



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

WORTH PARISH MAGAZINE

Serving Crawley in Worth, Pound Hill, Maidenbower and Forge Wood

£1.00

December 2016 - January 2017

ST BARNABAS', POUND HILL
ST NICHOLAS', WORTH

Reg. Charity No. 1131090

CLERGY SERVING THE PARISH

Rector	VACANT	
Priest in Charge	VACANT	
Assistant Priests	Revd Canon Roger Brown	01293 520454
	Revd Gordon Parry	07802 432398
Rural Dean	Canon Julia Peaty	01342 322386

REGULAR SERVICES

Our regular services are shown below; a calendar on page 32 of this magazine details special services, groups and events happening throughout the next two months.

	St Nicholas', Worth	St Barnabas', Pound Hill
Sundays	08.00 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer, 1662) 09.45 Sung Eucharist (Common Worship) 11.30 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month - Nic's (Informal Family Service)	10.00 1st Sunday - Eucharist 10.00 2nd Sunday - Service with Sunday School 10.00 3rd Sunday - Eucharist 10.00 4th Sundays: 25th December 2016 - Christmas Morning Family Eucharist 22nd January 2017 - no service at St Barnabas', join us at St Nicholas' for a Parish Eucharist with Bishop Martin 10.00 5th Sunday - 29th January 2016 - Informal Family Service
Mondays	No services	No services
Tuesdays	No services	10.30 Eucharist (except 27 December)
Wednesdays	No services	15.00 Messy Church 14th December and 25th January
Thursdays	10.30 Eucharist (except 29 December)	No services
Fridays and Saturdays	No services	No services

And why not also join us at:

The Studio Maidenbower Infants School RH10 7RA	
7 December and 11 January (2nd Wed of the month in term times)	15:15 Messy Church@ Maidenbower

St Barnabas' Cafe RH10 7DY	
Mondays (term-times)	14.00-16.00 Pop in for a cake and a drink
Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays	10.30-12.00 Pop in for a cake and a drink
Thursdays	14.00-16.00 Knit and Natter, bring any crafts you're working on
Fridays	12.30 Lunches - prebook tickets (£5.50) by calling 01293 883362

Church in the Pub Coaching Halt Maidenbower RH10 7ZJ	
Last Friday of the month	20:30 A pint down the pub with friends

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CONTACT US

If you have a Baptism, Wedding or general enquiry, you can call the office on **0300 111 8150** or email us on office@worthparish.org.uk

Send articles, photos, information and jokes for the magazine to magazine@worthparish.org.uk

You can also keep up to date with our news and information by checking out our website, (we put the pewsheet there every week) liking us on Facebook, (where you can see lots of recent

photos) or following us on Twitter. So find us here:

-  www.worthparish.org
-  facebook.com/WorthParish
-  twitter.com/worthparish
-  Worth Parish Office, St Barnabas' Church, Worth Road, Crawley, RH10 7DY

FROM THE EDITOR

Whether this is your first magazine, or you've read it for years, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Worth Parish. Thank you for your support in buying this magazine which I've been editing for the past two years. The time has flown by and now I'm happy to be joined by Liz Gallagher, who is going to take on the role of asking you to submit articles, dealing with the advertising, printing and delivery side, so that I am free to concentrate on the part I enjoy, which is designing the content.

As usual, in this issue, you'll find a range of articles about what's happening in the parish, some write-

ups of past events, points of view and more. The parishioner profile this issue is Liz, so you know whom to approach, should you have items for the next issue.

The deadline for submissions for the next magazine will be 23rd January 2017, and the magazine will be available from Sunday 5th February. Finally, if you come across a local tradesperson who'd like to advertise with us, please show them the details below.

Thanks for reading!

Elizabeth Whyman

If you know someone who'd like to advertise with us, please pass on details to them. Our adverts sponsor the publication of the magazine, and support the work of the Parish as a whole, so the more the merrier.

The magazine is published 5 times a year - Feb/Mar, April/May, June-Sept, Oct/Nov and Dec/Jan. Rates, held at 2014 prices, are shown here.

Our circulation is 150+ and we distribute to surgeries, takeaways and the library as well as handing to wedding couples and baptism families.

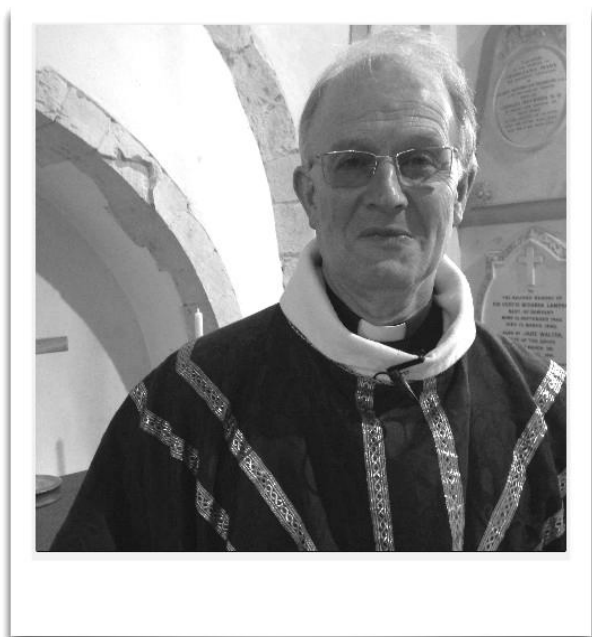
Contact magazine@worthparish.org.uk for details of how to submit artwork, and issue deadlines.



Black and White	1 issue	All 5 issues
1/8 page A4	£5	£20
1/4 page A4	£10	£40
1/2 page A4	£22	£120

Colour	For 1 issue	All 5 issues
1/8 page A4	£10	£40
1/4 page A4	£20	£85
1/2 page A4	£45	£180
Full page A4	£68	£300

OCCASIONAL OFFICES



Thursday 1st September at St Nicholas' saw the funeral of the late John Welsh, who, with his wife Patricia, has been a member of the congregation for several decades. John had served as a priest and had a particular love of the Book of Common Prayer and so it was proposed that the funeral service be based on a combination of 'The Order for the Burial of the Dead' and the 'The Order of the Ministration of the Holy Communion'. Canon Andrew Piper (who has known John and Patricia since his own time as Rector of Worth) travelled to Worth in order to take part in the service which was one of the last at which Canon Anthony Ball officiated before his installation at Westminster Abbey. I worked with both Andrew and Anthony to put together this service and it was, Andrew admitted, the very first time in his thirty years of ministry that he had ever taken part in this combination of liturgy.

Many members of the parish community attended the service and, I hope, were caught up with the great beauty of Cranmer's words (Archbishop Thomas Cranmer, burnt at the stake for his faith, being the architect and author of the Book of Common Prayer) and the profundity of the occasion. It perhaps ought to be mentioned at this point that Cranmer's words are still heard at St Nicholas' every Sunday in the form of the 8.00am Holy Communion service. For those new to this service, if you getting up early on a Sunday

morning is a possibility, do come and experience it for yourselves!

The 'occasional offices' (chiefly Baptism, Marriage and the Funeral Rite) of the church are a really important way in which the church engages with individuals and families at key points in their lives - and their death. They represent one of the most significant points of outreach and meaning that the church makes available to all those who seek one or other of these 'offices'. Each of them offers an occasion at which the power and meaning of the divine - the Christian God whom we worship - is interwoven into the fabric of everyday life, its beginnings, its adult responsibilities and its earthly ending. Individuals and their families are often at their most sensitive on these occasions and it is difficult to overestimate the significance of the services that represent these events in terms of significance and helpfulness.

Many members of the parish community help with these services in various capacities and their work is vital in their provision. Children are born, couples still wish to be married in church and those who die still, very frequently, wish their passage from this world to be marked by a Christian funeral. These are points of great tenderness and beauty where the power of God can be felt very keenly. May our parish continue to offer them to all who live within - and outside - its boundaries for many centuries to come.

Gordon Parry

Forest Row R.N.L.I. Christmas Concert Dates

Chequer Mead Theatre, East
Grinstead

Tuesday 6th December 2.00pm

Tickets £4.50 / £3.50

Tel. 01342 302000

Freshfield Hall, Forest Row
Saturday 10th December 7.30pm

Tickets £10.00

Tel. 01342 324196

NEWS

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We have a band of faithful volunteers in our café at St Barnabas' but we would welcome some more helping hands and smiley faces.

The Centre is open for drinks and other refreshments on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays 10.30am-noon and it additionally provides lunches on Fridays from 12.30pm, and in term times, teas on Monday afternoons 2-4pm.

To maintain this programme we need a few more volunteers. Anyone willing to give a couple of hours once a month (or more often) would be welcomed and we'd love to have even more volunteers so that we could expand our opening hours!

If you can help out please do contact me on 01293 883362.

Phyl Pennell

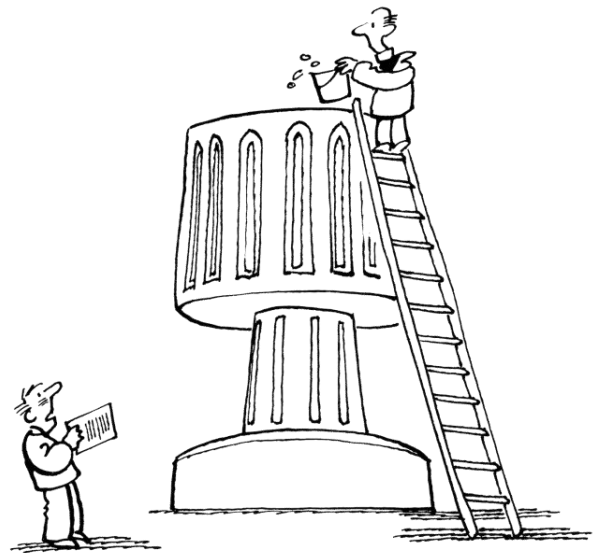
CATHEDRAL RETREAT

Chichester Cathedral is running its annual weekend, led by the Bishop of Horsham, Mark Sowerby. The weekend will consist of short talks and time for silent prayer and rest at the beautiful and comfortable retreat house of Ladywell Convent in Godalming and will be held 17-19 March 2017.

Further information on this will be available from the Cathedral Reception in January 2017.

