



YEAR OF PRAYER 2018

# WORTH PARISH

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



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## 24 December Advent 4 Christmas Eve

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

This sheet details the readings in today's  
services as well as notices for everyone.  
**Please do take it home and share it.**

There are soft toys and books available at  
the back of the church for children.

At Communion, everyone is welcome to  
come up and receive a blessing or, if  
baptised, share the bread and wine. If you  
are here for the first time, please introduce  
yourselves. After the 10.00 service on  
Sunday please join us for refreshments.

### SERVICES TODAY

08.00 Holy Communion St Nicholas'  
Celebrant & Preacher: Revd Gordon Parry

10.00 Sung Eucharist St Nicholas'  
Celebrant & Preacher: Revd Gordon Parry

10.00 Family Communion St Barnabas'  
& Crib Service

Celebrant & Preacher: Fr Michael Boag

16.00 Crib Service St Nicholas'

23.30 Midnight Mass St Nicholas'

Celebrant & Preacher: Fr Michael Boag

### SERVICES ON CHRISTMAS DAY

08.00 Holy Communion St Nicholas'  
Celebrant & Preacher: Revd Gordon Parry

10.00 Eucharist St Nicholas'  
Celebrant & Preacher: Fr Michael Boag

10.00 Family Eucharist St Barnabas'  
Celebrant & Preacher: Revd David Knight

There's a poem I love called 'The  
Christmas Life'. It's by Wendy Cope:

Bring in a tree, a young Norwegian spruce,  
Bring hyacinths that rooted in the cold.  
Bring winter jasmine as its buds unfold -  
Bring the Christmas life into this house.

Bring red and green and gold, bring things  
that shine,  
Bring candlesticks and music, food and  
wine.

Bring in your memories of Christmas past.  
Bring in your tears for all that you have  
lost.

Bring in the shepherd boy, the ox and ass,  
Bring in the stillness of an icy night,  
Bring in the birth of hope and love and  
light.

Bring the Christmas life into this house.

Hope and love and light are central themes  
in St John's Gospel, the opening verses of  
which feature so prominently and add an  
air of mystery, awe and wonder to the  
Christmas readings: In the beginning was  
the Word, and the Word was with God  
and the Word was God... The light shines  
in the darkness, and the darkness did not  
overcome it. In John's Gospel and in his  
Letters we hear, for the first time, of God's  
unconditional love for the world, giving us  
freedom to choose good or ill.

Unconditional love is the most vulnerable  
because it has no defence against  
rejection and yet it is the most powerful  
since it can never be compromised. That is  
what we celebrate - the birth of the one  
who showed us such love.

May the blessings of the Christmas life be in  
all our houses.

*Michael*

God our redeemer,  
 who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary  
 to be the mother of your Son:  
 grant that, as she looked for his coming as  
 our saviour,  
 so we may be ready to greet him  
 when he comes again as our judge;  
 who is alive and reigns with you,  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## First Reading 2 Samuel 7.1-11,16

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.'

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name

of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

## Hymn: 394 Tell out my Soul

## Second Reading

*Romans 16.25-27*

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

*Agnus Day appears with the permission of [www.agnusday.org](http://www.agnusday.org)*

NOW TO GOD WHO IS ABLE TO STRENGTHEN YOU  
 ACCORDING TO THE PROCLAMATION OF JESUS  
 CHRIST, THE MYSTERY THAT WAS KEPT SECRET  
 FOR LONG AGES BUT IS NOW DISCLOSED,  
 TO THE ONLY WISE GOD,  
 BE THE GLORY FOR EVER! AMEN.

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ROMANS 16:25-27

## Gospel Luke 1.26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will



reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived

a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

### Post Communion

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### SERVICES THIS WEEK

Tues 26 December	10.30 Healing Eucharist	St Barnabas'
Thurs 28 December	10.30 Eucharist	St Nicholas'
Sun 31 December	08.00 Holy Communion	St Nicholas'
	10.00 Parish Eucharist	St Nicholas'

### Readings for Sun 31 December Christmas I

Isaiah 61.10 - 62.3

Psalms 148\*

Galatians 4.4-7 Luke 2.15-21

You are warmly invited to a family-friendly  
celebration of the Epiphany



Sunday January 7, Sung Eucharist  
at 10am, St Nicholas', Worth.



Come with the wise men as they bring their gifts to  
the manger.

Crowns will be worn!

## DIARY NOTES & NOTICES

5 January 2018 **Lunch** in the Pastoral Centre, 2 courses and tea/coffee for £6.50. All welcome. To help with catering, please order tickets at the Pastoral Centre or by calling 0300 111 8150 by 3 January 2018.

**The Children's Society** - Grateful thanks to all our supporters. We will arrange to collect your home-held savings' boxes early in 2018 for the annual count.

Tues 9 Jan 2018 at 18.00 We are having a **meeting of the new Magazine Team** at The Rectory. All contributions welcomed!

**Café Reopening** - The Pastoral Centre Café reopens after the Christmas break at 10.30am on Tuesday 2 January 2018. All other bookings will go ahead as arranged by the various groups.

**Used postage stamps** are collected at the Pastoral Centre and passed to St. Catherine's Hospice. Please do not leave these at St Nicholas'. Thank you.

**TIME AND TALENT** Our churches need volunteers to clean, garden, ring bells, sing in the choir, arrange flowers, become servers, serve in the Pastoral Centre and various other roles. Please consider donating an hour or more to help keep our churches running smoothly. You could become part of a group or offer your time to suit you! **Please contact the Rector or the Office to find out how YOU could help!**

### A Thank You Party

Fr Michael requests the pleasure of the company of all the retired volunteers who have given their time in the past, but are now officially 'discharged'. If you are, or you know of, one of these people please let Sue in the office know by 31 Dec 2017, so that an official invitation can be sent.

## Join us at Messy Church !

Just turn up for crafts, refreshments, activities, a song and a story at our:



- Wed 10 January 2018 at Maidenbower Infants School, 15.15-16.45
- Wed 24 January 2018 St Barnabas Hall, 15.00-16.45 including a light tea

### Our 2017 Christmas Charities are:



**CRAWLEY  
OPEN HOUSE**  
helping the homeless  
and disadvantaged



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## CONTACTS

### The Rector

Fr Michael Boag 01293 882229  
[rector@worthparish.org](mailto:rector@worthparish.org) (Tues-Sun)

### 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

Sue Perry 0300 111 8150  
[office@worthparish.org](mailto:office@worthparish.org)

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