

*kind words are  
like honey*

PROVERBS 16:24

WORTH PARISH  
**MAGAZINE**



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

£1.00 April - May 2018

**ST BARNABAS', POUND HILL**  
**ST NICHOLAS', WORTH**

Reg. Charity No. 1131090

# CLERGY SERVING THE PARISH

<b>Rector</b>	Fr. Michael Boag	01293 882229
<b>Associate Vicar</b>	Revd Sarah Upchurch	01293 524804
<b>Assistant Priests</b>	Revd Canon Roger Brown	01293 520454
	Revd Gordon Parry	07802 432398

## 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.

	<b>St Nicholas', Worth</b>	<b>St Barnabas', Pound Hill</b>
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 Family Eucharist
Tuesdays		<b>10.30</b> Eucharist
Wednesdays		<b>15.00</b> Messy Church at St Barnabas' on 25 April and 23 May
Thursdays	<b>10.30</b> Eucharist	

You can also join us at:

<b>The Studio Maidenbower Infants School RH10 7RA</b>	
18 April and 9 May (normally 2nd Wed of the month in term times changed in April)	<b>15:15</b> Messy Church in Maidenbower

<b>St Barnabas' Café RH10 7DY</b>	
Mondays	<b>12.30-17.00</b> Jay-Dee's café <b>14.00-16.00</b> Pop in for Games
Tuesdays	<b>10.30-12.00</b> Pop in for a cake and a drink <b>12.00-15.00</b> Forget-me-not Dementia-friendly Café
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

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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*I used to want covers that represented the book's contents very closely and were also pretty. Many folks automatically believe that this is what makes a good cover. But I've changed my mind about this. While the cover should not lie (by implication or outright), its job is simply to say: 'Pick me up!' to someone who might like the book.*

*Nancy Werlin*

# 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)

To contact Revd Sarah, please phone 01293 524804 Tuesday to Sunday or email her at [vicarstb@worthparish.org](mailto:vicarstb@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:

-  [www.worthparish.org](http://www.worthparish.org)
-  [facebook.com/WorthParish](https://facebook.com/WorthParish)
-  [twitter.com/worthparish](https://twitter.com/worthparish)

## FROM THE RECTOR

One of my favourite hymns, 'Deck thyself my soul with gladness' (*Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele*), is a favourite not just because of the melody and harmony, beautiful though they are (the great J S Bach liked the tune so much he wrote a cantata and organ prelude based on it); it's the text, by Johann Franck (1618-77) I find so rewarding. Sung during Communion or at the Offertory, it is particularly good during this Easter season:

Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness,  
Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,

This can be easier than it sounds. Not just because forty fasting days of Lent can be hard to shake off, or we may have some personal sorrow weighing us down, but all too often there's a frame of mind that takes hold of us and actually prefers staying in the gloomy haunts. However:

Come into the daylight's splendour,

Here is Resurrection joy, promise and command!  
Our song is, or should be, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
How can it not be?

There with joy thy praises render  
Unto him whose grace unbounded  
Hath this wondrous banquet founded;

and the hymn concludes with gratitude and hope:

From this banquet let me measure,  
Lord, how vast and deep its treasure;  
Through the gifts thou here dost give me,  
As thy guest in heaven receive me.

The hymns we sing, the readings we read and the words we say in church, reflect not just what we believe but what we aspire to be as a church

community. Some hymns or songs concentrate on the Cross - whatever the season - to the extent that the Resurrection life of joy and peace and hope can be overshadowed by thoughts of guilt, shame, debt and wrath. While Johann Franck's words may sound old fashioned to modern ears, at least the theology is positive and reliable: I recently came across a modern song with just a hint of an ancient heresy: 'What can take a dying man And raise him up to life again?'; the suggestion that Christ didn't really die on the cross was thoroughly denounced by Tertullian at the start of the third century!

But let us leave the gloomy, clothe ourselves with gladness and rejoice in the splendour of Resurrection light. We have a busy, joyful, Spring and Summer ahead of us; I'm particularly looking forward to the opera singers on 28 April in St Nicholas's church, the bring and share Pentecost ('Royal Wedding') lunch on 20 May and Summer Fair on 23 June in St Barnabas' and the guitar recital in St Nicholas' on 14 July. All this plus a visit to the National Gallery and a barbecue on the Rectory lawn to be arranged as well!



