Website:** *www.worthparish.org*



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