

May the righteous  
flourish, and

Peace  
Abound.

PSALM 72:7, ESV

WORTH PARISH  
MAGAZINE



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

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

ST BARNABAS', POUND HILL  
£1.00 December 2017 - January 2018 ST NICHOLAS', WORTH

Reg. Charity No. 1131090

# CLERGY SERVING THE PARISH

<b>Rector</b>	Fr. Michael Boag	01293 882229
<b>Associate Vicar</b>	VACANT	
<b>Assistant Priests</b>	Revd Canon Roger Brown	01293 520454
	Revd Gordon Parry	07802 432398
<b>Rural Dean</b>	Canon Julia Peaty	01342 322386

## REGULAR SERVICES

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

	St Nicholas', Worth	St Barnabas', Pound Hill
Sundays	<b>08.00</b> Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer, 1662)  <b>10.00</b> Sung Eucharist (Common Worship)	<b>10.00</b> 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Sundays - Eucharist  <b>10.00</b> 4th Sundays <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>24 December, Family Communion and Crib Service</li> <li>28 January, Family Eucharist</li> </ul> <b>10.00</b> 5th Sunday, 31 December - No service here. Please join us at St Nicholas' for our Parish Eucharist.
Mondays	No services	No services
Tuesdays	No services	<b>10.30</b> Eucharist
Wednesdays	No services	<b>15.00</b> Messy Church at St Barnabas' on 13 December and 24 January
Thursdays	<b>10.30</b> Eucharist	No services
Fridays and Saturdays	No services	No services

You can also join us at:

The Studio Maidenbower Infants School RH10 7RA		
6 December and 10 January (2nd Wed of the month in term times)	<b>15:15</b>	Messy Church in Maidenbower

St Barnabas' Cafe RH10 7DY		
Mondays (term-times)	<b>14.00-16.00</b>	Pop in for a cake and a drink. Games also available.
Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays	<b>10.30-12.00</b>	Pop in for a cake and a drink
Thursdays	<b>14.00-16.00</b>	Knit and Natter -bring any crafts to do
Fridays	<b>12.30</b>	Lunches - prebook tickets (£6.50) by calling 01293 883362

Church in the Pub Coaching Halt Maidenbower RH10 7ZJ		
Last Friday of the month	<b>20:30-late</b>	A pint down the pub with friends

Worth Parish Office, St Barnabas' Church, Worth Road, Crawley, RH10 7DY

☎ 0300 111 8150 ✉ office@worthparish.org.uk 🏠 worthparish.org 📺 facebook.com/WorthParish

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Take part in our nativity at 4pm on Christmas Eve  
at St Nicholas' Please email [tickjoan@gmail.com](mailto:tickjoan@gmail.com)  
or come to rehearsals at St Nicholas' on Thursday  
December 21 and Friday December 22 at 4pm.



# CONTACT US

If you have a Baptism, Wedding or general enquiry, please call the office on 0300 111 8150 or email [office@worthparish.org](mailto:office@worthparish.org)

To contact Fr. Michael, please phone 01293 882229 Tuesday to Sunday or email him at [rector@worthparish.org](mailto:rector@worthparish.org)

Send articles, photos, information and jokes for the magazine to [magazine@worthparish.org](mailto:magazine@worthparish.org)

You can also find up to date information here:

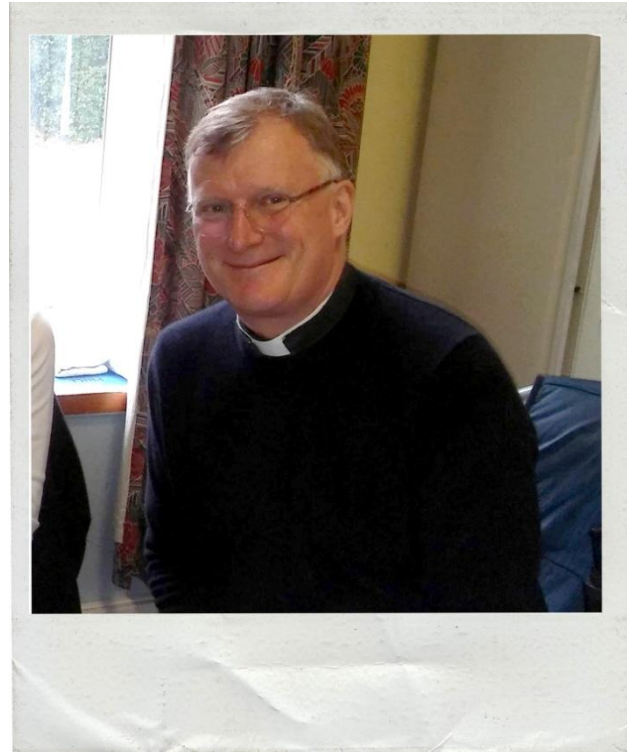
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## FROM THE RECTOR

Cinnamon, clove, orange are all flavours of Christmas -in biscuits and cakes and stuffing, hung in bags to sweeten the air, gently flavouring mulled wine or cider. Such is their potency for us that the taste and smell of them on their own, or when combined, simply whispers to our senses the magic word, Christmas! They are such an integral part of the season, consciously or unconsciously, if they weren't there, somehow Christmas wouldn't be Christmas. They are so familiar we forget they don't originate from here but are exotic imports from distant oriental lands. Christianity too has been part of our culture for such a long time we tend to think of it as a product of western civilisation and, like the spices, forget its eastern origins and likewise forget that so much of our western civilisation has been formed and infused by Christianity.