LAST YEAR'S CHURCH ATTENDANCE FIGURES

Just published Church of England statistics for 2015 show that just under one million people attend services each week. The survey, carried out over October 2015, found 960,000 people attending church each week, with school services added a further 160,000. The total worshipping community comprises 20% under 18, 50% aged 18-69 and 30% aged 70 or over.



...er, Vicar, when I said 'It would help in our church publicity if we used a larger font...'

2.3 million people attended Church of England Advent services and 2.5 million attended Church of England Christmas services last year. Also, the Church carried out just under 1,000 weddings, 2,000 baptisms, and almost 3,000 funerals **every week** of 2015.

The figures represent a continuing trend that has shown an 11% decrease in attendance over the past decade with an average decline of just over 1% a year.

A one-off question for 2015 asked churches about the facilities they provide. Nearly half have kitchen facilities and more than 60% have toilets.

William Nye, Secretary General of the Archbishops' Council, said: "The Church of England is setting out on a journey of Renewal & Reform, aiming to reverse our numerical decline in attendance so that we become a growing church in every region and for every generation.

"The Church of England is open to and for everyone in England, building up the Body of Christ and working for the common good. For some of those who support our work, weekly attendance at services is part of their discipleship. Many others identify with us but worship on a less regular basis. These figures represent a realistic assessment of where we start from in terms of weekly attendance. We are confident in a hopeful future where our love of God and service of neighbour will form the basis for future growth.

"These statistics demonstrate that the Church, fully aware of where we are, yet confident of the future, still has a strong base to work from."



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

£10.50

Traditional Christmas meal
with turkey, accompaniments, Christmas
pudding and mince pies, fruit juice, tea/
coffee (bring your own alcohol)

Fri 9 Dec 12.30pm

St Barnabas' Pastoral Centre, Worth Road, Pound
Hill, RH10 7DY

Call 01293 883362 to book



SATURDAY MARKETS

**10 December 2016
14 January 2017
4 February 2017**

10 - 11.45am

**Homemade produce,
Crafts,
Refreshments,
Books and more**

**St Barnabas',
Worth Road,
Crawley RH10 7DY**

St. Barnabas', Worth Road, Pound Hill, RH10 7EB



Every Friday at 12.30

Main course, dessert, tea/coffee Please try to book in advance
Tickets £5.50 from St Barnabas' or call (01293) 883362

THANK YOU

Recently, we noticed that our ancient Crib was in need of some restoration. Local thatcher Nick Cranfield, who is based in Crawley Down, came to our rescue. He kindly re-thatched the crib roof and did not charge for his time and skill. Our grateful thanks go to Nick for his support and expertise. To contact Nick, telephone 01342 715 010 or view his work and services on his website www.masterthatchers.net.

Noreen Oxlade

CONGRATULATIONS

Many congratulations go to Gareth Andrew Huntley and Amanda Claire Singleton, married at St Nicholas' on 5th November 2016. And also, a warm welcome to those baptised since the last magazine was published. They are:

- Mason-James Anthony Musselwhite
- Jacob James Taylor
- Logan Alan Charlie Leach, Charlie Leach and Rebecca Leach
- Chanel Smith
- Ava Louise Parker
- Isla May Lewis
- Calvin James Crawford

CHRISTMAS CHARITIES



Every year, we choose charities that we can support at Christmas through collections made in our special services. This year, we have chosen The Salvation Army as our national charity and Crawley Open House as our local charity.

The Salvation Army work with a variety of people including those in poverty or situations of domestic abuse. They also provide support and advice to the homeless and unemployed, tackle loneliness in older people and work to trace family members who have lost touch with each other. For more information on the work of this charity, see www.salvationarmy.org.uk

Crawley Open House provides local support and services for those suffering the effects of homelessness, unemployment, loneliness, discrimination, or other forms of social exclusion. Visitors to their day centre can access health services, benefits and housing advice, workshops and classes as well as hot food and drinks and empathy and kindness. For more details, or to volunteer, see www.crawleyopenhouse.co.uk

Money collected will be split between these two and our Parish (also a registered charity), where there are several projects requiring our attention such as refurbishment of the St Barnabas' Hall flooring and toilets, as well as addressing water ingress to the bell tower at St Nicholas'.

SEASONAL SENTIMENTS

(for family households – everywhere!)

The snow that glistens
And shines so white
The stars that sparkle
All through the night
Soft-sung carols
In quiet lament
Help make the wonder
Of the firmament
Inside the houses
Hear children's laughter
See empty parcels
That morning after
When Santa came
Through the night
Seeking out chimneys
To shed his light
By bringing gifts
And wondrous joys
Bags of surprises
For girls and boys
Mince pies – turkey
And Christmas crackers
Cakes with icing
Hushed family natters
Memories thinking
Of all who are dear
Damp eyes blinking
When they are not here
To join in the crowd
A part of the throng
In these special times
We should all belong



Malcolm Booker

MUSICAL CHAIRS

At our recent Parish Eucharist, Brenda Somerville was presented with a planted trough to thank her for her services to music at St Barnabas' over the years. Ann Phillipson is now in charge of music at St Barnabas', with Brenda assisting when needed.

KNIT AND NATTER

As we approach the end of 2016, I thought I would update you with what Knit and Natter has achieved with their charity work during the year.

In April, we gave a generous donation of £130 to Chestnut Tree House from the proceeds of the sale of Easter novelties and a raffle.

We manned a stall in Crawley Town Centre in June which raised a fantastic amount of £240 for the Olive Tree.

Since that time, needles have been clicking away producing a wide selection of crafts to sell on our stall at our parish Christmas Fair held at St Barnabas'. The picture shows some knitted fruit and mice! Alongside this stall, we are holding a raffle whose proceeds will go to Chestnut Tree House.

Our charity work also extends to Open House and The Salvation Army by making warm hats and blankets using up all our oddments of wool.

If you are interested in coming along to our weekly sessions to make new friends, learn new skills, have a chat and a cuppa, you will receive a warm welcome at St Barnabas' Pastoral Centre on Thursdays between 2-4pm.

Val Rudd



Your donations requested at

Carols for All and our Crib Services

At these services, we will be collecting new unwrapped toys/books for children which we will pass to the Golden Lion Children's Trust.

Also, new items of warm clothing, toiletries and packaged foods for the homeless clients of Crawley Open House.



WHAT 'S HAPPENING IN THE PARISH?

ST BARNABAS' REFURBISHMENT

We are already feeling the benefit of the double glazing in the hall and church with both areas feeling warmer and hopefully we will shortly see the benefit of reduced heating costs. We have also seen a slight increase in the number of lettings, possibly due to warmer surroundings.

Quotes are now in for the refurbishment of the toilets (including provision of a toilet for the disabled). These quotes are under discussion and hopefully we will be able to progress with this work in the next few months.

The group dealing with the rebrand of the Pastoral Centre meet on a very regular basis and, in addition to considering the upgrading of the kitchen, they have worked on the rearrangement of the furniture, revamping some notice boards and sorting out storage space.

Quotes for the Pastoral Centre kitchen refurbishment have also been received and although the work on the hall toilets is the priority, it is hoped that we can apply for some grants towards the work in the kitchen.

PCC UPDATE

The PCC has met once since the last magazine was published, during which meeting Viv Tillyer was appointed as the Parish Safeguarding Officer with Noreen Oxlade assisting and having an overview of safeguarding at St. Nicholas'.

It was noted that the appointment of a Children and Families worker will not happen until we have a clergy appointment in the Parish. Hopefully then our application to the Mission Fund, regarding a supporting grant will have been successful.

Thanks were extended to Sheila Dring for her work as treasurer over the last six months. Max Perry has now been appointed as treasurer.

There was little to report on clergy appointments. Vacancies are discussed at the Bishops' meetings and hopefully the posts will be advertised in January.

A copy of past minutes of PCC meetings can now be viewed at the Parish Office and the next PCC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 7 December.

ST BARNABAS' COMMITTEE

The committee met in October and discussed the following (as well as refurbishment described elsewhere on this page):

- The church has been open on a daily basis during the interregnum but only for some short periods of times. It is hoped that we can extend these - but it is dependent on volunteers willing to open and lock up.
- There is no news re the appointment of a Priest in Charge. We are told that the post is considered at meetings with the Bishop and hopefully the post will be advertised in January.
- So far during the interregnum we have been very fortunate with our clergy cover. Our thanks go to Revd Roger Combes and Revd Sue Suddaby who we are seeing on a regular basis as well as to those we have seen less often.
- We plan to hold an Open Meeting following a Sunday morning service before the end of the year.

If there are matters you feel the Committee should be discussing/dealing with please do let us know. The next St Barnabas Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 25th January 2017.

Phyl Pennell

ST NICHOLAS' COMMITTEE

The St Nicholas' committee met in October and amongst other things, talked about clergy cover, finance and restarting the congregational meetings at the end of services. While discussing building maintenance, the possibility of using a drone to inspect the Bell Tower was put forward to avoid the need for erecting costly scaffolding. The next meeting will be scheduled soon.

Colin Smith

Christmas is weird. At what other time of the year do you sit in front of a dying tree and eat sweets out of your socks?

PARISH QUIET DAY - COME LORD JESUS

On Saturday, November 26th, 19 of us gathered at The Hub in Copthorne to spend 5 hours reflecting, mostly quietly, on some scripture to prepare us for and through Advent, with HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE. The day was led by the Revd Steve Burston, so that was an excellent start and meant we were 20 in total.

We began with coffee, biscuits and time to chat and catch up with Steve before we got down to our quiet time. The day was divided into four sessions, each one giving us something to take away and reflect on, not only during the four weeks of Advent but also carrying those thoughts into the future. In each session, we were asked to close our eyes and think ourselves into the situation described in the reading and consider how we would react.

Session One - HOPE Are we **prepared** to meet Jesus and do we hope to? Remembering the five wise and five foolish virgins awaiting the bridegroom, some were ready with their lamps lit inside the house ready to welcome Him, but five were not prepared; they had not let Jesus into their lives, either at all or, enough to be ready and waiting for Him and they were shut out. Which are we and how do we feel?

