



19<sup>th</sup> March  
2017

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 for everyone. **It is for you to take home and share.** If you are here for the first time, please do introduce yourselves. 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. We'd also love you to join us for refreshments after the service.

## SERVICES TODAY

08.00	Holy Communion	St Nicholas'
Celebrant & Preacher:	Revd Gordon Parry	
09.45	Sung Eucharist	St Nicholas'
Celebrant & Preacher:	Revd Gordon Parry	
10.00	Eucharist Service	St Barnabas'
Rev'd	David Knight	
11.30	Nic's Mini Messy	St Nicholas'
		Greta Sawyer

The **electoral rolls** are displayed in both churches. **Please check** that your entry is there and correct. Report any omissions/ errors etc to Phyl Pennell or Dave Parker.

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

## Spiritual Orientation

There is a powerful interconnection between all today's readings. We hear of an event – literal and symbolic – in the Israelites' journey through the wilderness during which their faith in God, expressed in their complaints to Moses, was severely tested because there was no water to drink. A rock was struck by Moses and water issued from it. This was commemorated in the names given to the place – Massah ('testing') and Meribah ('quarrelling'). These names are also referred to in Psalm 95, the psalm for the day, which acclaims the power of God and the basis of faith in him, asserting that putting God to the test is a very unhelpful thing to do. In the reading from St Paul's Letter to the Romans the basis for our faith in God is updated through the – then – recent knowledge of the grace brought to us through Christ's death and resurrection.

The Gospel reading re-introduces the symbolism of water and the quenching of spiritual thirst that comes from recognition of the true nature of Christ. It also explores relationships, our gender relationships, our understanding of 'strangers' and God's all-encompassing understanding of every aspect of our human condition. It suggests that all our needs can be satisfied though a proper relationship with God.

This insight and understanding require us to navigate our way through a spiritual landscape that can be confusing and unclear at times. Lent is a time for re-setting our spiritual compass and establishing clearly the salient points in the landscape we traverse in our journey of faith. May our worship and contemplation during Lent enable us to gain a clearer understanding of the God who created us, who knows us, who loves us and who sacrificed his Son for us.

*Gordon*

## Collect

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

## First Reading

Exodus 17.1-7

### Water from the Rock

From the wilderness of Sin

the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?' But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried out to the LORD, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' The LORD said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the LORD, saying, 'Is the LORD among us or not?'

## Psalm 95



## Second Reading

Romans 5.1-11 Results of Justification

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord

Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

## Gospel

John 4.5-42

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket,



and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

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

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

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

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

### Post Communion

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### SERVICES THIS WEEK

Tues 21	10.30 Eucharist	St Barnabas'
Thur 23	10.30 Eucharist	St Nicholas'
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> Mar	08.00 Holy Communion	St Nicholas'
	09.45 Sung Eucharist	St Nicholas'
	10.00 Family Service	St Barnabas'
	12.00 Baptism	St Nicholas'

### Readings for Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Mar Mothering Sunday (Lent 4)

Exodus 2: 1-10 Psalm 34

Colossians 3: 12-17 Gospel - John 19: 25b-27

## Notices & Diary Notes

**Hall toilets refurbishment** - Thank you to those who have contributed so far. Funds have also been boosted with a grant of £2015 from Community Initiative Funding (East C C Local Committee). We have also now received a grant of £5000 from the Courage-Dyer Recreational Trust. Thanks to those people who supported the Jumble Sale on 11th March. £312 was raised

**The Pastoral Centre** is open Mon 14.00 – 16.00 & Tues, Fri, Sat 10.30 – 12.00 for refreshments and friendship!

**Friday lunches** 12.30 in the PC 2 courses + tea / coffee - £5.50. All welcome. Please order tickets by 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar (for catering) for 24<sup>th</sup> Mar at the PC or call 0300 111 8150.

**Tues 21<sup>st</sup> Mar – Lenten Soup Lunches 12.15 pm** served on Tuesdays during Lent, 21st and 28th March and 4th and 11th April at 12.15pm in the Pastoral Centre. In aid of Parish World Bank (charities). All welcome.

**Thursday 23rd March 2.30 pm** the Parish Prayer Group will meet at St Nicholas (funerals permitting). Everyone welcome.

**Mothers' Union** Thursday 23rd of March @ 7.30 in the Pastoral Centre. Our Diocesan President will be speaking about The Contact Centre in Eastbourne. We will finish with Compline. All are welcome.

There will be a Gardening session at St. Barnabas on **Saturday 25th March** 09.00 11.30. Lots of volunteers needed, please come and help us if you can. Refreshments provided

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April** 9.30am-10.15am St Barnabas'. A presentation by the Alzheimer's Society. We would like to make our Pastoral Centre 'dementia friendly'. This is open to all, please come & bring your friends and families.

Wed 22 March 17

St Barnabas Hall 15.00 – 17.00

Wed 5 April 17

Maidenbower 15.15-16.45

Old and new friends welcome



**'Eternally Yours'** on Friday 7th April, at The Hawth Theatre. Community Groups incl Worth choir tell the Easter Story in dance, drama & music. Bring the whole family! Tickets: £13.50 (discounts: £12)

**May 27th & 28th Big Church Day Out** at Wiston House, Steyning. Lots of fun & modern worship. Contact for tickets 01903 815020 - book by Mar 31st to save money.

**June 20th - 24th Open Air play of the Life of Christ** at Wintershall, Bramley, Nr Guildford – see posters in churches.

**Please note the ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING is on Wednesday 29 March @ 19.00**  
All are welcome, so please try to attend! Nomination forms for church wardens, deputy wardens, PCC members and Deanery Synod reps are available at the back of both churches. Nominations are needed for a church warden and deputy warden at both churches (annual appointments). There are 2 vacancies at St. Nicholas (3 year terms) and 3 vacancies at St. Barnabas (2 x 3 year terms and 1 x 1 year term) for PCC. 3 Deanery Synod reps are needed (3 year terms) - at least one from each church. Completed forms to the church wardens by 26th March.

### 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

0300 111 8150

office@worthparish.org.uk