Fr Michael



# TIMES PAST

## WEDDINGS

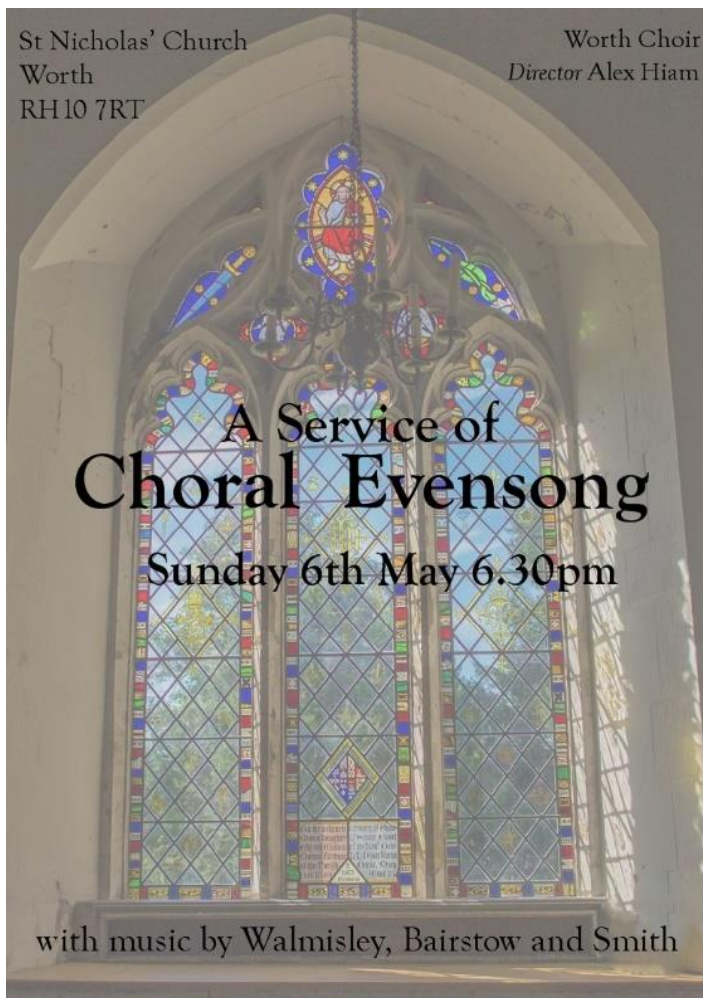
Congratulations to Jed Jones & Tegen Atkinson who tied the knot on 24 March 2018

## BAPTISMS - WELCOME

- Arthur Vincent Ray Dobson
- Gabriella Florence Gerda Lefley
- Paige Felicity Mighall
- Harley Alexander Lewis-Sanger
- Chloe Natalina Smith
- Grace Lynne Body
- Lilly Joan Tina Body



**Tangled Webs**  
**City Lit Opera School**  
Scenes from operas by Delibes, Mozart, Handel,  
Nino Rota and Gilbert & Sullivan  
7.00 pm  
Saturday 28 April 2018  
Tickets: FREE  
St Nicholas' Church  
Worth RH10 7RT  
Suggested Donation £5



St Nicholas' Church  
Worth  
RH10 7RT  
Worth Choir  
Director Alex Hiam  
**A Service of  
Choral Evensong**  
Sunday 6th May 6.30pm  
with music by Walmisley, Bairstow and Smith

## WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



As we prayed with and for the people of Suriname today (2 March) in the Friary, we were part of a great wave of prayer encircling the globe - starting as the sun rose over Samoa, continuing as it made its way around the earth, and ending some 36 hours later as the sun set over American Samoa. The service had been translated into over 60 languages and 1,000 dialects and celebrated in 170 countries and islands. It was a thought provoking and moving service encouraging us all to think about our planet and how we might help preserve God's world for future generations. As they say in Suriname "A heri grontapu di Gado meki bun doro, doro!" *All God's creation is Very Good.*

