



15<sup>th</sup> October  
Trinity 18



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'
<i>Celebrant &amp; Preacher:</i>	Revd Gordon Parry
09.45 Sung Eucharist	St Nicholas'
<i>Celebrant &amp; Preacher:</i>	Fr Michael Boag
10.00 Eucharist	St Barnabas'
	Revd David Knight
11.30 Mini Messy	Fr Michael Boag

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

I wonder which part of this morning's Gospel reading will stand out for you? Will it be the lavish generosity of the king? The apathy and ingratitude of the invited guests? The rage and judgement of the aggrieved monarch? The metaphors of the Wedding Banquet are not difficult to follow and they speak not only to the crowds gathered round Jesus but to us, his church today. If this morning's reading stopped at verse eight, or even verse nine, it might be rather dispiriting. We're often told the Kingdom of Heaven is a banquet to which we are all invited but now, Matthew is telling us: 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy.' Oh no! After all our efforts! We've worked so hard to get it right, to do the right thing, to earn our keep, to keep our place and now it seems it's all been for nought and the invitation has been withdrawn.

Verse ten is the one I like to remember, they 'gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.' The hall was filled with guests and, please note, with both the good and the bad. It's not just the irreproachable high achievers who get to go to the party; failures as well as successes are bidden. One saintly writer has observed, we are called to be holy before we are called to be good.

St Paul urges us to rejoice and not to worry. And he picks gentleness as the quality we should have and show for all the world to see; for it is to the gentle of spirit that places of honour are given. And like Isaiah before him, his message is this: Come to the banquet!

*Michael*

## Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy;  
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

*Isaiah 25.1-9*

### Praise for Deliverance from Oppression

O LORD, you are my God;

I will exalt you, I will praise your name;  
for you have done wonderful things,  
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.  
For you have made the city a heap, the  
fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a  
city no more, it will never be rebuilt.  
Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;  
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.  
For you have been a refuge to the poor,  
a refuge to the needy in their distress,  
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade  
from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a  
winter rainstorm, the noise of aliens like  
heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat  
with the shade of clouds; the song of the  
ruthless was stilled.

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will  
make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a  
feast of well-matured wines,

of rich food filled with marrow, of well-  
matured wines strained clear.

And he will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the sheet that is spread over all nations;  
he will swallow up death for ever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the  
tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his  
people he will take away from all the earth,

for the LORD has  
spoken.

It will be said on  
that day,

Lo, this is our  
God; we have  
waited for him, so  
that he might save  
us.

This is the LORD for whom we have  
waited;

let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.



## Psalm 23

## Second Reading

*Philippians 4.1-9*

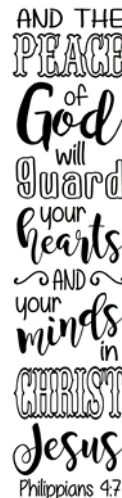
Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

### Exhortations

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with

Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



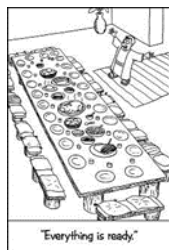
Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

## Gospel

Matthew 22.1-14

### The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his



troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was

speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

## Post Communion

We praise and thank you, O Christ, for this sacred feast: for here we receive you, here the memory of your passion is renewed, here our minds are filled with grace, and here a pledge of future glory is given, when we shall feast at that table where you reign with all your saints for ever. **Amen**

## SERVICES THIS WEEK

Tues 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	10.30 Eucharist	St Barnabas'
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	10.30 Eucharist	St Nicholas'
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup>	12.00 Wedding	St Nicholas'
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	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 22<sup>nd</sup> October

### Trinity 19

Isaiah 45.1-7 Psalm 96.1-9[10-13]  
I Thessalonians 1.1-10 Matthew 22.15-22

## Check Your Sofa and give more this month to the Church:

Old £5 notes can only be accepted by the Bank of England. Old £1 coins can only be banked up to the end of October. Please check your sofa, your wallet/purse, your drawers, your pockets, your washing machine. We'll take away the inconvenience of dealing with them and put that old money to good use. *Max*

Wed 18<sup>th</sup> October  
St Barnabas Hall 15.00

Wed 8<sup>th</sup> November  
Maidenbower Infant Sch. 15.15



## Notices & Diary Notes

**Friday lunches** 12.30 in the Pastoral Centre, 2 courses + tea / coffee - £6.50. All welcome. Please order tickets by 18<sup>th</sup> Oct (for catering) for 20<sup>th</sup> Oct at the PC or call 0300 111 8150

The **Saturday Market** on 7th October raised **£54.45**. Thanks to our supporters.

**URC Three Bridges Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> October at 2.30pm** SLINFOLD BAND: TICKETS £5. under 18: £2.50 (Funds needed for new ladies toilets...men had theirs first)

**"Encounter:** A relaxed and informal Sunday evening service combining relaxed prayer activities, bible study and sung worship; the perfect way to spend a a refreshing and relaxing time with God before the working week begins. 6pm, **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October**, St Margaret's Church, Ifield"

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October** at 9.30am in the Pastoral Centre - the next planning meeting for the **Christmas Fair 18 November** - a few extra people would be welcomed. There is a box in both churches for any contributions for the various stalls - raffle prizes, new gifts etc. Thank you.

A parishioner has offered a single adjustamatic bed, a 2 seater settee and a reclining chair (all in excellent condition) to anyone in exchange for a donation to church or free to a family in need. If you know of anyone or you are interested please ring asap. Phyl 883362.

**Recruiting** – Magazine editor(s) We are looking for one or more people to take over from the beginning of 2018. We try to issue 5 mags a year, but the format is up to you to create your own masterpiece. Help given if needed. Liz Gallagher is responsible for advertising and printing.  
**Could this be you?**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 1.30pm - 3.30pm** Afternoon Tea with entertainment at St Elizabeth's, Boundary Road, Northgate. Free for Senior Citizens.

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> Oct 19.30** Worth & Pound Hill Mothers' Union are celebrating their 30th Birthday with "Songs of Praise" at St Barnabas Church. Please join us, everyone welcome – there will be cake!

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October, 9.30am Jumble Sale** in the Parish Hall. Please do not bring jumble before 27th October as we have nowhere to store it. Helpers are needed on the 28th 9.15-11.30- if you are able to assist please sign the list at St. Barnabas or give me a call (01293) 883362- Phyl. Thank you

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October** Parish Eucharist at St Barnabas. 10.00. Following the service the refreshments- tea/coffee, biscuits etc are being provided by the local Coop store. There will be a very short talk about the Coop and its charity work and we are hoping that the Pastoral Centre will be one of the Coop's chosen charities for 2018. We hope as many of you as possible will be present.

A **booklet** of the **Parish Remembrance Diary** is in both churches. Please ✓ the name of your loved ones for them to be remembered in the weekly intercessions, on All Souls' Day in November or both. If anyone is to be added, please write full names, date & year of death in the correct month. Both booklets will be collected on 29 Oct. Thank you

The next Parish Prayer Group will be on **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October** at 7.30pm in the Pastoral Centre. Everyone is very welcome.

### **CONTACTS**

The Rector, Fr Michael Boag can be contacted on 01293 882229 or [rector@worthparish.org](mailto:rector@worthparish.org)

#### **Churchwardens**

Sheila Dring (St B)	01293 513496
Phyl Pennell (St B)	01293 883362
Gerald Sandwell (St N)	01293 883388
Colin Smith (St N)	01293 889894

#### **Worth Parish Office**

0300 111 8150

[office@worthparish.org](mailto:office@worthparish.org) (NB new address)