

**Fifth Sunday of  
 Easter  
 24th April 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 times, 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 St Nicholas'  
*Celebrant and Preacher:* Revd Gordon Parry  
 09.45 Sung Eucharist - St Nicholas'  
*Celebrant and Preacher:* Canon Anthony Ball  
 10.00 Family Service - St Barnabas'  
*Celebrant and Preacher:* Revd Steve Burston  
 12.00 Holy Baptism St Nicholas'  
 Canon Anthony Ball

## **Next week's Readings (Easter 6)**

Acts 16.9-15 Psalm 67  
 Isaiah 58. 1-14 John 5.1-9

**Collect for today :** Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

## ***The Rector writes:***

Today's gospel reading speaks of an encounter with Jesus that leaves a life transformed, enabling a sharing of faith. As churches up and down this land come together this week to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of our (temporal) Sovereign it is fitting to spend a moment reflecting on the example she has given, particularly in recent years, of sharing the faith that has enabled her remarkable service, touching the lives of so many. The response to the *Everybody Welcome* sessions, both the sheer numbers attending and the valuable feedback that is emerging, encourages me to think that we – as a parish family – are showing signs of that maturity. A willingness not only to serve the community in which we are set but also to want to share something of what motivates us. Frances Reed – born before the Queen, so our oldest regular worshipper – whose own life of service and faith has touched (transformed?) many lives moves to Sidcup in the next week and we wish her every blessing as she does. Alongside that 'fare well' comes a joyful welcome to Erin, Peter and Kirsty Murgatroyd's daughter, born on Thursday. Congratulations! So, with the Queen, Frances and Erin reminding us that we are never too young or old to encounter Jesus or share his love, let us pray:

Heavenly Father,  
 as we celebrate the ninetieth birthday of Her Majesty the Queen, receive our heartfelt thanks for all that you have given her in these ninety years and for all that she has given to her people. Continue, we pray, your loving purposes in her,  
 and as you gather us together in celebration, unite us also in love and service to one another;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## First Reading

Acts 11.1-18

The apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?' Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth." But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were.

The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved." And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God? When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.'



## Psalm 148

## Second Reading

Revelation 21.1-6

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.' And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

### Services during next week

#### **St Barnabas'**

Tues, Wed, Thurs & Fri. 09.00

Morning Prayer (& Eucharist Tu + Th)

Tues. 10.30 Eucharist

Sat 17.00 Evening Prayer

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Wed 27th April 3 pm

Messy Church, St Barnabas Hall

#### **St Nicholas'**

Thurs 10.30 Eucharist

Tu, Wed, Thu & Fri 17.00 Evening Prayer

Sat 9.00 Morning Prayer and Eucharist

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Fri 29th April 8 pm Church in the Pub

### Services next Sunday

08.00 Holy Communion BCP St Nicholas'

09.45 Sung Eucharist - St Nicholas'

10.00 Family Service - St Barnabas'

11.30 Nic's Service - St Nicholas'

## Gospel Reading

*John 4 6-42*

Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The

woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.'

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

## Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## 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 **Apr 26th** for Apr  
29th at the Centre or phone **883362**.

**Everybody Welcome Course.** It is not  
too late to join the course as 2 more  
sessions are left. **Tuesday 26th April**  
(19.30-21.00 at St Barnabas') or **Thursday**  
**28th April** (11.30-13.00 at St Nicholas').

**Thurs 28th April 2016 Mothers' Union  
Meeting.** Archdeacon Fiona will be  
celebrating and preaching at our Branch's  
Eucharist she will then join us for coffee and  
talk about the Mothers' Union. **All** are very  
welcome to join us at St Barnabas' 7.30 p.m.

**The Annual Parochial Meeting** will take  
place on (Weds) **27 April** at 6.30 p.m.  
Elections will be held for the 4 Warden  
posts, 2 Deanery Synod Reps & 5 lay reps  
on the PCC. Are you called to serve in one  
of them?

**Thursday 5th May - St Nicholas  
Circle.** 8 pm: 'Responding to crisis with  
BMS World Mission' – Corinna Woods  
provides an update on the charity work,  
friends and contacts in Nepal.

**Saturday 7th May Parish Away Day**  
10.00-15.30 at Copthorne Parish Hub,  
Borers Arms Road, Copthorne, RH10 3ZQ  
- to develop a vision for the future shape of  
our mission and ministry (transport will be  
available). Please keep the date free in your  
diary and sign up at the back of church to  
indicate participation (numbers needed for  
catering).

**Saturday 14th May, Plant Fair and  
Market.** 10.00 am - 12 noon, on the Patio  
(weather permitting) and in the Pastoral  
Centre. Items for sale may be brought to  
the Pastoral Centre on Friday 13th May  
between 10.15am and 2.00 pm or on the  
day of the Fair from 8.45 am. Thank you.

**Wed 18th May** 2.00 pm – 3.30 pm 'Late  
Spring Clean' session in the Pastoral Centre  
followed by tea and cakes. All helpers  
welcome.

**Sat/Sun 28th/29th May Family Fun  
Day** tickets for all day £18 adult/£14 for  
children. Come for either one day or the  
other or both! Main Church group is going  
on Sunday.

**Saturday 28th May, Book Fair** 10.00 am  
- 12 noon in the Pastoral Centre. Please let  
us have your unwanted books (good  
condition only) on Friday 27th between  
10.30 am and 2.00pm or from 9.00am on  
the day. Thank you.

**Thursday 26th May 2016 Parish  
Pilgrimage** to Chichester Cathedral on  
Corpus Christi. Come and join us as we eat  
our lunch at the Bishop's Palace at 1pm with  
tea and coffee. Followed by a visit to the  
Door of Mercy in the Cathedral and ending  
with a service in the Bishop's Chapel 5pm.  
Any enquiries ask Revd Steve.

**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.

**16th July 2016** Early diary note for our  
forthcoming Charity Cabaret evening on be  
held at St Barnabas church. Tickets £15.00,  
this will include a 2 course dinner and a  
glass of Bucks Fizz on arrival and an evening  
of magical entertainment and music. Time  
TBC. More information on how to obtain  
tickets and the chosen charity will be  
available nearer the time.

## CONTACTS

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