Session Two - PEACE **Repenting** of our sins and **cleansing** ourselves should bring us peace. We need to realise our mistakes and sins and turn away from them, start again. We considered the things we have done, said or thought that are wrong and turned away from them. We then thought about those things in our lives that make us unclean, which stain our lives. If we turn away from sin and ask God's forgiveness and guidance for the next steps in our journey of life, we must also look at those things that constantly cause us to sin. To cleanse ourselves, we must open up /

admit to those things that make us feel unclean, unworthy of God's undying love for us and turn away from them and begin again.

Session Three - JOY Peter asked Jesus how many times did he need to **forgive** someone - seven? Jesus replied, No, more like seventy-seven. God forgives us when we say sorry, no matter how many times that is because He loves us. How many times would you forgive someone? Which is easier, to forgive and forget or, to forgive but not forget? Either way, forgiveness is the key as it shows God's love to the world and brings joy.

Session Four - LOVE Have faith and do not be afraid. Our last scripture reminded us that God is always with us; we are not to be afraid. Joseph was told not to be afraid; he could still take Mary as his wife and the child she was carrying was God's Son; as promised by the prophets He would be named Jesus, Immanuel (God is with us). We must put our faith and trust in God and let Him into our lives. He is always there but we must be prepared to welcome and accept Him into our day-to-day lives because He loves us so we should love others too.

There was time to sit quietly and reflect on the subject of the sessions one by one or to find a quiet place and time to discuss with others what each session meant to us. Lunchtime was a good opportunity to talk about the day or have friendly chit-chat and the whole day came together with us all celebrating and sharing the Eucharist.

Thank you, Steve for helping us all to think about Advent and what it means in our lives, yes, even the poem and brief story about Winnie-the-Pooh helped us to focus our thoughts!

Joan Tick

THE PARISH PURSE

INTRODUCING THE FINANCE TEAM AND WHAT WE DO

The finances of a Parish, much like the rest of the Church, run to a calendar with different tasks across the year. This is apart from the weekly/monthly work of booking the income and expenses, paying bills, banking cash and claiming

gift aid. All that information has to be available and up to date for reporting to the PCC 4-5 times a year so that they can make important decisions, including reviewing how we are doing. So it is great that we have an experienced and skilled

team to get all the work done. As in many other areas of the Parish, they are multi-taskers.

Sheila Dring is helping me settle into my new role as Treasurer. I may have done it before but her help in loosening the rust with WD40 and a bit of elbow grease on the moving parts of the Parish Finances is a godsend. Remembering when I was last Treasurer and was challenged with holding only that job, I have huge respect for Sheila's work both as Treasurer since April and Deputy Churchwarden, along with all the other things she is doing.

December is the month when the budget for next year is completed. We need to provide the information for the PCC to decide what its focus is for 2017. Among the decisions is how much to spend on the Diocesan Contribution (mainly Clergy expenses), how much on growing the Church through outreach and finding ever more inventive ways of running the administration as efficiently as possible. Coming from the left flank is the risk of costly maintenance work that might affect either church. Heading that risk is the Quinquennial inspection due in September 2017. A lot of praying also took place this weekend because of a sewage leak between the flats and the St Barnabas'. That cost could so easily have been the responsibility of the Parish leaving the funds in the "proverbial"! Bringing up the rear is always the desire to replace and renew and keep our buildings modern to encourage more people to the Church.

Joyce Watts is our payments superstar. She is the person who spends all the Parish's money - of course someone from the PCC authorises it first. She put all these payments onto the system and ensures we have all the paperwork. Joyce is better known around St Barnabas' Centre as the person who keeps it "spick and span" and talks to everyone. Her secret life as a bookkeeper is not so well known!

January to March is when the Finance team and particularly the Treasurer go into isolation as they prepare the Annual Accounts and ensure that everything is ready to submit to the Independent Examiner, the PCC and most importantly to publish it for the APCM. What was decided in

December not only goes into the Annual Report as the Glossy Brochure for the Charity, but also into our Stewardship campaign in February.

Mark Chappell has, for the last year, been recording all the income and banking for the Parish. There is a lot of work in this really varied task which includes Gift Aid, the Parish Giving Scheme, cash and charity law rules. Sadly Mark is stepping down from his role in January. At present, he is handing over to Sheila, at the same time as she hands over to me.



From April to July we go into a spring hibernation rising occasionally for the usual chores. Then we awake in July/August in order to prepare for the next round of discussions over the Diocesan Contribution. At the end of August, the final proposal goes to the Rural Dean. This is all part of the Budget Preparation for 2018 which needs to be ready for the September PCC meeting.

Next September we have the added fun of the 5 year Quinquennial when architects (which we have to pay for) tell us about the state of our buildings in a 100+ page report which the Churchwardens then have to struggle through. Hopefully they won't find anything too dire. Any serious outcomes from this may or may not be ready for our second Stewardship campaign when

we have to persuade all you good people that we really deserve more of your money. But fear not, if the Quinquennial is fine we have lots of worthwhile things to spend everyone's money on! And then it's Christmas again.

Finally a big thank you to all the volunteers around the Parish who help count the money at services

and events. The picture overleaf shows the Finance team minus Sheila. Sadly we couldn't all make it together on the same day in time for the Parish Magazine deadline, so you will just have to imagine her in the middle!

Max Perry

ABOUT PRESENCE

Listening to the hymn, *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* the other day set me thinking about the personal experience of the daily presence of Jesus which is much a part of Christian theology - not an essential part of being a good Christian but, nevertheless, experienced by many.

A sense of the presence of another person is not only part of religious experience but also occurs in survival situations, bereavement, sleep paralysis and some neurological disorders. A well known phenomenon in survival situations is the 'Third Man' described by T S Eliot in *The Waste Land*:

*Who is the third who walks always beside you?
When I count, there are only you and I together
But when I look ahead up the white road
There is always another one walking beside you*

Eliot drew on his memory of the report by Shackleton, Crean and Worsley as they struggled across the interior of South Georgia in 1916 as the last leg of their heroic journey to seek rescue for the crew after the loss of *Endurance* in the Antarctic pack ice. Shackleton and his

actually be counted. Worsley later reported that *I again find myself counting our party – Shackleton, Crean and I – who was the other? Of course there were only three, but it is strange that in mentally reviewing the crossing we should always think of a fourth, and then correct ourselves.*

Presences also occur in sleep paralysis when on waking there is an experience of muscle paralysis and breathing problems. Symptoms may be accompanied by a powerful feeling of someone or something being in the room and moving towards the waking sleeper, often in a threatening way and sometimes pressing on the sleeper's chest. Presences are also a reality for up to 50% of sufferers of Parkinson's disease and Lewy body dementia, resulting in neuroscientists and psychologists taking an interest in such phenomena.

There are various explanations - one idea is that presences come from disruption of the internal 'map' that keep track of the position of our own body parts. A presence may be a projection out of this map prompted by extreme conditions and

stress. This idea is supported by the fact that stimulating particular parts of the brain known to be associated with body position can elicit experience of a close-by presence. However, this explanation does not account for the mood which can accompany such experiences; in bereavement the sense of presence of the departed can be comforting; in other situations, the presence may be frightening.

It would be a mistake to think that even if we could account for a sense of presence by reference to

particular circuits in the brain, this would somehow explain away the phenomenon.



companions had the constant delusion that there was one more member of the party than could

Contemporary psychology and neuroscience are very good at explaining *how* mental events happen, but not *why*. Two brief examples.

When we sing hymns energetically, we overbreathe; that is, we take lots of deep breaths and this results in changes in the electrical activity of the brain. Some have argued that this explains the uplifting feelings we experience when singing hymns. However, although this may be the mechanism, it does not explain the religious associations which we ascribe to it.

Secondly, Paul on the road to Damascus experienced what sounds like an epileptic fit of the kind typical of an abnormality in the temporal lobes of the brain. Interestingly, it is known that individuals who suffer from this form of epilepsy are also more likely to undergo sudden religious conversion. However, Paul appears, according to the New Testament, to have suffered no further fits, and this 'explanation' does not explain away Paul's life-changing experience, and would not deny God's agency in the event; it only describes a mechanism by which this may have occurred.

Children sometimes have imaginary friends and psychologists are divided on whether this is a good thing or not. It may limit their engaging in normal social activity with other children or as a creative extension of play, it may contribute to cognitive development. I am afraid that in our household, Jesus gets referred to as my 'imaginary friend' which I hope is not disrespectful but which sums up, in a good way, my recent religious experience.

Brought up in a strong Anglo-Catholic tradition, emphasis was much more on grace through the sacraments than personal relationships with Jesus. Then, at an impressionable age, the *Honest to God* debate erupted and I was led to think about God as only existing in the relationships in society, and particularly in an immediate community. Theologically, it was an exciting time. I vividly recall a very senior member of the clergy, at a conference in Oxford, arguing that *Lady Chatterley's Lover* was the most important religious book of the twentieth century because of its description of the power of the natural world interacting with human love. This was the 1960s, after all.

My simple ideas evolved into a sense of God expressed in nature and the natural world. This idea of God-as-numen and the world filled with a numinous presence is often thought of as pagan,

but it occurs in many of the great religions, and there is nothing inherently un-Christian about it. It makes *Hills of the North*, rejoice one of my favourite hymns. I was attracted by the idea of Zoroastrianism, an ancient Persian religion and the root of many modern religions, which worships the natural elements and particularly fire. Just my luck (or maybe good fortune) that Zoroastrians (Parsees in India) may be the only religion that does not seek converts. You have to be born a Zoroastrian, or it's tough luck, and you have to marry one!

I never entirely lost my faith and still feel at home as an Anglican, even if I have not always been a dedicated attender. But I have to say that things have changed. I never really understood and respected friends who claimed a personal relationship with Jesus. I just didn't 'get it'.

However, I have recently been coping with the stress of a serious illness in someone very close to me and one of those friends simply said, "You know, he (Jesus) is never more than two steps in front of, or behind, you." And I find that enormously helpful and, at last, I 'get it'. This is not to say that Jesus has not been with me through the whole of my life journey and upon reflection He and/or the Holy Spirit may have given me the strength to deal with many of the directions my life has taken. I have been conscious of that. It is just that only recently have I had a strong feeling, through the day, of Jesus alongside me, sometimes just being there as a friend, but also someone I can talk to and who points to solutions or allows me to reflect on



what I am thinking or feeling. This has helped me through some very difficult times. To me, my 'imaginary friend' is a real and helpful presence.