Kay Malloy

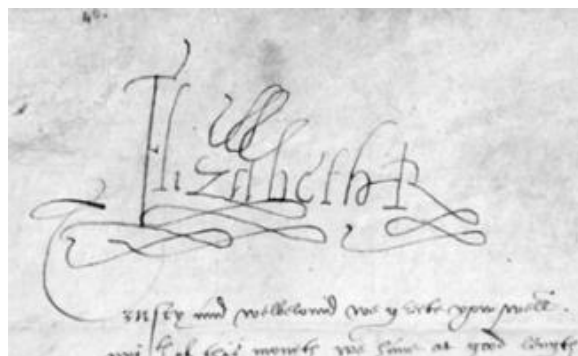
## ST NICHOLAS CIRCLE

Great fun was had by all at the February quiz and the winning team, HAAM, did so by a narrow margin. Snow put the mockers on the March meeting and Gordon Parry kindly said that he would put his talk on the ice that nature provided and bring it out again when it thawed!

Max Perry

### Saving the Past

The St Nicholas Circle were treated to a fascinating talk by Linda Eells this month. She spoke about her second career as a paper conservator and has worked, following arduous training, for a commercial enterprise based at Duxford in Cambridgeshire (part of the Imperial War Museum) and at the National Archives in Kew. Not only was her talk thoroughly prepared and beautifully presented, but she brought along samples of all the dreadful things that can have happened to prints, engravings and photographs.



All of the works she presented were items on which she had worked and there was an amazing variety. Items that stick in my mind were a letter from Elizabeth I to her elder sister Mary I; hand-drawn contemporary plans of the assault on Rourke's Drift; and the 1,500 glass plate negatives of Herbert Ponting's stunning photographs of Scott's South Polar expedition. She also described the techniques which conservators employ; who would have thought that you could wash watercolours (carefully!)? Linda is clearly a person with extraordinary patience and skill.

The talk ended with some 'Do's and Don't's' in framing and caring for pictures, prints and documents, which were helpful and salutary. A thoroughly instructive and enjoyable evening.

Graham Beaumont

## MOTHERS' UNION

### 2018 – the beginning of another year!

During January we again began our New Year with a "Meal Out", when several of our members and husbands gathered for our annual supper. This year we went to the Cowdray Arms for an enjoyable meal and great company.

February saw us back to the Pastoral Centre for our Annual General Meeting, which began with a Eucharist service led by Fr. Michael and we did our best to raise the roof with our hymn singing. After the service we had cheese and biscuits and tea or coffee before beginning the serious business of the AGM. We will be looking for a new Branch Leader this year and give thanks for Mary Fry's leadership over the past several years. Our Committee will continue to plan and devote itself to the good work of the M.U.

We had had an excellent year in 2017, raising funds for various Mothers' Union projects with our Coffee Mornings & Cream Tea afternoon and supporting the clergy at all of the Baptism services during the year, at both churches. We had enjoyed our outing to the Lavender Fields in the summer and can't wait to see what we can plan for this year!

We held our Wave of Prayer at the end of February when we plan an hour of prayer, readings and hymns to reflect on the work done in our Linked Branches overseas; believe me, it makes us all feel very humble when we see how much they do and suffer with the challenges they have to overcome. This is an annual wave of prayer throughout our Diocese and the country and open to everyone, not just Mothers' Union Members. Why not join us next year?

We are looking forward to our varied programme for this year, everyone is welcome to our meetings, so please look out for the advertisements in the Pew Sheets each month.

Joan Tick



# INSPIRED TO FOLLOW; THE LENT COURSE

The study course for Lent has been held over five weeks and based upon selected sessions from *Inspired to Follow; Art and the Bible Story*, a course developed by St Martin-in-the-Fields in collaboration with The National Gallery. Each week, after a delicious soup lunch for most, Fr Michael introduced a painting, accompanied by music which he had selected, and we were asked to privately respond to it without



interpreting it; not such an easy task as it might sound. A commentary prepared by one of the staff of St Martin's, or from another central London church, was read and we split into small groups to share and discuss our reactions to the painting and our understanding of the implications for our Christian belief and life.

In the first week we studied *Christ Driving the Traders from the Temple* by El Greco, painted about 1600 in Toledo, Spain. It raised many questions about righteous anger, the expression of religious emotions, and the relation between emotion and action. Passion is clearly expressed; is it love or anger that is being shown?