If the festive dishes we so enjoy were made without the cloves and cinnamon and oranges, they would still be sweet cakes, warmed wine and so on but they would somehow be lacking. We might not notice at first, just perhaps be aware there was something missing, a certain subtle difference that turns the ordinary into the wonderful.

The key ingredient in life that turns the ordinary into the wonderful is the chief cause for our celebration at Christmas. It is, of course, love. Not to say that the birth of Jesus marks the birth of love. But unconditional love such as a loving creator shows his creation by giving freedom of choice; unconditional love that says 'I will still love you even when you do not love me'; unconditional love that says not even the pains of crucifixion and



death will prevent me from loving you; such love that turns the ordinary into the wonderful.

The seventeenth-century metaphysical poet Richard Crashaw wrote this about the birth of Jesus:

*That on her lap she cast her humble eye, 'Tis the sweet pride of her humility.*

*The fair star is well fixt, for where, O where Could she have fixt it on a fairer sphere?*

*'Tis Heaven, 'tis Heaven she sees,*

*Heaven's God there lies;*

*She can see Heaven, and ne'er lift up her eyes:*

*This new Guest to her eyes new laws hath given, 'Twas once, Look up, 'tis now, Look down, to Heaven.*

Crashaw died at the age of thirty-six in the year King Charles was executed, and was the son of a

prominent Puritan minister. However, despite, or maybe because of this, he took an opposite view to his father's theology and unlike him, rather liked the celebration of Christmas.

And perhaps his poem hints at the power he sensed in this great feast.

*'Tis Heaven, 'tis Heaven she sees, Heaven's God there lies; ... 'Twas once, Look up, 'tis now, Look down, to Heaven.*

Not just the image of the Mother Mary with her baby but of a whole new way - *new laws hath given* - for us to perceive God. No longer the remote lofty judge of ancient Law and Commandment but here with us, in our midst, knowing our human condition from its most vulnerable experience.

This can actually be quite difficult for people. How much easier to believe in the elemental forces of nature or chance, or in an authoritarian deity that passes judgement and finds us wanting, demands submission without compassion or engagement. The message of the birth of Jesus is that of heaven meeting earth. God, to us, speaks words of love and even when our counter argument is a tale of fear and greed, selfishness and shame. Yet despite our obtuseness, our persistence in getting the wrong end of the stick, he never once gives up.

May the blessings of Christmas be with you now and in the year to come.

Fr. Michael



## CHANGE OF SERVICE TIME

**Remember that the Sung Eucharist on Sunday mornings at St Nicholas' now begins at 10am.**

## TO HIRE

- **St Nicholas' Church** - fantastic acoustics and seats 150
- **St Barnabas' Church Hall** - 10m by 10m, seats 105 with kitchen and garden
- **Pastoral Centre** - a carpeted room and café seating up to 40
- **St Barnabas' Downstairs Meeting Room** 3.5m x 3.5m room with small kitchen and patio to garden. Seats up to 15 (or 8 around a large round table)

For rates, please see  
[www.worthparish.org/venuehire](http://www.worthparish.org/venuehire) or  
email [office@worthparish.org](mailto:office@worthparish.org)  
to discuss your individual requirements  
or arrange a look around.



# NEWS

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thank you to all who supported Operation Christmas Child recently.

As you remember, shoeboxes are given unconditionally, regardless of background or religion, to youngsters who have been affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine or disease.

Worth Parish were featured in the Crawley Observer, with the photo on this page, which shows a few of the children who donated some of the 50 shoeboxes we collected. Special thanks go to Sue Perry



organizing this and sorting the onward journey of the boxes which are now on their way to bringing a little happiness to other young people.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Best wishes to those baptised recently in our parish including Jamie William Fish, Finn Leo Bowden, Henry McLay-Hares, Jasper David Alexsen and Francesca Lily May Ellis. And also to those married in St Nicholas' since the last magazine was published: Scott McGovern and Emma Audrey Bristowe, Genair Ebenezer Otoo and Lauren Jane Dunstan, and Philip John Oldfield and Rebecca Jayne Arthur.

## FUNNIES

*Just went to an emotional wedding.  
Even the cake was in tiers.*

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## WINTERSHALL NATIVITY

Experience the Christmas story in a dramatic and intimate way, beginning in the open air before sitting in the atmospheric barn to watch the story unfold. This is the perfect opportunity to reflect on the birth of Jesus. Shows 13-17th December.

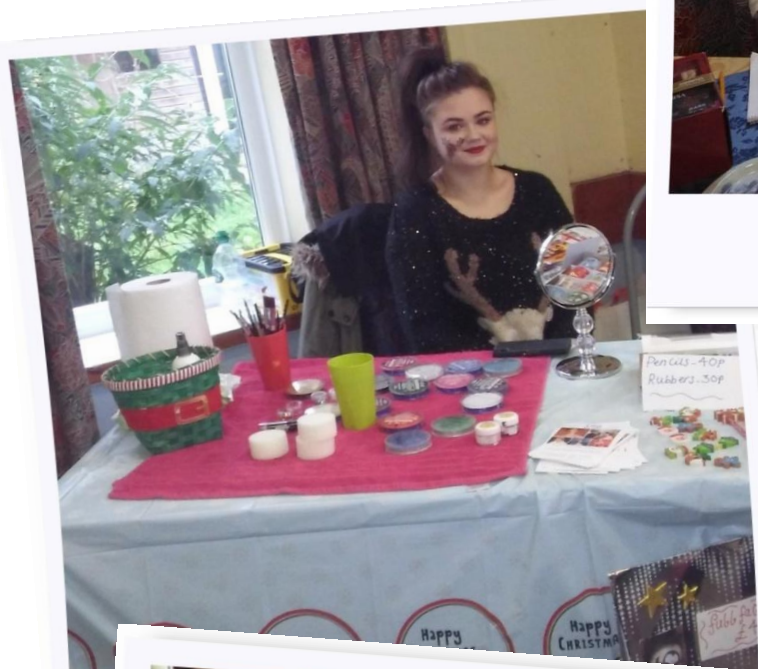
Tickets at [www.wintershall-estate.com/nativity-play](http://www.wintershall-estate.com/nativity-play)



