

**Third Sunday
of Lent
28th February
2016**



*The Water I Shall Give
Will Become A Spring
Of Living Water
Welling Up To
Eternal Life*

*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 Steve Burston

09.45 Eucharist at St Nicholas'

Celebrant & Preacher: Canon Anthony Ball

10.00 Family Service (non-Eucharist)
at St Barnabas'

Presiding: Rev'd Steve Burston

Next week's Readings (Lent 4)

Joshua 5.9-12

Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5.16-21

Luke 15.1-3, 11b-32

The Curate writes

I do like Sue's choice of picture for the Gospel reading. I don't quite see in scripture 'And it shall be cut down by a chainsaw, strictly following health and safety guidelines.' Of course this parable can be read on several different metaphorical levels: the Fig Tree can be us as individuals or us as the Church. It doesn't look rotten and many ways it seems fine – but its fruits are rotten and plain bad. And the man who planted it (God) wants to cut it down, but there is the gardener (Jesus) who says let me have a go at transforming the fruit. There is a year reprieve (not long). So following the Crawley Review we are looking at the fruit we bear – what will produce better fruit? Fruit that means growth - in numbers, in our relationship with God and in vitality in our service to others. On May 7th Rev'd Simon Newham (Ifield) will be helping us to create a vision that will seek to see good fruit produced. My heartfelt plea is for as many of us to be involved in the weeks before (in prayer and conversations) and on the day in creating this vision – for this is your Church and your vision of how to build God's Kingdom in this place – a Church that will exist long after the current clergy have gone – so please save the date and get involved by asking Anthony or me about it – Steve.

Collect

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to
joy but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he
was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the
way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of
life 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.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55.1-9

An Invitation to Abundant Life

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the
waters; and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine
and milk without money and without
price.

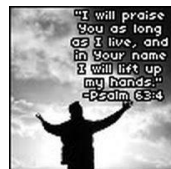
Why do you spend your money for that
which is not bread, and your labour for
that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is
good, and delight yourselves in
rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting
covenant, my steadfast, sure love for
David.

See, I made him a witness to
the peoples, a leader and commander
for the peoples. See, you shall call
nations that you do not know, and
nations that do not know you shall run
to you, because of the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, for he has
glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he
may have mercy on them, and to our
God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the
Lord.

For as the heavens are higher than the
earth, so are my ways higher than
your ways and my thoughts than your
thoughts.



Psalms 63.1-9

New Testament reading

1 Corinthians 10.1-13

Warnings from Israel's History

I do not want you to be unaware,
brothers and sisters, that our ancestors
were all under the cloud, and all passed
through the sea, and all were baptized
into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,
and all ate the same spiritual food, and
all drank the same spiritual drink. For
they drank from the spiritual rock that
followed them, and the rock was
Christ. Nevertheless, God was not
pleased with most of them, and they
were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as
examples for us, so that we might not
desire evil as they did. Do not become
idolaters as some of them did; as it is
written, 'The people sat down to eat
and drink, and they rose up to play.'
We must not indulge in sexual
immorality as some of them did, and
twenty-three thousand fell in a single

day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

1 Corinthians 10:12

Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

The Gospel Reading

Luke 13.1-9

Repent or Perish

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See

here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."'



Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; 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
Fri. 12.00 Stations of the Cross
Sat. 17.00 Evening Prayer

Tues. 11.00 Home Communion –
Lanehurst Gardens

St Nicholas'

Sat 09.00 Morning Prayer & Eucharist
Tues & Fri 17.00 Evening Prayer
Thurs. 10.30 Eucharist

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#### **Services next Sunday**

#### **Fourth Sunday of Lent and Mothering Sunday**

|       |                           |              |
|-------|---------------------------|--------------|
| 08.00 | Holy Communion BCP        | St Nicholas' |
| 09.45 | Sung Eucharist            | St Nicholas' |
| 10.00 | Informal Family Eucharist |              |
|       |                           | St Barnabas' |
| 11.30 | Nic's – All age           | St Nicholas' |

## NOTICES & DIARY NOTES

**Friday lunches** 12.30 in the Pastoral Centre - 2 courses + tea / coffee - £5.50. Please **buy** tickets by **Mar 1<sup>st</sup>** for Mar. 4<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**, 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) 7.45p.m. on **Tuesdays in Lent** Meet at 7.30p.m. for refreshments. Leaders: Pound Hill clergy. **All welcome.**

**Thurs. Mar.3<sup>rd</sup> 20.00 St Nicholas' Circle meets in the Pastoral Centre.** This month David Bone will give a talk on 'The Stones of Sussex' which will include some of the history of St. Nicholas'.

**Saturday Market 5th March**, 10.00 am - 11.45am in the Pastoral Centre. There will be a Knit n Natter stall selling Easter goodies etc. Please support them.

**Wednesday 9 March Messy Church 3.15p.m. Maidenbower Infants School.**

**Saturday 12 March. Parish Jumble Sale** in the Parish Hall, 9.30 am - 10.30 am Helpers needed- please sign the list at St Barnabas' or let one of the church wardens know that you can help. Jumble may be brought on Friday 11 March to the Pastoral Centre 10.30 am - 2.00 pm or to the Hall 7.00 pm - 8.00 pm or on the Saturday from 8.30 am.

**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. A list for contributions of food is displayed in both churches.

**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).

**Thursday 24th March- 7.00pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist and Passover Meal at St. Barnabas'.** Please sign the list at St. Barnabas' or let a church warden know if you would like to attend.

**Tuesday June 21st - Sunday June 26th** Wintershall Open Air Play 'The Life of Christ' order tickets from 01793 418299 or [www.wintershall-estate.com](http://www.wintershall-estate.com). A wonderful experience and day out.

**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

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