Week 2 brought Tintoretto's *Christ Washing the Disciples' Feet*, painted about 1550. Here the light clearly emanates from the figure of Christ and Peter's concern is clearly evident. Life goes on in the room behind. Should we be shocked or alarmed at Christ's action here, behaving as a servant?



In the third week came *The Agony in the Garden* painted by Giovanni Bellini in about 1465. The story is familiar although Christ does not appear so agonised; Peter is very soundly asleep! There were a variety of interpretations to aspects of this image. It reminds us of our ineffectual attempts to follow Jesus; yet the new dawn is breaking.

The fourth picture was *Christ before the High Priest* created about 1617 by Gerrit van Honthorst. It shows Christ appearing, handcuffed, before Caiaphas. The high priest, with his law books, is hectoring Christ and appears to have all the authority in the situation but Christ stands above him serene and impassive and holds all the moral power. The figures in the background are mostly condemning, but is Peter there in the shadows? Here Jesus is the Suffering Servant and yet his posture is open and undefended and his gaze truly loving.



In the final week we studied *Christ Carrying the Cross* by an unknown Venetian painter



in Bellini's workshop, about 1500. It is a small and intimate picture, little more than 12" square. Here Jesus is alone and his expression is self-absorbed and reflective. But is an entirely human face and committed to his task. Is this what the women saw as Christ passed by?

All who attended found the course valuable and were enthusiastic about planning a future series of sessions. There is also enthusiasm about visiting these pictures in The National Gallery and this is being planned.

Graham Beaumont

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# THE LICENSING AND INDUCTION OF REVEREND SARAH UPCHURCH

**13 March 2018** - What a great day! The Congregation of St Barnabas' have been eagerly awaiting the arrival of a new priest for rather a long time. The Licensing has brought a sense of relief. Tuesday March 13 was therefore a day of excitement and anticipation. The church was looking wonderful with extra chairs being brought in from all corners of St Barnabas'.

Who were all these people who had come to support Sarah? - family, friends, members of the congregations of the Church of the Ascension and from Ardingly parish. The congregations of St



Nicholas' and St Barnabas' were there in force and the Mayor of Crawley and his wife were welcomed to their seventh

such service in the last year. There were clergy from the Deanery led by the Rural Dean, Julia, who had been such a strong support during the double interregnum.

The Service started with the beautiful hymn "I Will Tell the Wondrous Story" and the singing filled the church with those wonderful words. I believe Sarah chose the hymns and they "touched the spot". Sarah was then presented to the congregation who in turn prayed for Sarah and the parish.



all



Following the readings, Archdeacon Fiona, who was conducting her first Licensing, preached the sermon and told us something

of Sarah's talents including her skill as a preacher.

The Licensing and Induction followed starting with the hymn "Spirit of the Living God". Sarah took

the Oath of Canonical Obedience and throughout all this it was so good to see Sarah's smiling face.

The official ceremonies over, Sarah was given a tumultuous round of applause. It was lovely to see Sarah's friends from her previous congregations



greeting her during The Peace; so many hugs and smiles. The "Preparation of the Table" and collection

followed while the hymn "From Heaven You Came, Helpless Babe" was sung.

The Eucharist followed with Sarah offering the chalice while "The King of Love" and "As the Deer Pants for Water" were sung by the congregation. There were 148 communicants.



At the end of the service Sarah gave her first notices, which included a plea for help with 90 schoolchildren visiting on the coming Friday and, importantly, the invitation to refreshments after the service. The recessional hymn "Longing for Light" completed a

wonderful and memorable service. All were then welcomed into the Hall for a splendid array of refreshments. Sheila Dring had baked a lovely iced cake and there were two beautiful floral displays prepared by Mary Fry and Jane Stanford; of course, there were no flowers in church as we are still in Lent.

It was a lovely evening full of smiles and great fellowship with the St Barnabas' congregation eagerly looking forward to Sarah's ministry.

Stuart Sharpe







Easter  
in the  
Parish





# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE PARISH?

## PCC INFORMATION

At the PCC meeting in February the Treasurer reported that the new accounting package had been successfully introduced bringing a number of benefits. Although expenses understandably increased as we came out of the interregnum, income from services and hirers also increased towards the end of 2017. In addition, following a large donation, a new fund has been set up for the renewal of the approach to St Nicholas West Door from the Lychgate. Noreen Oxlade was elected as Safeguarding Officer and the Children and Adult Safeguarding Policy Statements approved. As families have now moved into Forge Wood, outreach to this area was to be considered at the next meeting in March.