There are naturally times when we are distracted by everyday trivia and the presence fades. Pinned up above my desk for much of my working life was the prayer of Sir Jacob Astley (who is pictured on the previous page). The prayer reads:

*O Lord! Thou knowest how busy I must be this day:
If I forget thee, do not thou forget me.*

It made a lot of sense to me, but I only recently thought to research the context of this prayer. Sir Jacob was about to ride out into the Battle of Edgehill in the English Civil War. He survived. I commend the prayer to you.

This article owes a debt to a paper by Ben Alderson-Day, The Silent Companions, which appeared in The Psychologist in April 2016

Church Mouse

FOR KIDS

Can you help the shepherds find their way to Jesus?



THE SECRET DIARY OF A CHURCH WARDEN

Aged ?? and a half

I am sitting here considering the essential purchase of a 2017 diary and reflecting on Sue Townsend - the writer and humorist who invented Adrian Mole. This character gave us a unique insight into his world through his teenage diary and in that vein, I thought I'd record some of my headline news from this year.

January 2016. Although one Minister short at St Barnabas' the congregation boldly carry on. The great hope of a youth hub is planned for the vicarage. Much expectation to grow our work in the community with this work.

February/March 2016. All is not well with the hub project and the Clergy abandon it, leaving some of us very confused. Still short of a vicar at St Barnabas', we say thank you Steve and Liz for taking the helm. The review of Crawley Churches is presented for discussion. Lots to consider - in particular the report's clear drive to separate our churches and create two new Parishes. Well, the two parish churches felt that many advantages would be lost if separation took place and we vote to remain as one. St Barnabas' decides to become an autonomous Evangelical church with a Priest in Charge. For many, it is still not clear how the two



Dave, taking advice from Winston

churches will grow in number and also balance the finances.

April 2016. A vision day is held, attended by 40 of our parishioners. At the end of this - six key areas are identified for church growth. Many went home filled with enthusiasm. Despite a missing vicar we will look forward and find ways to grow the church. At St Nicholas' still no volunteers have come forward for the long unfilled post of warden. In desperation or humour an evangelical steps forward (me) and I press-gang my friend Colin who joins me.

May 2016. Many of us already feel that we are experiencing huge upheaval, and then Anthony announces that he has accepted a new job at

Westminster Abbey. With much joy and plenty of confusion, we digest the news. Well, we still have that very gifted Burston family to encourage us in this challenging time. Oops - the Bishop has other plans for Steve in Brighton. That April vision day is beginning to stretch our people a lot. It seems the Parish prayer groups will be very busy.

June 2016. I love the positive people in church who have a "half full" view of challenges. Having already advertised the post of Children and Family Worker - it now has to be frozen and this major part of parish growth is left in the hands of the parishioners.

Visiting Schools will not take place until Clergy arrive - OUCH.

July/August 2016. So many forms, profiles, job description to complete. Many of the PCC feel overburdened and confused. What do we say to the church? There is much talk of pulling together and sharing the load. Summer is here to calm our weary minds. We learn that Julia and Gordon will be providing the main clergy cover in the Autumn. Others will also help from different churches. It is good to feel that we will not be closing the church doors!

September/October 2016. We say goodbye to Anthony and Steve with a service, a meal and both joy and uncertainty. Just when I felt there were no more surprises, the Archdeacon makes a bid for the Bishops Lodge. Perhaps St Nicholas' could use part of this for a meeting area and Rectory.

Disappointingly the news arrives - sorry, we were outbid. SOLD to private investors. Church growth and future plans again turn about face.

Adrian Mole chronicled the various growing pains of life and since embarking on a programme for church growth - the Parish is also experiencing growing pains. We can look to our faith and certainty in Christ to keep us going. And while it seems that Adrian Mole wins in the laughter stakes - I feel that Worth Parish can also have a chuckle. With nearly 30,000 people living in the area and no ministers "Send Help soon!!" we cry. But in the meantime we will not give up.

At the moment we have nothing in the pipeline to suggest clergy are on their way soon - but many of us are working our socks off to keep things ticking over. This is when you discover the positive effect of hope and determination. So I'll end by saying:

- Well done all those who volunteer for Messy Church despite no leader.
- Well done to the clergy who have taken on our spiritual welfare
- Well done all those who volunteer to serve us, whether through tea and biscuits at our meetings or helping wherever possible.
- Well done those who are finding ways of fundraising or performing weekly tasks to keep us going.
- Well done to our newly formed prayer groups who are asking for God's intervention.

In fact, well done everybody!

Dave Parker

PARISHIONER PROFILE - LIZ GALLAGHER

Liz was born in Pimlico although she remarks that it was not a posh area when she was a kid! Her father was of Irish descent and from Liverpool and he worked for John Lewis. Her Welsh mother stayed at home doing small cleaning jobs to help with family finances. When I asked her if she has any brothers or sisters, she laughs the first of many infectious chuckles. Incredibly, at one time she had 20 siblings - 2 from her mother's first marriage, 10 from her father's first marriage and a further 8 younger siblings.

The family went to church at Saint Gabriel's in Pimlico every week and each had 2 pence to put into the collection. She also went to a church school, as despite her father being an atheist, both parents saw church as part of a child's education. Liz herself liked church, unlike a lot of her school pals and she was good at RE. She credits herself with always being a strong believer, although of course, there have been challenging times.

Until she was 16, they lived in a three bedroom where the rent was 5 pounds a week. The last time she saw this house up for sale, it was for £3 million! Married at 20, she had two daughters and a son and they moved around a lot. She particularly loved Wallington but due to an inauspicious property purchase, she suffered some hard times here including the breakdown of her marriage and the loss of her home. On her own, she moved to Carshalton where she stayed for about 20 years. Her eldest daughter moved to Crawley. In 2003, she got a virus - Guillaume Barré which landed her in hospital for four months, paralysed from the neck down, stopping her working but not from becoming a grandmother. Her recuperation was much aided by her determination that she would help look after her grandchild, and she went from paralysis to wheelchair-bound to walking with the pram. She started going to church at all Saints Sutton, however she kept suffering infections and falling over so she felt she must move to be nearer to her daughter in Crawley, in case she needed further looking after. She spent a few years in Crawley looking for the right church and tried many churches without feeling comfortable in any of them so gave up.

She had prayed over the years regarding health and financial difficulties which now plagued her



once again. She found herself at her wits' end, unable to afford a mortgage and living on credit, despite having now returned to full-time work. She feels that God sent her a message that she should move to a much smaller place - a one bedroom flat. So that is what she did and she settled there and found Saint Nicholas' locally, simply by going up there one Sunday. She felt welcomed and that it was the sort of worship that she wanted. Anthony Ball, then Rector, thanked her for coming and she saw him again at the next service which was at St Barnabas'. She went for coffee after the service and again Anthony talked to her. She then met Steve Burston and some others, did the Alpha course to get to know more parishioners and now enjoys Sunday morning in church surrounded by many people she knows well.

Over the last couple of years, lots of things that she has asked for have come to her. She looks back at the time she could not walk or talk and realises how far she has come.

Guillaume Barré has left her with peripheral neuropathy and she cannot feel her feet at all. She swims to stay fit but says she is still clumsy and drops things and has a compromised immune system. However, her doctors told her that she has got over her illness very quickly. She attributes this both to her personal determination and to her belief in the power of prayer.

Elizabeth Whyman

THOUGHTS FOR WINTER



My first thought is: 'It is getting cold, brrrr!!'

Everything is either grey and dull or white and bright, until the snow turns to slush, or on occasions, once in a blue moon, the sky has a warm blue-y glow, like summer but colder.

Thinking about blue moons did you know that sometimes the moon does actually look blue? Sometimes, very rarely, there is a blue dust in the atmosphere and this makes the moon appear this colour as well.

However, in astronomy, a Blue Moon is a full moon like we see every month but it is when there are 4 full moons in a season / quarter instead of just three and it is the third moon of that season that is known as the Blue Moon (not the fourth).

The other time a full moon is called a Blue Moon is when there are two full moons in a month. The next time this happens will be January 31st 2018; so quite rare, like a Blue Moon!

Enough of the meteorology / weather science lesson.

Whatever colour the moon is, God created it and as with *all things bright and beautiful, the Lord God made them all* and we should be grateful.

Thinking of the moon and how it lights the sky at night, along with those lovely twinkling stars, brings me to another star that lit the sky 2,000+ years ago. This was another rare light created by God not only to guide the visitors to Bethlehem but to show the world the one great light in their and our lives – Jesus the light of the world, God's own Son.

Unlike a Blue Moon, Jesus, the light of the world, is not rare; He is there always and forever, if **WE** let Him into our lives, hearts and minds so that we can shine with God's love and show that love to others.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your mind and love your neighbours as yourself. That way, we are shining as lights in the world, to the glory of God our Father, who has created all things, yes, even you and me. There you are, you feel warmer and brighter already, don't you?

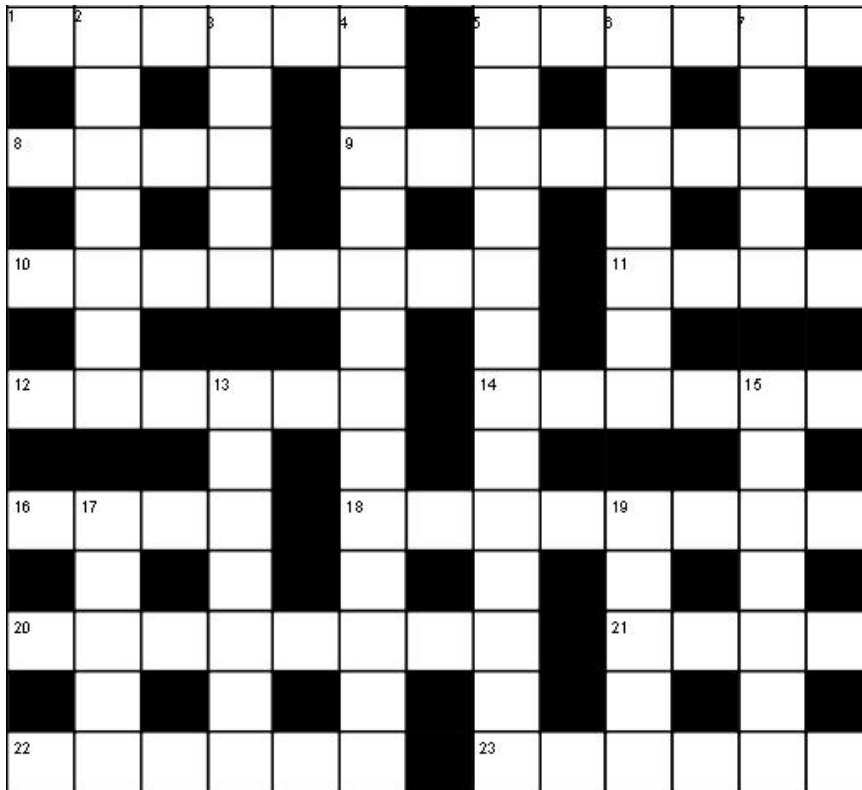
So, during these cold dark days of winter, think about the lights in your life, what makes you happy, what has brought you joy and then remember that special light and smile, Jesus loves **YOU!**

Happy Christmas, everyone.

