

**Second
 Sunday of Lent
 21st February
 2016**



*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: Revd Gordon Parry
 09.45 Eucharist at St Nicholas'
Celebrant & Preacher: Revd Gordon Parry
 10.00 Eucharist at St Barnabas'
Celebrant & Preacher: Revd Steve Burston
 11.30 Nic's Service
Leader: Revd Steve Burston

Next week's Readings (Lent 3)

Isaiah 55.1-9
 Psalm 63.1-9
 I Corinthians 10.1-13
 Luke 13.1-9

The Rector writes

The reading from Genesis this morning gives us an example of the honest and direct conversations that Abram (and Abraham, as he is to become) has with God. He is able to express his deepest hope and desire (and have a little moan at the same time!). Abram's trust in God's response is "reckoned ... as righteousness". Notice that Abram doesn't do or try to prove anything to God, nor promise anything in return. He simply believes and trusts and that is enough to secure his citizenship in heaven (to use St Paul's phrase) – notwithstanding the very earthly focus of his desires. This week we have been urged to think deeply about what it means to be a citizen ("subject", actually) in this nation and how (or whether) that is compatible with membership of a wider European family – and the varied answers to such deliberations will feature heavily in the press between now and June. As the debate rages, perhaps we could challenge ourselves to think what our own reaction to it says about our deepest desires and hopes? What is it we really want for ourselves, our community ... our parish? Does that reveal us as citizens of heaven, or are we still in need of Jesus' transforming power? Do we have the confidence to speak honestly to God about it? And, will we trust in God's response?

Collect

Almighty God,
you show to those who are in error
the light of your truth,
that they may return to the way of
righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted
into the fellowship of Christ's religion,
that they may reject those things
that are contrary to their profession,
and follow all such things as are
agreeable to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 15.1-12,17-18

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' But Abram said, 'O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' But the word of the Lord came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' He brought him outside and said,



'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, 'I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.' But he said, 'O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.

On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.'



*The Lord
is my Light
and my Salvation*
Psalms 27:1

Psalms 27

New Testament reading

Philippians 3.17 - 4.1

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

The Gospel Reading

Luke 13.31-35

The Lament over Jerusalem



At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the

city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."'

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God,
you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves:
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,
and inwardly in our souls;
that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body,
and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Services during next week

St Barnabas'

Wed. & Fri.

09.00 Morning Prayer & Eucharist
Tues. & Thurs. 09.00 Morning Prayer
Tues. 10.30 Eucharist
Wed. 15.00 Messy Church
Fir. 12.00 Stations of the Cross
Sat. 17.00 Evening Prayer

St Nicholas'

Sat 09.00 Morning Prayer & Eucharist
Tues & Fri 17.00 Evening Prayer
Wed 24 Feb. 13.00 – Funeral
Thurs. 10.30 Eucharist

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## **Services next Sunday**

### **Third Sunday of Lent**

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|-------|--------------------|--------------|
| 08.00 | Holy Communion BCP | St Nicholas' |
| 09.45 | Sung Eucharist     | St Nicholas' |
| 10.00 | Family Service     | St Barnabas' |

## NOTICES & DIARY NOTES

**Friday lunches** 12.30 in the Pastoral Centre - 2 courses + tea / coffee - £5.50. Please **buy** tickets by **Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>** for Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> at the Centre or phone **883362**

**Lenten soup lunches** will be served in the Pastoral Centre at **12.15 pm on Tuesdays during Lent**, 23 February and 1,8,15 and 22 March. Donations to the Parish World Bank. **Please support us**

**Ecumenical Lent Course - Opening Doors** – held at Crawley URC (Worth Park Road) on **Tuesdays in Lent** from 16 Feb to 15 Mar. Meet at 7.30p.m. for refreshments. Course starts at 7.45p.m. Leaders: *Pound Hill clergy*. **All welcome.**

**Wednesday Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> 15.15 St Barnabas' Church Hall-** Messy Church

**Thursday Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> Mothers' Union Eucharist & AGM 19.30 St Barnabas';** followed by cheese & wine, everyone welcome.

**Friday Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> 12.00 St Barnabas'** Stations of the Cross, everyone welcome to attend.

**Friday Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> 20.00 onwards Church in the Pub** – Coaching Halt

**Sat Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> 1.00 - 2.00pm in the Meeting Room at St Barnabas'** the Mothers' Union invite you to their Wave of Prayer, including prayers for our Diocese and Links with Africa Dioceses & South Korea, everyone welcome.

**Mon Feb 29<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm** at The Barn, The Causeway, Horsham - an **"Evening of Flower Demonstration"** free parking celebrating 140 Years of the Mothers' Union Tickets £10 from 01403 253762.

**Thurs. Mar.3<sup>rd</sup> 20.00 St Nicholas Circle meets in the Pastoral Centre.**

**Parish Jumble Sale**, in the Parish Hall, 9.30-10.30 am, **Saturday 12 March**. Please save your jumble. Do not bring it until that weekend as we have nowhere to store it. Thank you.

The **APCM** which was scheduled for 13 March will now take place on (Weds) **27 April** at 6.30 p.m. as the PCC's accounts will not be ready for presentation in March. The **Parish Eucharist and Bring & Share lunch at St Barnabas'** on 13 March will go ahead as planned.

**Readers, Sidespeople & welcomers:** There will be a meeting (& training session) for all involved in this ministry in either church (and any who are thinking of joining the teams) on **13 March** after the Parish Eucharist (and before the shared meal).

**Key Amnesty.** Bob Musselwhite is compiling (and will maintain) a register of parish key holders. If you have any parish keys please contact the parish office to let him know. Or, if you don't need it/them any longer, hand in to Bob, the Parish Office (at St B) or to one of the clergy. Thank you.

### CONTACTS

#### Rector

Canon Anthony Ball 01293 882229  
[rector@worthparish.org.uk](mailto:rector@worthparish.org.uk)

#### Curate

Revd Steve Burston 01293 279028  
[steve.burston@worthparish.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:office@worthparish.org.uk)

#### 100 Club – February Winners

No.20 Mary Pollatos £100  
No.38 Trevor Stokes £50  
No.16 Roger & Phyl Pennell £25  
No.2 Christopher Butcher £25



Please send pew sheet notices to [pewsheet@worthparish.org.uk](mailto:pewsheet@worthparish.org.uk) or phone 0300 111 8150 Sue