In the March meeting Noreen presented the PCC with the tools issued by the Diocese to be used by parishes and churches to assess how well they are doing with their safeguarding practice and the provision to improve and to demonstrate that improvement. Our parish is the largest in the Diocese. There are three levels of training which will be completed by those who require it. Fr Michael expressed thanks to Noreen and stressed the importance of safeguarding.

The Treasurer expressed thanks to Suzanne Stass, who had been very thorough as Independent Examiner of the Accounts. Fr Michael thanked all who had contributed to the Annual Report.

Although we are the Parish of Worth, Pound Hill, Maidenbower and Forge Wood as the formal title of our parish, the Diocese lists us as 'Worth Parish' which is generally simpler to use.

As with any good housekeeping it is prudent to keep an eye on energy costs and it was felt that it would be beneficial for someone with the relevant experience of tariffs to thoroughly investigate this matter. A couple of names were put forward and will be approached.

**APCM Elections** – It was hoped that we could ask Phyl to continue as Churchwarden for the first year of Revd Sarah's ministry. However, this is not allowed by the Diocese unless the request is 12 months in advance. Father Michael said that the parish owes a huge debt of gratitude to Phyl for all that she has achieved for the parish. She has agreed to do a further year as Deputy Churchwarden. Two PCC members from each church will need to be elected at the APCM (18<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm)

General Synod Elections are due soon.

A steeplejack has repaired damage caused by for example, woodpeckers at St Nicholas.

A positive interest has been expressed by Forge Wood Primary School and Michael and Sarah will be visiting in April. Mary Fry is a governor. In addition, wedding and baptism enquiries are beginning to come in from this area.

Maidenbower School will no longer be able to print the Parish Magazine. Our present photocopier is more expensive and not suitable for the work. An initial investigation shows that there are viable alternatives, but further thought is needed before presenting a recommendation at the next meeting.

Dates for social and fundraising events such as the Summer Fair, Rectory Barbecue and a Bring & Share Lunch were discussed.

## THE PARISH PURSE

For once, the Treasurer is a man of few words and I quote "It is all in the Annual Report." (Ed).

Copies of the Annual Report are available - for free - at the back of each church.



It is very important as a human being to be able to laugh at yourself and circumstances and particularly as a Christian. We have to know that good times don't last always and bad times don't last always.

-Yvette Nicole Brown

Many people take no care of their money till they come nearly to the end of it, and others do just the same with their time.

-Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

# JOIN THE 100 CLUB AND WIN

A £10 a month standing order or an annual payment will enter you into our monthly draw where you have very good odds of winning:

- 1st prize - £100
- 2nd prize - £50
- 2 x 3rd prize - £25

In joining, you also help us raise funds for our many upcoming projects as half the proceeds go to the Parish (the other half is prize money).

Why not subscribe someone as a gift?

To take out a subscription, contact Phyl on 01293 883362 or email [roger.pennell@zen.co.uk](mailto:roger.pennell@zen.co.uk)



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## LayDee's Cafe



Open Mondays 12:30 to 5pm

Hot / cold drinks  
Lunch menu  
Variety of cakes and treats

Celebration cakes can also be ordered - TuKris Cakes

FRESH

## Friday 27 April 7.30 Quiz Night

At St Barnabas Church Hall  
Worth Rd, Pound Hill, RH10 3AF

Bring a team of 6 or join a team on the night

Tickets £10 each to include jacket potatoes, chilli or bolognaise, baked beans and cheese.

Puds too



Bring your own drinks



Raffle

In aid of Church Projects

## THE MARTINS

INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS



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# ST BARNABAS' COMMITTEE

The Committee met on 28 February 2018 and discussed the following topics:

**Schedule of Services** We will hold our usual Easter services at St. Barnabas.  
The Healing Service is now a regular service on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month.

**The Duty Rota** At St. Barnabas we welcome people onto our rota – e.g. as welcomers, helping with refreshments, etc.

**Health and Safety** Tony Chamier joined us at this meeting and spoke about the Hall heating and the Ecobee system that gives us improved control over the heating.