Joan Tick

Year	Date	Type	3 rd of 4*	2 nd in a Month	Notes
2012	August 31 st	Blue	-	Y	
2013	August 21 st	Blue	Y	-	
2014	January 30 th	Black	-	Y	
2014	February	Black	-	-	Missing a New Moon
2014	March 30 th	Black	-	Y	
2015	February 18 th	Black	Y	-	
2015	July 31 st	Blue	-	Y	
2016	May 21 st	Blue	Y	-	
2016	Oct 30 th	Black	-	Y	
2017	August 21 st	Black	Y	-	Total Solar Eclipse
2018	January 31 st	Blue	-	Y	Total Lunar Eclipse
2018	February	Black	-	-	Missing a Full Moon
2018	March 31 st	Blue	-	-	
2019	May 18 th	Blue	Y	-	
2019	August 30 th	Black	-	Y	
2020	August 19 th	Black	Y	-	
2020	October 31 st	Blue	-	Y	Halloween

PRIZE CROSSWORD



All entries even if not completed will be entered into the draw.

Send original, photocopy or list of answers and your contact details to

parishmag@outlook.com by January 16th to be entered.

Name _____

Address, phone or email:

All details destroyed after draw.

Across

1. "Purge me with -----, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." (6)
5. An elevated platform, as for an orchestra conductor or public speaker. (6)
8. Of Hebrew origin, meaning "so be it". (4)
9. A term commonly used to refer to the region of Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. (4,4)
10. The opposite of acidic. (8)
11. "What ---- it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him?" King James Bible (4)
12. In government they can be 'white' or green'. (6)
14. Relating to the receptacle for baptism. (6)
16. The father of Ham, Shem, and Japheth. (4)
18. An idea that dominates the mind especially for a prolonged period. (e.g. the motif in Berlioz's Symphonie Fantastique.) (4,4)
20. Site in Japan of the second atom bomb in 1945. (8)
21. An image, such as the golden calf fashioned by Aaron and worshipped by the Israelites. (4)
22. '----- l'oeil'; a French term meaning 'trick the eye'. (6)
23. "I loved the ----- day, and, spite of fears, Pride ruled my will. Remember not past years!" Hymn (6)

Down

2. A Jewish skull cap. (aka amyl anagram). (7)
3. Plant whose leaves and pods are used as a laxative. (5)
4. Roman governor of Judaea from 26 to 36 AD. (7,6)
5. Something given to an adversary in the hope of reconciliation, traditionally an olive branch (5,8)
6. Coventry was blitzed in retaliation for the bombing of this German city. (7)
7. Apple-carts are frequently thus, to cause trouble ! (5)
13. "Gilead is mine; Manasseh is mine; ----- also is the strength of mine head; Judah is my lawgiver ." Psalms (7)
15. Uneasy, apprehensive, worried. (7)
17. Very happy, elated; broadcasting live. (2,3)
- 19 Tuck or Laurence perhaps? (5)



Advent and Christmas with WORTH PARISH

Sun 4 Dec 2016

- 8.00am Said Holy Communion, St Nicholas'
- 9.45am Eucharist, St Nicholas'
- 10.00am Eucharist, St Barnabas'
- 11.30am Christingle, St Nicholas'

Sun 11 Dec 2016

- 8.00am Said Holy Communion, St Nicholas'
- 9.45am Eucharist, St Nicholas'
- 10.00am Service with Sunday School, St Barnabas'

Sun 18 Dec 2016

- 8.00am Said Holy Communion, St Nicholas'
- 9.45am Eucharist, St Nicholas'
- 10.00am Eucharist, St Barnabas'
- 11.30am Christmas at Nic's (30 minute family service), St Nicholas'
- 4.00pm Carols for All
(with mulled wine and mince pies), St Barnabas'
- 6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols
(with mulled wine and mince pies), St Nicholas'

Sat 24 Dec 2016

- 4.00pm Crib Service and Nativity Play, St Nicholas'
- 4.00pm Crib Service, St Barnabas'
- 11.30pm Midnight Mass, St Nicholas'

Sun 25 Dec 2016

- 8.00am Said Holy Communion, St Nicholas'
- 9.45am Christmas Morning Eucharist, St Nicholas'
- 10.00am Christmas Family Eucharist, St Barnabas'

St Nicholas', Church Road, Worth, Crawley, RH10 7RT
St Barnabas', Worth Road, Pound Hill, Crawley, RH10 7DY



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FIRST WORLD WAR REMEMBRANCE

HOW THE BELLRINGERS ARE COMMEMORATING THOSE WHO DIED

In the summer and autumn of 2014, we commemorated the events that led up to the start of the First World War. A war that was supposed to be over by Christmas, but two years later, showed no signs of coming to an end. As we approach the end of 2016, our attention too has become more concerned with the day to day issues and problems of living our lives and the rapid approach of another Christmas season; rather than remembering the dramas, upheavals and losses that continued to occur 100 years ago in the 'war to end all wars'.

In St Nicholas' Church, there is a war memorial that commemorates 47 men from the parish who lost their lives in the war. On closer examination, it's not entirely obvious on what basis they were deemed to be 'men of the parish'. Some did indeed live locally, others were the children of local residents (of which more later); but in some cases, it is difficult to determine the tenuous links which see them listed on our war memorial, and in fact, some are commemorated elsewhere as well as at Worth. Nevertheless, they all made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and deserve to be remembered, local men or not.

It was the intention of the Worth Church Bellringers to commemorate the anniversary of death of each of these individuals, by ringing a half-muffled quarter peal for each of them on or as near as possible to the 100th anniversary of their death. Half-muffled ringing is the sign of mourning. We ring to commemorate, rather than celebrate, as we do every year on Remembrance Sunday. There are another two years of deaths and sacrifice to come, before we can at last ring in celebration of the hundred year anniversary of the end of the war at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 2018.

Like everyone, bellringers too have other things that occupy them, and we have fallen behind with our ringing plans. We rang to commemorate the first one or two from the parish that died, but we now find ourselves somewhat behind. By the time of this year's Remembrance Sunday (going back

100 years to 13th November 1916) twenty one of the people commemorated on the war memorial had died. We intend to ring a quarter peal to put things right and commemorate them all.

The following page contains a list of those we are ringing for, and the dates when they died. It is difficult in most cases to find out a lot about them, but some information is available via the excellent Roll of Honour website: www.roll-of-honour.com/Worth.html

And finally, a few interesting facts and observations relating to this list of names; facts which emphasise that these people and their relatives were just getting on living their lives in this part of the country, until the war came along and changed all that forever.

THE HONOURABLE FRANCIS GEOFFREY PEARSON

Most people commemorated on the war memorial were ordinary people; Francis Geoffrey Pearson is probably the only exception. Geoffrey was the youngest son of Sir Weetman Dickinson Pearson, 1st Viscount Cowdray and his wife Annie who owned Paddockhurst Park, now the site of Worth Abbey School and the Benedictine monastery.

Geoffrey died in the very early stages of the war, when the Germans had pushed their way through Belgium and were advancing rapidly to Paris (all part of the Schlieffen Plan). Geoffrey was a motorcycle messenger, got overrun and captured by the advancing German troops, and was shot when trying to escape.

An Australian newspaper article, (shown overleaf) based on the testament of a colleague, tells exactly what happened to Geoffrey, and reflects a somewhat gung-ho, 'boy's own adventure' attitude to the conflict that still existed at the beginning of the war. The reporting of Geoffrey's death also reflects the view that there was a 'right' way to fight a war and the Germans had been breaking the rules.

British Prisoners Who Were Forced Into German Trenches

LONDON, November 20. No more dramatic adventure of the war, perhaps, has befallen any one than to the Hon. Geoffrey Pearson, son of Lord Cowdray, and Sergeant Major Mackay, of the Army Motor Transport. Geoffrey Pearson is dead, and his body rests in the middle of a great plain, the battle field of the Marne, surrounded by innumerable little crosses which mark the resting places of many comrades, French and British.

It is Sergeant Mackay who tells the story. "On the retreat from Mons, Geoffrey Pearson and I were acting as motor cyclists, and were letting out our machines for all they were worth along a straight road, with open country on either side. Suddenly we seemed to ride into a perfect hailstorm of bullets. Ahead of us the road ran into a little wood.

"Come on, Jeff! We'll ride for it!" I shouted, and we dashed through in safety; but hardly had we entered the wood than we rode into a group of German cavalry, scattered about on either side of the road. They immediately fired on us, and, seeing the game was up, we tumbled off our 'bikes,' put up our hands, and surrendered.

SPAT AT BY HUNS.

"The Germans were wild with delight when they discovered we were British, spat at, struck and hustled us. They allowed us to mount our machines again, but plainly let us understand what should happen to us if we attempted to escape. We had no intention, however, of letting the German army have the use of our machines if we were to be prisoners. So we turned off the lubricating oil, with the result

that after a little while the machines jammed and became useless. The Germans were very suspicious, and asked us why, since we were motor cyclists, we could not repair our machines, but we replied that they were worn out by hard wear and could not be put in order again. So we left the machines by the roadside.