# ADVENT FAIR

Depending on your viewpoint, our “Pre-Advent”, “Advent” or “Christmas” Fair took place on Saturday 18 November at St Barnabas’. It was well-attended and proved to be a fun and enjoyable afternoon for all who went or helped.

The main raffle was a hamper kindly donated by The Martins Independent Funeral Directors, with another hamper donated by the Pound Hill Coop and a £15.00 voucher donated by March and Sons hardware. Our thanks go to all who



kindly contributed towards the raffle.

We made £1050, a fantastic amount. Many thanks to all who helped in any way to make the day such a great success.

Our thanks also go to Pound Hill Junior School for the use of their car park for the day, we greatly appreciate this.

*Jane Stanford*



# FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

Whatever happened to angels?

Angels used to have a prominent place in our Christian thinking but they now seem almost forgotten. As a small child I went to sleep:

*Four corners to my bed  
Four angels round my head  
One to watch, one to pray  
And two to bear my soul away.*

Angels were seen as both messengers of God, and as available to help and protect those in difficulty. Now angels seem to appear less frequently, and when they do, they are consuming cream cheese on fluffy clouds, being linked with an instant dessert, or in song, as a metaphor for a desirable young woman, possibly wearing blue jeans.

In our liturgy, we sing about angels in well-loved Victorian hymns, but hardly mention them otherwise. In the Book of Common Prayer (1662), in the Proper Preface before the Sanctus, we say *Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven ...* but in Common Worship this has become optional and is not present in all the variants of the Communion service.

Of course it is not only angels. Partly based on Revelation, Dionysius the Areopagite (Acts 17:34) proposed three hierarchies of three choirs being: Seraphim, Cherubim and Thrones; Dominions, Virtues and Powers; Principalities, Archangels and Angels (the lowest choir), although only the last two had any direct mission to humankind. These nine orders of angels can be seen, for example, on the West front of Wells Cathedral.

Angels do crop up in our Bible readings, as Christ is surrounded by angels at critical points in his life. They announce his Incarnation and his Birth; they provide warning which results in the Flight into Egypt; they minister to him in the desert and strengthen him in his Agony. They are the first witnesses of the Resurrection. Angels are on hand to explain to the disciples what has happened at the Ascension.

Christ himself encouraged a belief in angels and we are told that they are spiritual beings (Matthew 22:30) who enjoy always the vision of God in

heaven (Matthew 18:10) and will accompany Him at his Second Coming (Matthew 16:27).

In the Old Testament, an angel with a flaming sword supervises the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden. Later in Genesis (28:10) Jacob has a dream at Bethel and sees a ladder reaching to Heaven and the angels of God ascending and descending; (32:24); Jacob wrestles with an angel who struck him so that his hip was dislocated, although the angel fails to get the better of Jacob who then receives the divinely given name *Israel*. In Isaiah's vision (Isaiah 6:1, 63:9) and in Job (5:1) angels form the heavenly court and sing the praises of God, whose commands they obediently perform.

My parents were devout caring Christian people, and I could not have asked for better. I am immeasurably grateful to them. They, a little unusually, had a text in their hall from Hebrews (13:2): *Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.* They took it seriously. Many have eaten the incompletely defrosted ham sandwiches and scones with which my mother's freezer was stocked; we never knew how many would sit down to Christmas lunch as my father collected lonely people at church on Christmas morning. Hungry theological students frequently dined at our table. When the doorbell rings unexpectedly, I still wonder if it might be an angel.

The idea of Guardian Angels is a pre-Christian concept although it was confirmed in the case of children by Christ (Matthew 18:10) and is also reflected in Acts 12:15. The belief was most clearly defined by Honorius of Autun in the 12th century in the idea that each soul, as it was introduced into the body, was entrusted to an angel. The function of a Guardian Angel is the protection of the body and soul and the presentation of prayers to God. In our Calendar we no longer specifically celebrate Guardian Angels, and Angels only together with St Michael on 29th September, although in the Collect for that feast we pray that *as your holy angels always serve you in heaven, so, at your command, they may help and defend us on earth.*

We were not always so shy about angels. In the writings of the Desert Fathers, in Egypt in the 4th and 5th centuries AD there is a splendid story about a brother who went to visit Abba Arsenius. One of the community was sent to guide him, and they sat down with Arsenius but nothing was said. They eventually felt very uncomfortable and left, but the brother asked to visit Abba Moses, who was previously a highwayman, instead. There they were welcomed and had a thoroughly pleasant time. One of the fathers prayed for an explanation of why one man runs from human company but for the Lord's sake, the other receives them with open arms. He was shown two boats floating on a river. In one sat Abba Arsenius with the Holy Spirit of God in complete silence. In the other was Abba Moses with the angels of God and they were all eating honey cakes. The point of the story is that both vocations are equally valid, but I suspect that most of us would go for the angels and honey cakes! (Arsenius 38) For more on this, see the excellent book *Silence and Honey Cakes* by Rowan Williams.