**Events and Fundraising** The Book, Plant and Toy Sale raised £141.61 for St. Barnabas Fabric Fund – current project the Hall flooring.

The Plant Sale will take place on 12 May.

There will be a Bring and Share lunch on 20 May to celebrate the Royal Wedding.

The date of the next meeting – 6 June 2018

## ST BARNABAS' REFURBISHMENT

Applications have been submitted to 4 grant providing bodies re new Hall floor covering and we have been very fortunate in hearing good news relating to a couple of these applications.

Thanks go to the Community Initiative Funding for their donation of £1300 and to the Longley Trust for a donation of £1000.

We await news of our applications to the Gatwick Airport Community Fund, Tesco Bags of Help (successful – see below) and a recent application to the Community Chest. It may be 2-3 months before we hear any news from these bodies.

*Phyl Pennell March 2018*

### **Present project – New flooring for Hall, including entrance hall and kitchen**

#### **We have been accepted for the Tesco Bags of Help Grant Scheme**

Our project will be put forward to a customer vote in 6 local Tesco stores, 1st May to 30th June 2018. Customers will decide the outcome by voting for their favourite project each time they shop.

If we receive the highest number of votes we will receive £2500, if we are placed 2<sup>nd</sup> then we will receive £2000 and if we are the 3<sup>rd</sup> placed project we will receive £1000.

To vote make a purchase – of any value. At the checkout you will receive a token (you may have to ask for one). Pop it in our box as you leave the store.

The stores taking part in the voting of our project are

Tesco Extra – Hazelwick – RH10 1GY, Betts Way,

Tesco Express – RH10 9UY, Haslett Ave,

Tesco Express – RH10 1AH, Pound Hill,

Tesco Express – RH10 3BA, Downland Drive

Tesco Express – RH11 8SW, Ifield

Tesco Express – RH11 0PL



**Please help us**

**Thank you for your support**

# ST NICHOLAS' COMMITTEE

**What a difference an incumbent makes!** Holy week was amazing. Palm Sunday with the Gospel reading and procession from the Rectory drive to the church, followed by the dramatic readings of The Passion, was hugely successful and a fitting start to the week. Attendance on Palm Sunday, including the 8am BCP service was 71.

There were 20 communicants at the 10.30am Maundy Thursday service followed by a further 38 at the 8pm Eucharist of the Last Supper with foot washing; a ceremony that Fr Michael had not conducted for many years. (Thank you, Fr Roger and Christine, for the loan of your bowl and jug.) For this service the Altar in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel was lit with many candles and dressed with flowers.

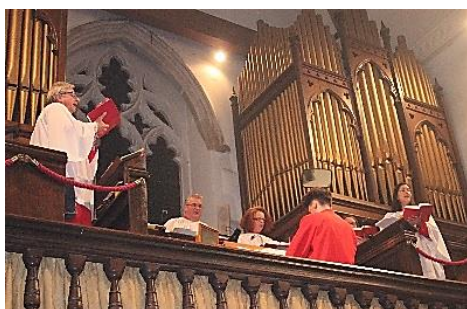


The 2pm Good Friday Liturgy, a Eucharist without wine, was attended by 32 parishioners, and included a dramatic reading of The Passion. Joan Tick set up the Easter Garden in the South Transept, ready for the building and planting out of the garden by children on Easter Saturday, which was a great success and very well attended. The 8pm Easter Vigil Eucharist was an amazing service which included lighting the Paschal Candle from the brazier in the churchyard with 34 parishioners entering a darkened church with candles that were lighted to create a surreal atmosphere, which was

enhanced by the burning of incense.

Easter Day recorded 19 parishioners for the 8am Book of Common Prayer service and 115 persons, including 24 under-15's, attending the Child Friendly 10am service. The children chosen to read were exceptional. The atmosphere in church was a joy to experience.

At the end of this service Christine Brown introduced us to 'Slawek' (pronounced Swarvek) from Poland, who many of us know from his skills in building, gardening and household repair work. Slawek presented the parishioners with two baskets of food which is a tradition at Easter in Poland. Each basket contained a candle for the Light of Christ, sausage and ham for the abundance of life, Lamb cake for the Lamb of God, eggs representing new life (free range I am told), salt for purification, horseradish for the bitterness of the Passion, and bread for the Bread of Life. Whilst



the children busied themselves in the traditional 'Egg Hunt' in church, our parishioners enjoyed the baskets of Polish food washed down with sparkling wine thanks to the generosity of Pam and Gerald.