"The mounted Grenadiers (Grenadiere zu Pferd), into whose hands we had fallen, took us to their captain, who spoke English perfectly, and said with mock politeness:—'I regret, gentlemen, that since you are not officers, I cannot put you on parole.' As a matter of fact, we were just as glad that he could not, as neither of us was reconciled to the idea of being locked up in a German prison for the rest of the war.

STARVED THE PRISONERS.

"The Germans treated us shamefully. They gave us nothing to eat and taunted and jeered at us continually. The night we spent in the open, lying on the roadside without any covering between two men. The Germans made themselves comfortable enough, you may be sure. Then in the morning we were handed over to a regiment of infantry, the King of Spain's regiment of Prussian infantry, and the way those men treated us was a revelation of German brutality. They took a sheer delight in knocking two defenceless Englishmen about, prodding us with their bayonets, jabbing us with the butts of their rifles, and kicking and pushing us as we marched along with them. They ordered us to carry their packs. Thinking discretion the better part of valor, I took the one handed me, but Geoffrey, like the high

spirited fellow he was, flatly refused, and got a smack across the head with the butt of a rifle.

"The Germans took us with them in their advance against the French and made us go into the trenches with them. We were thrust into the line with the rest under a terrific fire from the French guns and infantry. The French shrapnel was awful. The Germans fell like flies, and their bodies began to pile up in the trenches.

"I had a good opportunity of seeing the German soldier under fire, and I must say he is plucky enough. He seems to be imbued with a sort of Oriental fanaticism, and goes about his duties stolidly, paying no heed to the bullets flying around.

"But Geoffrey and I were getting a bit tired of the gentle German. In the trenches we were constantly exposed to the risk of being killed by the French or British fire, so we thought we might take a chance of escape.

A DASH UNDER FIRE.

"We decided to make a dash for it. The Germans were all very busy with the fight, and we managed to creep away unperceived out of the trench and through the long grass. There were some civilian prisoners with us in the trenches, and they were in the last stages of physical fear. I believe the poor beggars, fearing they might have to bear the consequences if we got clear away, drew the attention of the Germans to us. Anyway, we were not more than two or three hundred feet away when the Germans saw us and opened fire. By instinct, I suppose, I threw myself flat on my face, and Geoffrey did the same. Seeing that

we did not move, the Germans took no further notice of us, and I lay for about three hours without moving. Then I noted that the Germans had left their trenches, and I turned to Geoffrey, who, like myself, had never stirred. He was dead, shot through the head.

"I had to leave him where he lay and creep away for safety. Finding a left in the village of Varreddes, I stole in there, and in the evening the Germans came back. Four of them installed themselves in the room below my left, and for two days they remained there, while I was a prisoner in the hay above them. Hungry as I was I could not help laughing at them, that they should be there, all unconscious of the near proximity of their former prisoner.

"From the window of the loft I saw an old peasant with a cow, and that gave me an idea for escape. As soon as the Germans left the house I stole out, got into a house next door, loaned myself a suit of peasant's clothes, and in order to complete my make-up captured a calf. I led it right through the German lines into the French. None of the Germans took the least notice of me, but the French imagined I was a spy, until one of their officers, who spoke English well, recognised me and passed me through to the British.

"I have got that peasant suit still, and mean to keep it as a souvenir of my experience.

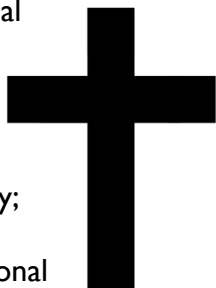
"A week later I returned to Varreddes and found the body of poor Geoffrey Pearson lying where I had left it, and buried it there, with the assistance of some peasants, marking the grave with a cross, on which I cut the name and date, so that it may be found easily later on."

ALAN PARSONS

Closer to home and very much one of the ordinary people that went to war, Alan, our second casualty, died early on in the war shortly after arriving in France. We know little more about Alan or the circumstances that led to his death but we do know about his parents - James and Emma Barham Parsons. Emma was a postmistress who later moved to Three Bridges after the war. It was not unusual for families to lose more than one child in the war. In Emma's case, all three of her children, Alan, Douglas and William, were killed.

When soldiers died in war, a temporary cross was erected at their burial. You can see examples of some of these original grave markers inside Turners Hill Church, at the bottom of the tower erected to commemorate local people who had died.

After the war had ended, the Imperial War Graves Commission provided proper grave markers to replace these temporary crosses. These are the gravestones which we are familiar with in war cemeteries today; engraved with the casualties' details, regimental insignia, and often a personal message from loved ones. In an act of extreme crassness, the government charged relatives 3 1/2d per letter for their personal inscriptions.



Emma, living on her own in Eastcote, North Road, Three Bridges after the war, paid 4 shillings and 11 pence, not once but 3 times to have the epitaph 'Peace Perfect Peace' engraved on the gravestones of each of her sons. You can see William's grave, marked by its military gravestone around to the right as you leave the church.

JOHN AND HAROLD SUMNER AND THE DAY SUSSEX DIED

We all know of the Battle of the Somme, which started on 1st July 1916. The British suffered over 57000 casualties on the first day and there were around a million casualties in total on both sides. What is less well known is the Battle of Boar's Head.

Kitchener wanted a distraction to the Somme offensive so that the Germans might be taken off their guard; so he launched an attack further up the Western Front on 30th June to try to divert the enemy.

At 3.05pm on 30th June 1916 men of the 11th, 12th and 13th Southdowns Battalions of the Royal Sussex Regiment went over the top in the Battle of Ferme du Bois near Richebourg, also known as the Battle of Boar's Head. Both John (of the 12th battalion) and Harold (of the 13th battalion), brothers, were killed on 30th June in that offensive.

THOSE BEING COMMEMORATED IN ORDER OF THEIR PASSING

Surname	Forenames	Date of Death
Pearson	Francis Geoffrey	06/09/14
Parsons	Alan	01/01/15
Johnson	James	27/02/15
Taverner	Harry Alexander	25/04/15
Denman	Cecil Bert	09/08/15
Holman	Herbert Robert	26/09/15
Geddes	William Murray	27/09/15
Charman	Walter	23/06/16
Sumner	Harold	30/06/16
Sumner	John George	30/06/16
Geddes	Arthur Alexander	05/07/16
Holman	William	14/07/16
Cook	Charles Albert	18/08/16
Feist	George Samuel	03/09/16
Holman	William	03/09/16
Ralph	Frederick	15/09/16
Payne	William	06/10/16
Heasyman	William	15/10/16
Habgood	William Roy	21/10/16
Mitchell	William Thomas	21/10/16
Terry	Stanley	12/11/16
Hopkins	Walter Herbert George	12/03/17
Johnson	William	03/05/17
Moore	George Alfred	07/06/17
Parsons	William Peter	08/06/17
Lee	George Joseph	31/07/17
Parsons	Douglas George	05/08/17
Rapley	William Godfrey	25/09/17
Penfold	Ralph	26/09/17
Hole	Albert	27/09/17
Lee	Alfred	29/10/17
Humphrey	William Ernest	30/11/17
Stanford	William John	09/02/18
Berry	Joseph	27/02/18
Broadhurst	Albert Edward	22/03/18
Maynard	Ernest Edward	29/03/18
Howe	Arthur	12/04/18
Harbour	Harry	16/05/18
Goring	Alfred John	07/06/18
Moore	Stanley Thomas	29/07/18
Thompsett	Alf	29/08/18
Jupp	George William	18/09/18
Abbott	Percy Moore	26/10/18
Everest	Albert A	07/11/18
Holman	Alfred	07/12/18
Cheal	William	10/06/19
Parsons	William	29/01/20

FROM THE CHRISTMAS BEAR...

YOU CAN 'T KEEP A GOOD CHRISTMAS BEAR DOWN



I can't believe it is almost Christmas, I am obviously getting old/ come around quicker every year and I have not bought any presents I just thought I would remind you of the first Yes, our Lord Jesus. He was not gift wrapped in pretty coloured but he was and is, still a very welcome gift from God, our Father. Please remember if it was not for that special gift over 2,000 years ago we would not be Christmas now! The Shepherds and Wise Men brought baby Jesus his first presents frankincense and myrrh, what would we think of those gifts today? Would our us, appreciate them today? Perhaps the *gold*! However, we should be grateful for *ALL* things.




because it seems to presents yet! Talking present at Christmas. paper, only in swaddling clothes, why we have Christmas and celebrating of a lamb, gold, children, or even



As we are thinking about World War One these days and how our troops were fighting and living 100 years ago, frightened, cold, wet and far away from home, perhaps we should also remember what life was like at Christmas for them and their families back home. Not very jolly that's for sure. This also brings to mind other families, children and lone adults who are far away from home this year, cold, afraid and hungry as they become refugees due to war. As you are tucking into your Christmas dinner spare a thought and prayer for them as you say Grace and give thanks for our many blessings, gifts from God.



On a more joyful  did you know that the Christmas favourite of 'Jingle Bells' was originally written around 160 years ago for the American celebration of Thanksgiving at the end of November? It was entitled "One Horse Open Sleigh" when it was written in 1857 and became so popular that it was sung at Christmas time too. It was also the first song to be broadcast from space when in 1965 the astronauts played it on Gemini 6. I wonder what Father Christmas thought?



Well my friends it is time for this Cuddly Christmas Bear to wish you a fond farewell for this year and I hope I'll be young enough to chat to you all again next year.

Have a very happy Christmas, one and all!

Love from me



MOTHERS' UNION UPDATE

Although Worth & Pound Hill Mothers' Union have been meeting since 1984, we had to wait a while before being accepted as a proper Branch; and so it was during October this year that we celebrated our 29th Birthday, with a Songs of Praise service at St Barnabas'.

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Revd Angela Martin came to lead us and we sang 14 hymns that we had chosen, each for a special reason. Each member who had selected a hymn explained their

motivation for choosing it and reasons varied from weddings to being the reason for moving on in ministry. There were also readings and an encouraging address from Angela. The evening ended with tea, coffee and cake, to say nothing of the laughter.

