

St Barnabas'
4th
December



Welcome to our services at
St Nicholas' in Worth and St
Barnabas' in Pound Hill.

This sheet details the readings in today's services and notices about our community. Please do take it home. If you are here for the first time, please do introduce yourselves. We'd also love you to join us for refreshments after the service. Please feel free to use the soft toys and books at the back of the church for your children. At Communion, everyone is welcome to come up and receive a blessing or, if baptised, share the bread and wine.

SERVICES TODAY

08.00	Holy Communion	St Nicholas'
09.45	Sung Eucharist	St Nicholas'
10.00	Eucharist Service	St Barnabas'
11.30	Nic's & Parish Christingle	St Nicholas'

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

The Rural Dean writes:

Following on from the Year of Mercy the Bishop has designated 2017 'The Year of the Bible'. During the year, there will be all sorts of events going on to help us engage more deeply with this hugely important text for the Christian journey. If you do not do so already I urge you to think about getting bible reading notes. These are available on the bible reading fellowship website

<http://www.biblereadingnotes.org.uk/>

New Daylight is a particularly good one for those starting out on this but there is a whole selection on the website. For those of you who are technically minded you can even download them now straight to your phone or computer! However, if you would prefer us to order them for you please sign up on the list at the back of church and I will organise it for you. The new notes begin in January and what better new year's resolution could there be than to spend time with God's word every day.

The Bishop has also recommended we pray the Bible Sunday collect as a regular inspiration to us all.

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen**

First Reading

Isaiah 11. v. 1 – 10

The Peaceful Kingdom

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,

and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on

the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD

as the waters cover the sea.

Return of the Remnant of Israel and Judah

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Psalm 72.1-7

HE SHALL COME DOWN
LIKE RAIN UPON THE
MOWN GRASS: AS
SHOWERS THAT WATER
THE EARTH.

– *Psalms 72.6*

Second Reading

Romans 15. 4-13

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gospel for Jews and Gentiles Alike

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name'; and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people'; and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him'; and again Isaiah says,

'The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope.'
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and
peace in believing, so that you may abound
in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Gospel

Matthew 3. 1-12

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight."

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Post Communion Prayer

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

SERVICES THIS WEEK

Tues	10.30 Eucharist	St Barnabas'
Wed	15.15 Messy Church	MB Inf. Sch
Thurs	10.30 Eucharist	St Nicholas'
Sun	08.00 Holy Communion	St Nicholas'
11 th	09.45 Sung Eucharist	St Nicholas'
Dec	10.00 Eucharist	St Barnabas'
	12.00 Baptism Service	St Nicholas'

Readings for Sunday 11th December

Isaiah 35.1-10

Psalm 146.4-10 t

James 5.7-10

Matthew 11.2-11

Wed 7 Dec 16

Maidenbower Infants School 15.15

Wed 14th Dec 16

St Barnabas' 15.00



Old and new friends welcome!

Parish Home Groups will continue to meet every two weeks - if you are interested in joining a home group please contact either Dave Parker 884574 or Joan Tick 884695.

NB: There is no St Nicholas' Julian Group Meeting in December

NOTICES

It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden death, on November 29th, of Phil Hodson, husband of Diana.

Please hold Diana and her family in your prayers at this very difficult time.

At the Open Meeting after last week's service, there was much discussion about the future of the St. Nicholas rectory, and the car parking.

The Churchwardens have asked Mark Harrison to put together a paper on the options, for discussion by the PCC.

If you have any views about what we need from the St. Nicholas buildings / facilities, please either see Mark (who is normally at the 0945 services) or email them to him on

yourpropertyexpert@gmail.com

The Christmas Charities 2016 are the Salvation Army, Crawley Open House and our Parish. Thanks to those of you who voted for the national and local charities.

DIARY NOTES

Friday lunches 12.30pm in the Pastoral Centre - 2 courses + tea / coffee - £5.50. Everyone welcome. Please order tickets by **7th Dec** (for catering) for **9th Dec** at the Centre or phone **0300 111 8150**.

The Pastoral Centre always welcomes home-made cakes. If anyone is willing to bake any items for us these will be gratefully received. Reimbursement can be arranged for ingredients used. Enjoy the baking without gaining the calories!

Sunday 4th December TODAY
St Nicholas' Parish CHRISTINGLE
Service at 11.30 am. Everyone welcome.

Friday 9th December at 12.30 pm
Christmas Lunch in the Pastoral Centre
Tickets cost £10.50 each and are available from the Pastoral Centre. Menu includes full Christmas fare- turkey and trimmings, Christmas pudding, mince pies, soft drinks,etc. Bring your own alcoholic drinks. Raffle available. Everyone welcome.

Saturday 10th December Saturday Market in the Pastoral Centre
10.00 am - 11.45am. Everyone welcome.

Sunday 11th December Open Meeting at 11.30am following the service and coffee at St. Barnabas. An opportunity to ask questions and air your views. Everyone welcome.

Safeguarding Training: Sat 28th January 2017 at St Barnabas 09.30 – 12.00. Anyone interested in attending please contact Noreen Oxlade by email only please ~ noxlade@hotmail.com

CONTACTS

During the interregnum the Rural Dean, the Revd Canon Julia Peaty + Church Wardens, Phyl Pennell and David Parker, are the sequestrators (responsible for clergy cover).

Also Revd Gordon Parry has offered his number 07802 43 23 98 if anyone specifically needs to talk with a member of clergy

Churchwardens

Sheila Dring (St B)	01293 513496
David Parker (St N)	01293 884574
Phyl Pennell (St B)	01293 883362
Colin Smith (St N)	01293 889894

Worth Parish Office

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