Perhaps the most glorious celebration of angels is in the spectacular 'angel roofs' found mostly in East Anglia; of the 170 that survive, 70% are in Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, with the others not far from this region.



*An angel from the 15th century Norwich School of Glass-painters*

The earliest is the roof of Westminster Hall in London, probably commissioned by Richard II and completed just before 1400. The remainder date



*A typical monumental angel from the 1880's*

from around 1400 until the Reformation in the 1530's. The roofs, which are generally constructed with hammer beams or tie-beams, have carvings of angels attached to the ends of the beams so that there is a wonderful procession of angels with outspread wings proceeding along the whole length of the roof. Many of the churches, founded on wealth from wool, cloth and grain, are immense buildings and the effect is stunning. Happily, the angels were generally out of reach of the iconoclastic reformers. The best surviving roofs to my mind are at Ss. Peter and Paul, Knapton, St Mary, South Creake and Ss Peter and Paul, Swaffham, all in Norfolk; St Mary, Woolpit in Suffolk; and St Wendreda, March, Cambridgeshire, although there are many others. For a scholarly discussion and photographs, see *The Angel Roofs of East Anglia* by Michael Rimmer.

So, why do we seem to have lost contact with angels? To my mind there are three factors; no doubt among others. The first is that we have a changed understanding of the space-time continuum as a result of quantum physics and

other developments in contemporary theoretical physics. The idea that something can exist in two different states simultaneously, or in more than one place at the same time is no longer a crazy idea – even if it takes a bit of understanding.

Given that this may well be the case it is not so difficult to comprehend of God as omnipresent – everywhere at the same time – and omnipotent – able to express different powers at the same moment in time. Given that we believe in such a God, why would agents be needed to carry out God's bidding?

Secondly, contemporary modes of communication have almost entirely removed the need for messengers. We are now so used to instant communication by email and the social media that other forms of sending information are almost obsolete. If God wants to send us a message, why would we expect an angel rather than an SMS text, a Facebook posting, or an email? News is communicated instantly (and constantly). When did you last receive a telegram?

Finally, the Church now encourages a personal relation with Christ. We are to think of Christ-with-us as a personal presence and to communicate directly with Him. We pray that He will protect us and save us from evil, and guide us in our attempts to lead a Christian life. Yet another deletion from the job description of angels.

It is therefore hard to see a role for angels in the modern world. They have simply been put out of business by our own intellectual and technological advances. Or have they? Have we simply become less aware of the activity of angels and less receptive to their interventions? Have we lost something as a result? Perhaps as we still believe in joining with the Heavenly Host in praising and glorifying God, we should sharpen our awareness of the possible presence of angels and be open to their support and aid in our daily lives.

*Church Mouse*

# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE PARISH?

## PCC INFORMATION

There has not been a PCC meeting since the last magazine. The next meeting will happen on Wednesday 13th December at St Barnabas'.

## CLERGY VACANCY

The clergy vacancy at St Barnabas' is still advertised on both ours and the Diocesan websites. Fr. Michael has updated the Parish Profile and it is hoped that the post will be filled in early 2018.

## ST BARNABAS' REFURBISHMENT

In October, we were able to replace the four heaters in the hall at a cost of £2798.60. Work was carried out by local plumbing and heating specialist, DM Fowlie.

I am now seeking quotes for hall flooring to replace the present covering which is worn,

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cracked and difficult to clean - hopefully we can fund this with more grant donations.

*Phyl Pennell*

## FUNNIES

*What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A Thesaurus*

# COMMITTEES

## ST NICHOLAS' COMMITTEE

The St Nicholas' committee met at the Rectory in Fr. Michael's first week, with Gerald gladly handing the chairmanship of this committee over to Michael. Each member explained who they were and what they did, as well as briefly discussing forthcoming Remembrance and Christmas services before wrapping up sharply to partake of some wonderful wine and cheese.

The next meeting was scheduled as this issue went to print, and on the agenda were various events to be held next year at St Nicholas' and thoughts on the churchyard trees.

*Colin Smith*

## ST BARNABAS' COMMITTEE

The St Barnabas' Committee met on 22nd November and discussed the following topics:

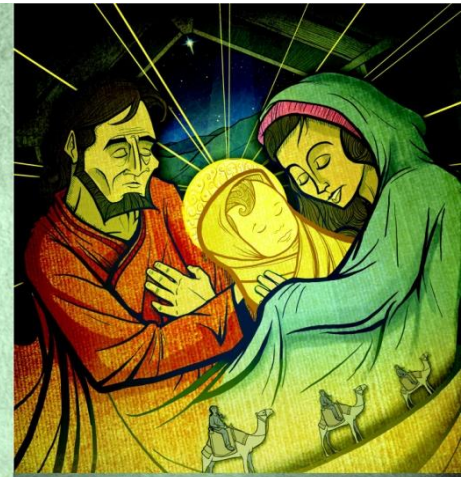
- Services and cover during our wait for further permanent clergy - we are indebted to Revd David Knight, Revd Roger Combes and Revd Francis Pole for their continued support.