Talking of Pam and Gerald I must say that their input into organising Holy Week was huge. They set up for every service, regardless of how late in the night this was, and Pam made sure that our linen was freshly laundered and spotless. So many others, of course, worked so hard to ensure that our church was bedecked with flowers, and an Easter Garden, not to mention our much-improved heating system,

which was serviced beforehand.

So there it is, or was – a wonderful Holy Week to remember. Thanks to you all for your support and hard work and to all our volunteers, readers, altar party, sidespersons and others. And who can forget the music at these services? We know our choir is exceptional, they prove it time and time again. So thanks to our Choirmaster Alex and to our wonderful choir for making Holy Week special indeed.

*Colin Smith  
Deputy Church Warden and Secretary to the Committee*

# WHERE DID YOU GO TO MY LOVELY?

Church Mouse has had reason, recently, to think a lot about life after death. Where are those 'we love, but see no more'? He has realised, after reading some theology, that he has had too simple and inaccurate an idea of what Christians actually believe, and should hope for.

In brief, I simply thought that when we die, if we are repentant of our sins and have tried to lead a good life, that we would be judged after we die and with a bit of luck and, more importantly, relying on Jesus Christ's redemption, we could go to heaven. Quite what that would be like is a bit unclear and while I didn't quite believe in fluffy clouds, harps, and a brand of soft cheese, I had some sympathy with people who thought that eternity might be just a bit boring. As for the bodily resurrection, that was a complete mystery.



The Vale of Rest

Sir John Everett Millais  
1858-9

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[www.tate.org.uk](http://www.tate.org.uk)

It turns out that I have been almost entirely wrong. I don't feel entirely to blame. Many of our carols and hymns can lead us into the confusion from which I have suffered. At Christmas we sing 'Away in a manger ... And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.' At Passiontide we sing 'There is a green hill far away ... That we might go at last to heaven ... He only could unlock the gate of heaven, and let us in'; or 'Jesus lives! ... May we go where he is gone, Rest and reign with him in heaven.' There are lots of similar examples. As for disembodied souls, that is just a Platonist idea.

It actually turns out that almost none of this is in the New Testament. If we are to understand what Jesus taught us, we have to return to his words as recorded in the Gospels, and also to read (especially) I Corinthians 15 and Revelation chapters 4, 5, 21 and 22. It also pays to carefully consider what is in the Lord's Prayer and the Creed. The Creeds were very carefully worded after some centuries of debate and we cannot reasonably glide over the bits that are uncomfortable. At this point I should mention Tom Wright's *Surprised by Hope* which is a terrific and easy read, and which has greatly influenced my thinking and this piece.

It helps to start by thinking about God's plan for the world, and our Christian hope. Jesus taught us to pray 'Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.' Incidentally 'kingdom' turns out to be a bit of a mistranslation; the Greek word *basileia* rather means 'kingship' (a mode of action) rather than a location, but I think we are stuck with it. Revelation (21-22) speaks of the new Jerusalem coming down to earth from heaven, uniting the two. Isaiah (11:8) looks to the time when 'the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of God as the waters cover the sea'; in Arthur Campbell Ainger's splendid hymn 'God is working his purpose out' this becomes 'the glory of God.' We have just a glimpse of this in human love and in the natural world.

Jesus told us that 'the kingdom is drawing near' (Mark 1:15) and in the Eucharist we confidently declare 'Christ will come again.' We are to expect the second coming and while the early Church expected this within a generation, they do not seem to have been particularly disappointed when this was not fulfilled. Incidentally, here is another unhelpful translation. The Greek for the 'coming' is actually *parousia* which



rather indicates a royal presence as, for example, when a king visits a colony or a province; so, presence rather than absence. We are confidently awaiting the time when, *on earth*, God's reign will come and bring peace, justice and love.