November brought us to our annual Preparation for Advent service, which was a special

Eucharist service with, hymns and our Rural Dean, Canon Julia Peaty, presided and gave an uplifting sermon. After the service, we parcelled up individual packets of socks as Christmas presents for those detained in Brooke House and wrote cards for them too; Gatwick Detainees are one of the Mothers' Union projects for Chichester Diocese. This was also a time for refreshment with mince pies, stollen, tea and coffee and a chat. We held our Christmas raffle where every member brings an item which is then put into a hamper. This year, our treasurer Simon won it and received not only the Christmas hamper but also a round of applause!

We do not have a meeting in December but will meet for our New Year supper in January, at Crawley College. In February we will hold our AGM so if anyone feels they would like to come along (February 24th 7.30pm) to hear what we have been up to this year and perhaps be encouraged to join us next year, please do.

The Mothers' Union meet in St Barnabas' Pastoral Centre on the fourth Thursday of every month at 7.30pm. All are welcome. Happy Christmas.

Joan Tick



ST NICHOLAS CIRCLE

LOOKING BACK

In October our Chair, Max, took to the stand, ably assisted by his 'soap box' and spoke about his 45 year career. From paperboy to accountant and various roles in between, including car park attendant, debt chaser, census coordinator and mushroom-picker, his talk proved the accuracy of a comment from one of the managers who employed him - that she worried he didn't stay in a job long enough!

In November our very own Chloe French gave an excellent presentation on her life as a librarian. It covered her studies in Germany, understanding

the importance of an 'open library'; time spent at Crawley library and the changing facilities it offers; and her career leading the stock replenishment team, deciding which are the best books to buy or remove and in what quantities.

LOOKING FORWARD

We are looking forward to next month's talk when Southern Water will describe everything and more that you wanted to know about where your dinner and other unmentionables go, but were too shy to ask! Full details of our 2017 programme are shown on the next page.

Max Perry



The St Nicholas Circle is a group which meets once a month, in St Barnabas' Pastoral Centre, Worth Road, Pound Hill to listen to a talk. Doors open at 7.30pm the talk begins at 8 and is followed by tea/coffee. The Circle is open to all - to join, just turn up and pay an annual membership of £2. Contact Ann Lane (Secretary) on 07973 214095 if you want to find out more.

PROGRAMME 2017

Date	Talk	Speaker
January 5th	Sewer Wise: Stories from under our feet, courtesy of Southern Water.	Stuart Slark and Sharon Holdstock.
February 2nd	Are you getting your 5-A-Day. A guide to healthy living	Al Cooke
March 2nd	The History of Dictionaries : A talk from Attitude to Zest, with mirth in the middle!	Susan Purcell
April 6th	Canine Partners - Dogs trained to assist their owners.	Pat Hewitt (and Dog?)
May 4th	"Not to be sneezed at" - Collecting hankies through the years	Brenda Matthews
June 1st	Our "Bring and Share" Summer delight	With guest raffle draw!!
===== SUMMER BREAK =====		
September 7th	Anecdotes from a retired School Head and Schools Inspector.	Claire Baldry (Blogger and Poet)
October 5th	Thoughts from St Catherine's Hospice	Our very own Rose Wells
November 2nd	Desert Island Discs : Man-Friday meets Persons Thursday to talk about their favourite songs and books	A Friend of St Nicholas Circle
December 7th	Christmas Cheese and Wine: Discuss the year and the programme for the year ahead.	Maybe we'll have a new Rector or Vicar to make the raffle draw!

RECIPE PAGE - GRANDMA CHAPMAN'S WARTIME CHRISTMAS PUDDING

Although I haven't actually asked them, I am pretty confident that my family won't mind me sharing this old (that's why the measurements are in ounces) favourite recipe. My grandma was an amazing cook and I make this every Christmas, preferring it to every other pudding I've tried. I guess a part of that is me being used to it, but also in comparison, shop-bought puddings seem so heavy in texture. This one is lighter in colour and flavour compared with the traditional pudding, but tastes so lovely. For years, I would beg my mum to make it for me as part of my Christmas present, then I discovered that although Christmas puddings sound like something you'd never attempt, they are incredibly easy to make.

All you have to do is put the ingredients together in a bowl and boil. So I'd urge you to have a try, even if you've never made anything like it before. You don't have to make it ages in advance –just enough time to have boiled it once for 4 hours before Christmas Day.

Ingredients

- 4oz breadcrumbs
- 2oz self-raising flour
- 3oz suet
- 2oz mixed peel
- 2oz grated carrot
- 4oz currants
- 8oz sultanas
- 2-3oz sugar
- Half a teaspoon salt
- Half a tablespoon marmalade
- 70ml (1/8 pint) milk
- 1 egg

FUNNY HOW...

A £5 note looks so big in the church collection plate but seems so small when you take it to the shops.

We are thrilled when a football game goes into extra time, but less so when a sermon overruns!



Method

1. Mix all ingredients thoroughly adding a little more milk or some brandy as needed.
2. Pack into a greased basin and secure top with a lid of greaseproof paper then foil tied on with string.
3. Boil for 4 hours in water that is about 5cm from top of basin and keep topping up the water.
4. Optionally, on another day, boil for a further 2 hours.
5. Boil for a final 2 hours on Christmas Day.
6. Serve by setting alight to brandy poured over it, with cream or brandy butter (4oz softened unsalted butter creamed with 4oz icing sugar into which you beat 2 tbsp boiling water and 3 tbsp brandy until smooth.)

Elizabeth Whyman

Be kind and compassionate to those around you at this time of year, because you never know who might end up being your Secret Santa!

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USEFUL NUMBERS

Administrators (Parish)	Glennis Parker Sue Perry	0300 111 8150
Altar Servers (St Barnabas')	Sheila Dring	
Altar Servers (St Nicholas')	Jenny Dobson Joan Pallett	
Baptisms	Parish Office	
Bell Ringers	Neil Dobson	
Bookings (Hall, Pastoral Centre, Church) etc)	Glennis Parker Sue Perry	
Buildings and Facilities	See Churchwardens	
Children's Society	Brenda Booker	
Choirs (Worth Church and Festival)	Alex Hiam	
Church Cleaning (St Barnabas')	Phyl Pennell	
Church Cleaning (St Nicholas')	Jill Freeborn	
Churchwardens (St Barnabas')	Phyl Pennell Sheila Dring	
Churchwardens (St Nicholas')	David Parker Colin Smith	
Events (Parish)	Jane Stanford	
Families, Youth and Children's Work	Parish Office	
Fellowship Activities	Joan Tick	
Festival Choir (occasional)	See Choirs	
Flower Arranging (St Barnabas')	Jane Stanford	
Flower Arranging (St Nicholas')	Noreen Oxlade	
Friends of St Nicholas'	Colin Smith	
Funerals	Parish Office	
Giving (regular and one off donations)	Sheila Dring	
Julian Group (St Barnabas')	Don Hewerdine	
Julian Group (St Nicholas')	Gill Gusterson	
Knit and Natter	Val Rudd	
Media (Facebook/Twitter/Website)	Elizabeth Whyman	
Messy Church	Claire Clarke	
Mothers' Union	Mary Fry	
Office (Parish)		
Pastoral Centre		
PCC Lay Chair	Phyl Pennell	
PCC Electoral Roll Officer	Jane Stanford	
PCC Committee Chairs Faith - Growth in Christ Hope - Re-imagining Ministry Love - Seeking the Common Good St Nicholas' St Barnabas' Standing Committee	David Parker Colin Smith Phyl Pennell David Parker Phyl Pennell Phyl Pennell	
PCC Secretary	Glennis Parker	
PCC Treasurer	Max Perry	
Prayer Group	Linda Eells	
Safeguarding Officer	Viv Tillyer	
St Nicholas' Circle	Max Perry	
Toddlers (Tues/Thurs am)	Jenny Dobson	
Weddings	Parish Office	