- Following the Family Eucharist services planned for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day we intend, for a trial period of 3 months, to make the fourth Sunday of the month Family service into a Family Eucharist service.
- Health and Safety – a couple of paving slabs on the path near the Pastoral Centre are in a dangerous state and we hope to have this dealt with soon.
- An Ecobee is being installed by Tony Chamier in our hall which will give us improved control over the heating.
- We are trying to address some of the problems found in the Quinquennial Inspection but this is not always easy or straightforward. Hopefully more news soon.
- Events and Fundraising – we have held some very successful events in 2017 and we hope to continue these in 2018. It is suggested that we resurrect some of the previously successful events we have had, for example Bring and Share lunches, barbecues and a Parish Picnic.
- The date of the next meeting is 28 February 2018.

*Phyl Pennell*

# ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 3 December	Holy Communion 8.00-8.45, St Nicholas' Sung Eucharist 10.00-11.00, St Nicholas' Christingle! 11.30-12.15, St Nicholas' Eucharist 10.00-11.00, St Barnabas' Advent by Candlelight 18.30-19.30, St Nicholas'
Sunday 10 December	Holy Communion 8.00-8.45, St Nicholas' Sung Eucharist 10.00-11.00, St Nicholas' Eucharist 10.00-11.00, St Barnabas'
Sunday 17 December	Holy Communion 8.00-8.45, St Nicholas' Eucharist 10.00-11.00, St Barnabas' Sung Eucharist 10.00-11.00, St Nicholas' Carols for All with mulled wine 16.00-17.00, St Barnabas' Lessons and Carols with mulled wine 18.30-19.45, St Nicholas'
Sunday 24 December	Holy Communion 8.00-8.45, St Nicholas' Family Communion and Crib Service 10.00, St Barnabas' Sung Eucharist 10.00-11.00, St Nicholas' Family Crib Service and Nativity 16.00-17.00, St Nicholas' Midnight Mass 23.30-00.40, St Nicholas'
Monday 25 December	Holy Communion 8.00-8.45, St Nicholas' Christmas Day Eucharist 10.00-11.00, St Nicholas' Christmas Day Family Eucharist 10.00, St Barnabas'



## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS IN WORTH PARISH

St Nicholas' Church, Church Road,  
Worth, Crawley, RH10 7RT

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

[www.worthparish.org](http://www.worthparish.org)

# THE PARISH PURSE

I always struggled with the rhyme *The King was in his counting house counting out his money*. My experience is that it is not the King, the CEO, the Rector or the Churchwardens counting out the money. They and others in the organisation are busy spending it while the finance team are busy recording and checking and preparing information! More like *The Treasurer is busy biting his nails, concerned that the Parish will spend more than its income for 2017*. Anyway, the team is busying themselves preparing for the forthcoming PCC meeting where I provide a report on actual spending from January to October and predictions to the end of the year. This is accompanied by either dire warnings of overspend and consequent fire and brimstone OR words of optimistic caution to support the mission ahead. Such is the life of the Finance Team that to the church it may be Harvest, Ordinary time, Sundays before Advent and Advent, but to us it is just Quarter 4.

In November, prior to Advent, there is always a sudden drive to get things done and a spending of money. Once December arrives then, providing I have all the bills in, I can relax. Apart from an emergency top up on the odd case of Communion wine, I can be fairly confident that no one has any time, and everyone is too tired, to spend money during the festive period! Watch this space to see whether the brimstone materializes.

What about events? We are through the Quinquennial for both Churches which took place in June. Based on these reports and the state of our fabric fund, I have compiled a timescale to propose to the PCC the pace that work is done. The cost for both Churches is estimated at over £20000 and the fabric fund has £23000 in it. But of course, we cannot spend it all at once in case anything else happens and because we do not have the manpower to organise it all at once. In December, the PCC has to decide on the priorities and kick off a plan.

In the team, we have had a small reorganisation. Fr. Michael has taken over managing Sue from the Churchwardens and we welcome Oana Coranda who has volunteered to help the accounts team. Some of you may know her from Toddlers where she has been helping. Sheila, Joyce, Oana and I had a productive meeting in the Parish

**travel** counsellors



**Steve Finch**

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*With us...it's personal*

Office to put the worlds to rights. The world isn't right yet, but we had a really great meeting!

Treasurers love cost-neutral initiatives. Operation Christmas Child (see page 6) produced exactly 50 boxes from our parish for less privileged children around the world. The children who packed the boxes learned about the importance of giving and it produced a lot of interest on our website and social media. Parents and some other kind contributors gave £5 per box to ensure each box was distributed. It was great outreach and cost us very little. On the income front, it was great to see so much money come in from the Parish "Pre-Advent", "Advent" or "Christmas" Fair (Don't worry - we weren't the only faith organisation to have a fair outside the actual season!) held at St Barnabas'. Over £1000 was raised. Everyone who participated enhanced the atmosphere, regardless of how much each stall made and everyone had a great time. As I sit at my desk, surrounded by incomplete bank mandates, a disputed utility bill, a claim form for Diocesan subsidy for redecoration of the Rectory, some gift aid forms for delivery and wondering how I am going to get this all done, I look at what is being achieved and realise everyone's hard work is all so worthwhile.

Max Perry

# DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

The last Deanery Synod meeting was 10th October and was mainly finance-based. It was attended by the Rector, Max Perry, Sue Walshe, Mary Fry and me from our parish. The next meeting will be 10th February in Crawley Down.

