

**Fourth Sunday
of Lent
Mothering
Sunday
6th March 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: Canon Roger Brown

09.45 Eucharist at St Nicholas'

Celebrant & Preacher: Revd Gordon Parry

10.00 Informal Family Eucharist St Barnabas'

Celebrant & Preacher: Rev'd Steve Burston

11.30 Nic's Service at St Nicholas'

Leader: Rev'd Steve Burston

Next week's Readings (Lent 5)

Parish Eucharist

Isaiah 43.16-21

Psalms 126

Philippians 3.4b-14

John 12.1-8

The Rector writes

I sometimes wonder if anyone reads these contributions to the weekly pew sheet. Last week there was encouraging confirmation that you do when, on coming in to St Nicholas', I was greeted by an overflowing basket of chocolate bars with an invitation to take one. And later in the day a parishioner randomly offered me a chocolate sweet. That's at least two others journeying through Lent as part of the "40acts.org.uk" community. Thank you both and all those others whose random acts of kindness are contributing to the transformation of lives this Lent. Today's Old Testament reading is set in Gilgal – the place where the Israelites camp when they have crossed over the River Jordan at the end of their 40-year journey to the Promised Land. It served as their base of operations during the initial conquest of the Holy Land under Joshua. As you read this (on Sunday morning) I shall be close to the very spot (although the exact location is disputed between two sites near Jericho) meeting with rural Palestinian communities in what is called "Area C" (about 60% of the West Bank where Israel carefully controls any Palestinian construction). Tomorrow I go to Gaza, sometimes called the largest prison in the world – so don't be too jealous at the thought of me on a Mediterranean beach! Please pray for me and this fact-finding visit with Christian Aid.

Anthony

Collect

Merciful Lord, absolve your people from their offences, that through your bountiful goodness we may all be delivered from the chains of those sins which by our frailty we have committed; grant this, heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Joshua 5.9-12

The LORD said to Joshua, 'Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.' And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were encamped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Psalm 32



New Testament reading

2 Corinthians 5.16-21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Gospel Reading

Luke 15.1-3, 11b-32

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he told them this parable:

Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in

need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.' " So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate.

'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young

goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found." '



Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Lord, you know our struggle to serve you: when sin spoils our lives and overshadows our hearts, come to our aid and turn us back to you again; 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

St Nicholas'

Sat 09.00 Morning Prayer & Eucharist
Thurs. 10.30 Eucharist
Fri 14.00 Holy Matrimony

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### Services next Sunday

#### **Fifth Sunday of Lent**

08.00 Holy Communion BCP St Nicholas'  
10.00 Parish Eucharist St Barnabas'

## NOTICES & DIARY NOTES

Please send pew sheet notices to  
pewsheet@worthparish.org.uk or phone 0300  
111 8150 Sue

**Friday lunches** 12.30 in the Pastoral  
Centre - 2 courses + tea / coffee - £5.50.  
Please **buy** tickets by **Mar 8<sup>th</sup>** for Mar.  
11<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**, 8,15 and 22 March. Donations  
to the Parish World Bank. **Pls support us**

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

**Thursday 10 March St Nicholas' Julian**  
**Group** meets in the Chapel at 14.30,  
everyone welcome.

**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.



## PICULA

HARP, CLARINET & VOICE

Music from The Victorian  
Kitchen Garden Suite, TV  
theme tunes and from Queen...

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2016  
At St Nicholas Church, Worth

Tickets £10.00 from The Olive  
Tree or Tickets will be  
available on the door.

All proceeds will be  
donated to

The Olive Tree Cancer  
& St Nicholas Church,  
Worth

**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).  
Another session for Readers later in the yr.

**Monday 14 March St Barnabas' Julian**  
**Group** meets at 11.00, everyone welcome.

**PCC meeting** 19.30 **16 March** in the PC

**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.

**Sat. 26th March** at 7pm. **The Watoto**  
**children's choir** are performing at St  
Andrews. Admission free, donations  
welcome. Liz Burston 279028

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**Keys** Bob Musselwhite is compiling a  
register of parish key holders. **This is not**  
**to take any keys you use away from**  
**you, but we need to know who has**  
**what for where!** Key holders please  
contact the parish office. If you don't use  
some any longer, hand in to Bob, the Parish  
Office or to one of the clergy. Thanks

## 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](mailto:office@worthparish.org.uk)