DECEMBER - JANUARY CALENDAR

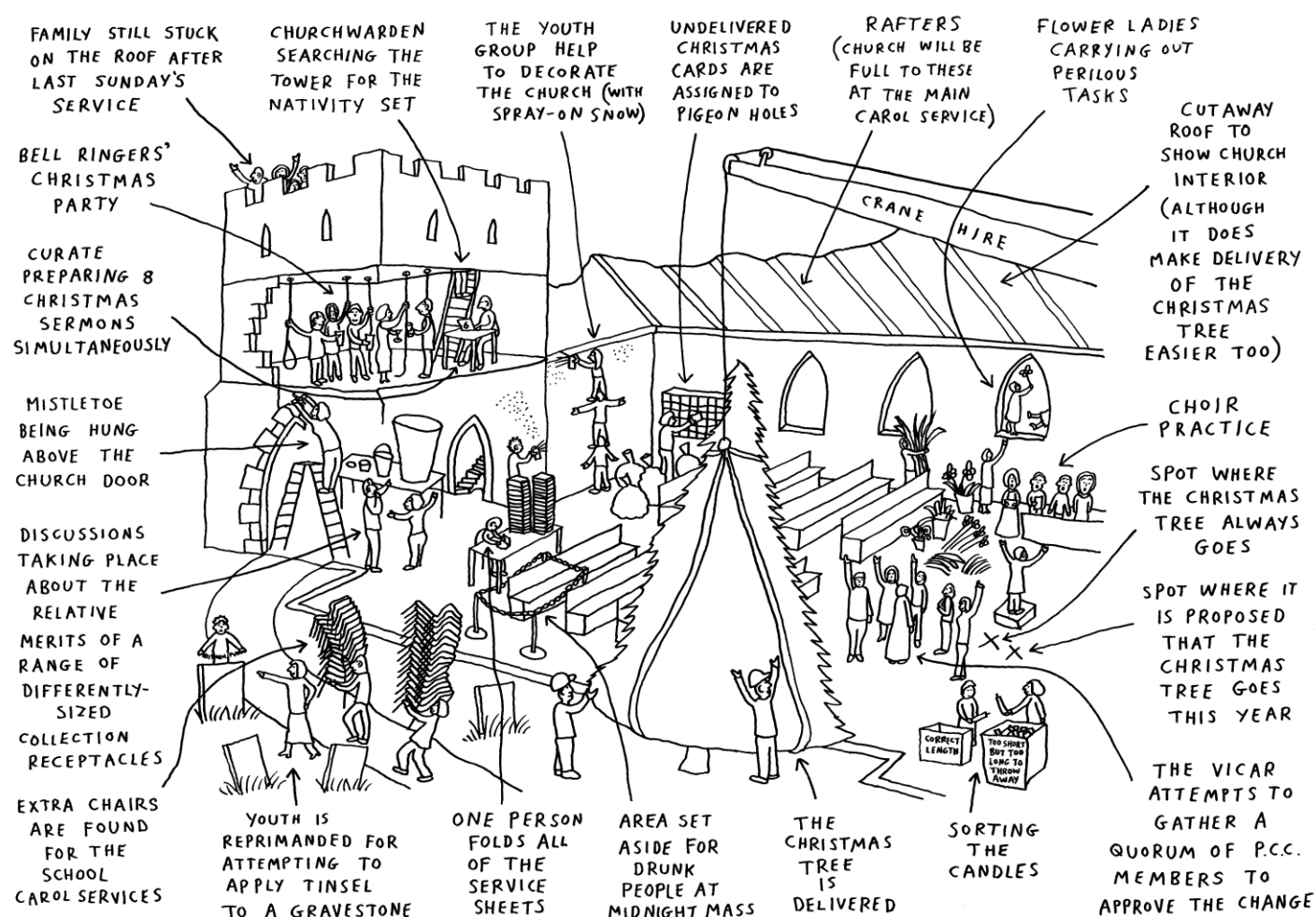
Sunday 4 December	11.30am	Regular Services and Parish Christingle, <i>St Nicholas'</i>
Tuesday 6 December	11.00am	Home Communion, <i>Lanehurst Gardens</i>
Wednesday 7 December	3.15-4.30pm 7.30pm	Messy Church, <i>Maidenbower Infants School</i> PCC Meeting, <i>St Barnabas'</i>
Friday 9 December	12.30pm	Christmas Lunch, <i>St Barnabas'</i> (Bookings 01293 883362)
Saturday 10 December	10-11.45am	Saturday Market, <i>St Barnabas'</i>
Sunday 11 December		Regular Services
Monday 12 December	11.00am	Julian Group, <i>St Barnabas'</i>
Wednesday 14 December	2.00-4.00pm 3.00-4.45pm	Pastoral Assistants' Tea, <i>St Barnabas'</i> Messy Church, <i>St Barnabas'</i>
Sunday 18 December	11.30am 4.00pm 6.30pm	Regular Services and Christmas at Nic's, <i>St Nicholas'</i> Carols for All, <i>St Barnabas'</i> Nine Lessons and Carols, <i>St Nicholas'</i>
Wednesday 21 December	7.30pm	Parish Prayer Group, <i>St Barnabas'</i>
Thursday 22 December	7.30pm	Mothers' Union Meeting, <i>St Barnabas'</i>
Saturday 24 December	4.00pm 4.00pm 11.30pm	Crib Service and Nativity Play, <i>St Nicholas'</i> Crib Service, <i>St Barnabas'</i> Midnight Mass, <i>St Nicholas'</i>
Sunday 25 December		Regular Services
Friday 30 December	8.30pm	Church in the Pub, <i>Coaching Halt, Maidenbower</i>
Sunday 1 January		Regular Services and 11.30am Nic's, <i>St Nicholas'</i>
Tuesday 3 January	11.00am	Home Communion, <i>Lanehurst Gardens</i>
Thursday 5 January	8.00pm	Sewer Wise – a talk from Southern Water, <i>St Nicholas Circle, St Barnabas'</i>
Sunday 8 January		Regular Services
Monday 9 January	11.00am	Julian Group, <i>St Barnabas'</i>
Wednesday 11 January	2.00-4.00pm 3.00-4.45pm	Pastoral Assistants' Tea, <i>St Barnabas'</i> Messy Church, <i>Maidenbower Infants School</i>
Thursday 12 January	2.30pm	Julian Group, <i>St Nicholas'</i>
Saturday 14 January	10-11.45am	Saturday Market, <i>St Barnabas'</i>
Sunday 15 January		Regular Services and 11.30am Nic's, <i>St Nicholas'</i>
Sunday 22 January	08.00am 09.45am	Holy Communion, <i>St Nicholas'</i> Parish Eucharist with Bishop Martin, <i>St Nicholas'</i>
Monday 23 January		Deadline for submissions to next Parish Magazine

Wednesday 25 January	3.00-4.45pm 7.30pm	Messy Church, <i>St Barnabas'</i> St Barnabas' Committee Meeting, <i>St Barnabas'</i>
Thursday 26 January	7.30pm	Mothers' Union Meeting, <i>St Barnabas'</i>
Friday 27 January	8.30pm	Church in the Pub, <i>Coaching Halt, Maidenbower</i>
Saturday 28 January	9.30am-12	Safeguarding Training, <i>St Barnabas'</i>
Sunday 29 January		Regular Services
Thursday 2 February	8.00pm	Are you getting your 5 a Day?— a talk from Al Cook, <i>St Nicholas Circle, St Barnabas'</i>
Saturday 4 February	10-11.45am	Saturday Market, <i>St Barnabas'</i>
Sunday 5 February		New Parish Magazine available

ADDRESSES

St Barnabas' Church, Worth Road, Crawley, RH10 7DY	St Nicholas' Church, Church Road Worth, RH10 7RT	The Studio Maidenbower Infants School Harvest Road, RH10 7RA	Coaching Halt Balcombe Rd Maidenbower, RH10 7ZJ	Worth Parish Office St Barnabas' Church, Worth Road, Crawley, RH10 7DY
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CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS



VIEW FROM A PEW

There were two autumn highlights for me - the first being the Parish Eucharist at St Barnabas'. I cherished the more relaxed service and the warmth of the event was helped by the turnout, the bonhomie of the visiting priest, Sue Suddeby, the usual friendly welcome and a little, of course, by the new double-glazing. I enjoyed catching up with people in the Centre after the service as Sue (busy Parish Administrator and wife!) rushed up and down to the office.

The second highlight was the visit of our old friend Canon Anthony Stiddolph, our former Rector and now Associate Rector at a parish in Cyprus where one of his key duties is the marrying of (mainly) visiting couples to the island. The 128 weddings he has done both inside and outside the Church this year knocks our 30+ into a cocked hat. He had confided that he hadn't written a sermon but had a few ideas and yet without notes or preparation, he gave us a lovely description of his life on the Island and his beautiful church in Paphos steeped in its early AD century history of Saints and service to Christ. Without hesitation and only the odd break, Ant is truly an excellent orator.

Before the service we had an amusing discussion about the challenges and pitfalls of sermons and services. When I asked if anything ever put him off when doing a service he commented that it was not big things, but the little ones such as a nod of a head, catching someone's eye as they made a strange expression or the turning of a page in a book. You can imagine the effect this had on me during the service. I spent the whole time completely frozen, trying not to adjust my glasses, attempting to adopt a serious and contemplative yet natural expression (you try it!).

Nevertheless, at least twice he looked in my direction and did seem mildly distracted. It was not until the end of the service, when I realised that on the pew in front of me was a huge big red box which I needed to advertise as the place to put donations for the Christmas Fair - a red box big enough to put anyone off.

Let's pray that the interregnum does not last too long, but while it does let us appreciate and enjoy the variety it gives us.

This will be my last *A View From a Pew* for the moment. In the last two years, I have been somewhat in the wilderness of parish organisational activity (get that Israelites, only two years!). It has given me the opportunity to step back and sit in my pew appreciating all the hard work that others have put into my church experience. I have now taken up the role of Treasurer so you won't hear the last of me and you can read my new series *The Parish Purse* on page 11. In future issues, I will be explaining what the Accounts Team do and bring to light the equivalent of the Enron scandal (shredding old receipts) and the banking crisis (how we are short of volunteers). Hopefully in the same way as I have tried to do in *A View from the Pew* I will be able to report the coffers half full instead of half empty.

It would be great to see *A View from a Pew* continue though, with an alternative author, so please do email magazine@worthparish.org.uk if you'd like to write it; after all, a good Sunday service is like a great play - it has no point if there is no audience or critics!

Max Perry

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PARISH PRAYERS

At our now established Parish Prayer Group, eight people came together on a Wednesday at St Nicholas at 2.30pm to join together in offering up their thoughts for the Parish. I introduced everybody and asked David (as a churchwarden) what news there was. He told us there was much effort going into filling the 11 vacancies across the Diocese as well as those where duties needed to be covered due to illness, so that we must be realistic as well as optimistic about our own Parish's situation.

David then began by offering up his realism for prayer and on a practical level, he wanted to pray for the maintenance of our buildings. He also prayed that we would get a leader for the Friday youth club and said also that a children and families worker is also at the front of his passions, as it triggers the hope of seeing more families in our services.

David also gave thanks for the work of Julia and Gordon, for Sheila's work with the accounts over the last six months and Claire for her work with Messy Church. There was then a moment of silence and another member began a heartfelt prayer. Most prayers offered up by the group are usually for the whole church community and its needs and concerns. For example this prayer was said:

Heavenly Father, we pray for people who have extra work to do in the time of our parish's interregnum, including Julia, Gordon, Roger, Dave, Colin, Phyl and Sheila, and we thank you for their willingness to serve you. Please let the body of the church encourage them and others. We pray also that we come closer together at this time; that past hurts are overcome and we go forward with trust, love, compassion and respect as living witnesses of your love. Amen.

There was much prayerful hope that people will offer the gifts they have to our parish and that the doors of our church will be opened widely to welcome our whole community. There were prayers that we would all carry on learning, not stagnate or be inward looking; that the home

groups would flourish, that our outreach, including those who support the cafe by serving or attending would be welcoming or welcomed and that God would be with them.



The following words were also offered up:

We are so lucky in our two diverse places of worship. May we be good ministers of our churches especially at Christmas; providing a truly warm welcome to all those who visit either our glorious Saxon location at St Nicholas', where people have worshipped down the ages, or the modern, versatile complex of buildings at St Barnabas with its open doors and pastoral centre.

The group alternate between meeting in the daytime or evening with a venue of either St Barnabas' or St Nicholas' so if you'd like to come along, one or other time/location should suit you. The next meeting will be at 7.30pm at St Barnabas' on Wednesday 21 December. Newcomers are always welcome - no previous experience required!

Linda Eells

Remember: Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.



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Leatherhead Leisure Centre
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