*Ann Phillipson*

## EMERGENCY BIBLE NUMBERS

When people have failed you, call on  
Psalm 27

When you feel no one is on your side,  
call on Romans 8:31-39

## SATURDAY MARKETS

**6 January and 3 February**  
**10-11.45**

**Refreshments Toys**  
**Clothing Homemade**  
**produce Books**

**Admission free**

**St Barnabas' Church**  
**Pound Hill RH10 7DY**

# ST NICHOLAS CIRCLE

In October we had an inspiring talk from Dr Rose Turner (better known to many of us as Rose Wells). The talk was about the palliative care

given to people at the Martlets Care Home in Brighton where she works. She spoke about her faith and the strength it gives her to do the work she does, and the

rewards that she gets from it. Rose started as a hospital consultant and recognised her calling to the palliative care sector. Martlets Care Home deals not just with the physical wellbeing of those that are there, but also their emotional needs. Very few people are ready for death, regardless of their age. Coming to terms with reality can take time and can be very different for different people. At the end of the talk, £59 was raised towards the Martlets Care Home. We are grateful to Rose and I apologise for not being a good enough wordsmith to express the eloquence and depth of her talk.

In November, we had a very different occasion when we had the pleasure of Shirley Hillsley and her Desert Island Discs. Shirley is a long-standing

member of our congregation (Sunday School, Mothers' Union, veteran fundraiser) and is married to John, who was the Churchwarden at

the time of the fire at St Nicholas'. She answered questions on her life and upbringing in Wales before and during the war, her move to London, marriage to John, children and life as a qualified teacher. Her choice

of music varied from the Welsh Anthem, The Copper Family from Sussex to Manfred Mann. It was a fascinating and relaxed talk from Shirley. Only I, playing the part of Roy Plomley, was challenged as our rehearsed talk changed tack as Shirley answered my question with an equally, or even more interesting, answer to that which we had rehearsed! Thank you Shirley, it was a pleasure both in the evening and in the preparation.

On Thursday December 7 at 8pm we are hosting our traditional Wine and Cheese get together. All donations for the famous Raffle would be gratefully received.

*Max Perry*



# MOTHERS' UNION

In October this year our branch of Mothers' Union had two big celebrations.

The first one was that our branch of Worth and Pound Hill reached its 30th Birthday and we held a service of Songs of Praise, led by Fr. Michael, where we sang our hearts out for our supper! And yes, in true M.U. style we had tea and cake afterwards.

A few days later on October 29th at the Parish Eucharist, held at St Barnabas, Fr. Michael presented five of our members with long service certificates, totalling almost 200 years!

Brenda Booker, Rosemary Wakelin, Mary Fry (current leader), Joan Tick and Ivy Ratcliffe, in order of length of service, comprised three branch leaders, one treasurer and a secretary; and Mary and Joan are still serving Committee members.

It was wonderful that we could all be together for this service as our membership means so much to us. The work that the Mothers' Union does, not only in our parish, in Crawley District, our diocese and the country but worldwide too, is true Christian Care for Families Worldwide.

The November branch meeting was a Eucharist as a preparation for Advent, led by Fr. Michael, followed by mince pies, stollen and coffee, then we packed up small gifts of socks for the Gatwick detainees, one of Crawley district's projects. Our parcels will be added those packed by other branches ready to be given at Christmas.

We wish you all a blessed and happy Christmas from all at Worth and Pound Hill Mothers' Union.

*Joan Tick*



**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families



# FROM THE ORDINAND'S DOG

I don't know about you but at this time of year when it's cold and wet I get the munchies! What I mean is I'm always hungry!

Don't get me wrong, my humans are good at looking after me. I get two solid meals a day and quite a few snacks in between, especially when I've perfected my doleful eyed look of "I'll love you forever if you'll just share your biscuit with me".

However, on this occasion I just had to see if there was the tiniest crumb of food left in the bag. Unfortunately, I realised too late that I don't do reverse very well and there was not enough space to turn around! I had to be rescued. Humiliating! But at least I was able to savour a few more crumbs! My human in Lincoln is also having a few food issues - she is eating, but not many of her Five a Day, although she would get an award for amount of pasta consumed! But seriously, Claire has settled in well to university life and is enjoying her studies. Not too sure if The Ordinand is also enjoying hers (there was a big sigh of relief when the first assignment was handed in on time) but she is coping well. My Dad human is working hard supplying her with copious amounts of tea on study days! I must say it's a bit quiet on the weekends when she is away but then there's more room for me to stretch out on the sofa!



Must go. Got to claim the best spot on the sofa before everyone gets home.

*Shadow the Ordinand's Dog*

## GIFTS UNDER OUR CHRISTMAS TREES

This year, once again, we are collecting gifts under the Christmas trees in both churches and we are asking for your help again in 2017.



We are collecting for two local charities - The Golden Lion Children's Trust, dedicated to providing hope, help and happiness to children with special needs and disadvantaged young people, and Open House who provide support for those suffering the effects of homelessness, unemployment, loneliness, discrimination or other forms of social exclusion.

Please bring gifts to Carols for All and the Family Communion and Crib Service, both at St

Barnabas' and to the Crib Service and Nativity at St Nicholas'. All gifts donated must be new and unwrapped - although rolls of wrapping paper are welcomed.



### CRAWLEY OPEN HOUSE

The Golden Lion Children's Trust would appreciate books, children's crafts, games and toys, Open House welcome packaged foods, toiletries and warm clothing.

Thank you for all your generous donations in previous years - we look forward to a bumper collection in 2017.

*Phyl Pennell*

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#### Crawley

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#### Leatherhead

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Guildford Road  
Leatherhead KT22 9BL

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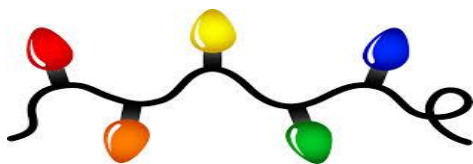
# FROM THE CHRISTMAS BEAR...

I was just thinking about hibernating, as all good bears do then a 'ping' was heard from a box outside my den and I found I needed to write to you, my fans, before I snuggle down for the winter, after Christmas, of course! I have just looked outside and it is dark, really dark, except for some bright shining stars, which gladdens an old bear's heart. Actually I will tell you a little secret, sshh it's just between us. I also like to watch the planes taking off and landing in the dark night sky, something magical about seeing the lights moving through the darkness. It makes me think of the sky over two thousand years ago, when a bright light was seen moving across the sky in far off Israel, heralding the birth of our dear Saviour.



A star is often placed on the top of the Christmas tree to represent the Star of Bethlehem, which led the "wise men" to where Jesus was born. However did you know that it is only in Matthew's Gospel that the travellers are guided by a star?

When Oliver Cromwell's administration was ruling the country, in the mid 1600s Christmas was definitely banned, no decorating trees, parties or mince pies! It was another working day, a gloomy, dull day, because Christmas is not mentioned in the Bible, said Oliver. However everything changed in Victorian times; Prince Albert, Charles Dickens and some Americans reinstated it all! Here's to the Victorians! With all the fun and joy of trees, stars, presents and food do not let us forget the real meaning of Christmas. We are celebrating, yes, but we are celebrating Jesus' birthday and how he brought back the light into the world for you and me and countless millions.



Thinking about lights again, one-track mind that's me - did you know fairy lights began to appear in shop windows from about 1900 but it was not until after the Second World War that the majority of ordinary households could afford them. Have you seen how many Fairy Lights people have these days! Oliver

Cromwell would have had a

How about we go out with a English baker, Tom Smith, when



twists of coloured paper. On returning home, he decided to make them himself and added a love motto. He continued to develop them and eventually the sweet was replaced by a little toy, a small explosive strip was added and the bon-bon became a cracker as it cracked when pulled open. Take care with your crackers this year, you never know what might jump out, perhaps a star!



Happy Christmas everyone!



Love from me



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# CAN YOU POUR A CUPPA?



Providing a community café is a wonderful way to meet new friends and serve not just members of the church but the community as a whole.

I volunteer in the café at St Barnabas' serving tea, coffee and cakes, which has meant not only that I get to interact with, and count as friends, various new people, but that I feel I'm making a difference to peoples' lives.

You may have your own ideas of how we can make the centre a welcoming destination for more people. Or you may just like to turn up and have a go – everyone can pour a cuppa or have a chat!

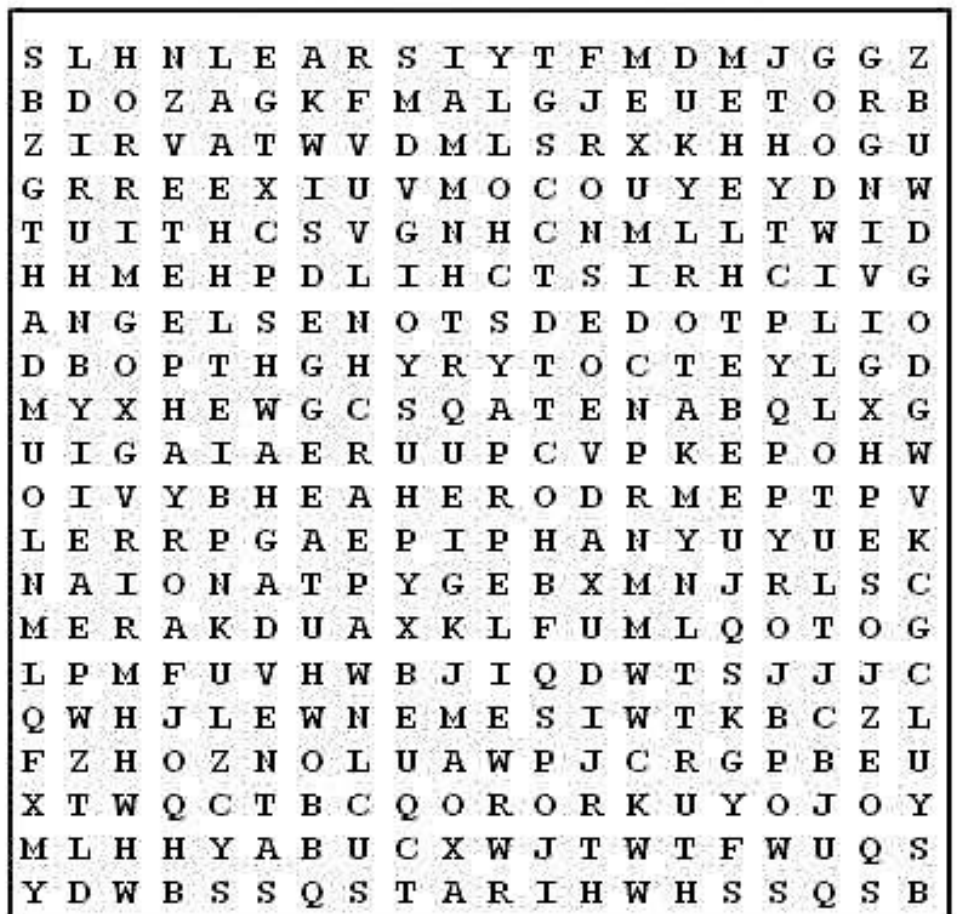
You can choose which dates suit you and if something comes up, it's easy to swap.

If you'd like to try your hand serving in the café, (just for 2 hours a month), then do email us on [office@worthparish.org](mailto:office@worthparish.org)

*Sue Walshe*

## CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH

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Choirs (Worth Church and Festival)
Church Cleaning (St Barnabas')
Church Cleaning (St Nicholas')
Churchwardens (St Barnabas')
Churchwardens (St Nicholas')
Events
Families, Youth and Children's Work
Fellowship Activities
Flower Arranging (St Barnabas')
Flower Arranging (St Nicholas')
Friends of St Nicholas'
Giving (Donations etc)
Julian Group (St Barnabas')
Julian Group (St Nicholas')
Knit and Natter
Magazine
Messy Church
Mothers' Union
Office (Parish)
Office at St Barnabas' (not currently manned)
PCC Chair
PCC Electoral Roll Officer
PCC Committee Chairs
Faith - Growth in Christ
Hope - Re-imagining Ministry
Love - Seeking the Common Good
St Nicholas'
St Barnabas'
Standing Committee
PCC Treasurer
Prayer Group
Safeguarding Officers
Social Media
Stewardship Officer (St Barnabas')
St Nicholas Circle
Toddlers (Tues/Thurs am)
Website
Weddings

0300

111

8150

# DECEMBER-JANUARY CALENDAR

This calendar shows events over the next two months. Our Advent and Christmas services are also shown on page 12. If you are travelling far, we recommend that you check dates and times either on the calendar on our website or with the office.

Sunday 3 December	11.30am 6.30pm	Regular services and Christingle, <i>St Nicholas'</i> Advent by Candlelight, <i>St Nicholas'</i>
Tuesday 5 December	11.00am	Home Communion, <i>Lanehurst Gardens</i>
Wednesday 6 December	3.15 - 4.30pm	Messy Church, <i>Maidenbower Infants School</i>
Monday 11 December	11.00am	Julian Group, <i>St Barnabas'</i>
Tuesday 12 December	2.30pm	Readings and Carols, <i>Lanehurst Gardens</i>
Wednesday 13 December	2.30pm	Pastoral Assistants' Tea, <i>St Barnabas'</i>
	3.00 - 4.30pm	Messy Church, <i>St Barnabas'</i>
	7.30-9.30pm	PCC Meeting, <i>St Barnabas'</i>
Thursday 14 December	2.30pm	Julian Group, <i>St Nicholas'</i>
Friday 15 December	12.30-2.30pm	Christmas Lunch, <i>St Barnabas'</i>
Sunday 17 December	4-5pm	Regular services and
	6.30pm	Carols for All, <i>St Barnabas'</i> Lessons and Carols, <i>St Nicholas'</i>
Thursday 21 December	4.00-5.30pm	Nativity Rehearsal , <i>St Nicholas'</i>
Friday 22 December	4.00-5.30pm	Nativity Rehearsal , <i>St Nicholas'</i>
Sunday 24 December	10.00am	Regular services and
	4.00-5.00pm	Family Communion and Crib Service, <i>St Barnabas'</i> Crib Service and Nativity, <i>St Nicholas'</i>
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass, <i>St Nicholas'</i>
Monday 25 December	8.00am	Holy Communion, <i>St Nicholas'</i>
	10.00am	Christmas Day Eucharist, <i>St Nicholas'</i>
	10.00am	Family Eucharist, <i>St Barnabas'</i>
Tuesday 26 December	10.30am	St Stephen's Day Eucharist, <i>St Barnabas'</i>
Thursday 28 December	10.30am	Eucharist for the Holy Innocents, <i>St Nicholas'</i>
Sunday 31 December	8.00am	Holy Communion, <i>St Nicholas'</i>
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist, <i>St Nicholas'</i> (No 10am at <i>St Barnabas'</i> )
Saturday 6 January	10-11.45am	Saturday Market, <i>St Barnabas'</i>
Sunday 7 January	10.00am	Regular services including Family-friendly Epiphany Service, <i>St Nicholas'</i>
Monday 8 January	11.00am	Julian Group, <i>St Barnabas'</i>
Tuesday 9 January	11.00am	Home Communion, <i>Lanehurst Gardens</i>
Wednesday 10 January	2.30pm	Pastoral Assistants' Tea, <i>St Barnabas'</i>
	3.15 - 4.30pm	Messy Church, <i>Maidenbower Infants School</i>
Wednesday 24 January	3.00 - 4.30pm	Messy Church, <i>St Barnabas'</i>
Friday 26 January	8.00pm	Church in the Pub, <i>Coaching Halt</i>
Saturday 3 February	10-11.45am	Saturday Market, <i>St Barnabas'</i>
Sunday 4 February		<i>New Parish Magazine out</i>

# CHRISTMAS AT WORTH 2017



## LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday 17th December, 6.30pm

*A traditional service of Lessons and Carols  
followed by mulled wine and mince pies*

## CRIB SERVICE AND NATIVITY

Sunday 24th December, 4.00pm

## MIDNIGHT MASS

Sunday 24th December, 11.30pm

*Welcome Christmas with our traditional Midnight Mass*

## CHRISTMAS DAY EUCHARIST

Monday 25th December, 10.00am

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