The encyclical issued by Pope Benedict XVI in 2007, *Spe Salvi*, has had a considerable influence and not just on the Roman Catholic Church. He declares that the 'great, true hope which holds firm in spite of all disappointments can only be God – God who has loved us and who continues to love us to the end, until all is accomplished.' So God's kingdom will not (just) be in heaven but here and everywhere through space and time.

This great event, when earth and heaven will be united in the glory of God, and peace and love will reign, is when we may expect bodily resurrection. Not with our afflictions or disease but a glorified body still in the prime of life. The early Church thought at about 30 years old; and if we have been cremated, then it is not beyond the power of God to knit us together again (as Psalm 139 describes). We shall then be free to work to God's purposes in the world; work which will make use of our talents, and which will not be burdensome, but joyful and fulfilling. And note that this applies to everyone, not just Christians. There is some debate about whether some people, a very few, have been so evil and sinful that it cannot apply to them, but maybe that is to deny the powerful mercy and redemptive power of Christ. I am fond of Stanley Spencer's *The Resurrection, Cookham* where surprised and puzzled people climb sleepily out of their graves in an English churchyard. What a day that will be!

The Resurrection, Cookham 1924-7  
Sir Stanley Spencer

© Tate, London 2017



But this still leaves us with what happens between death and the day of resurrection? The Gospels are not much help. Jesus told us 'There are many rooms in my father's house' (John 14:2) but this is another slightly misleading translation. The original, *monē*, has the sense of a temporary lodging, as on a journey, like a caravanserai or a Travelodge, not a home. On the Cross, Jesus told the repentant criminal: 'Today you will be with me in paradise' (Luke 23:43). The idea of being in paradise (rather than heaven) while we await resurrection may be a helpful idea. Paradise may be thought of as a blissful garden (or in Alan Bennett's delightful *Habeas Corpus*: 'a place by all accounts every bit as nice as Matlock') where we are held firmly within the conscious love of God and the conscious presence of Jesus Christ, while awaiting the day of resurrection. We might continue to work to God's purposes, or simply rest in the Lord. 'Sweet is the calm of Paradise the blest.'

So that is where my lovely is, and we all have a great deal to look forward to.

(With apologies to Peter Sarstedt)

Church Mouse

“You are whatever a  
moon has always  
meant and whatever a  
sun will always sing.”

E.E. CUMMINGS,  
“I Carry Your Heart With Me”

# VIEW FROM THE PEW



Quite literally my view from the pew at St Nicholas must be one of the best to be had in an English church! I sit towards the front and, usually, no-one sits in front of me. So my unimpeded view is of the glorious, huge Saxon arch before me, the Lord's table clothed in seasonal hangings and our cross of Christ resurrected holding out his welcoming arms to me and everyone who crosses the threshold.

Whilst familiarity certainly doesn't breed contempt, I think each of us probably forgets just how stunning we found this sight when we first stepped into the church. Certainly the entries in the visitors' book remind us of how struck strangers are by the calm, peace, tranquility and majesty of the space and how its very stones have absorbed centuries of prayers: supplication, praise and thanksgiving for over a thousand years.

It is this long, unbroken tradition of shared stillness, contemplation and worship that is so apparent in the rich language and simplicity of ceremony that we cherish at the 8am Holy Communion. Of course this is only one example of the variety of services and shared prayer sessions that we are lucky enough to have on offer at our two churches and my spirits have also soared during a beautiful Evensong, a peaceful candlelit service, a rousing celebration of a festival (or newly licensed priest!) and my soul embraced by the silence of Julian contemplation or the depth

of love of the Parish Prayer Group. As Ecclesiastes says, to every thing there is a season.

Nonetheless, it is to the Sunday Eucharist, at a time too early for most people to contemplate, that I gain ongoing spiritual sustenance, just as I did when I was young and accompanied by my father, using the same words now, as then, that have been prayed in this church since the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

It seems ironic, however, that in the week I was asked to write this, that this peaceful, prayerful service was disrupted – not by a loud disturbance or unruly behaviour – but, somewhat in keeping, by the quiet collapse of a companion.

As I looked up from the chalice I was administering, my usually tranquil view down to the west door was transformed by a shocked and concerned congregation, in various positions of help and helplessness, and my fellow sidesperson clearly phoning for an ambulance. Fortunately, the swiftness of the response of the emergency teams (two within 10 minutes) was matched by the recovery of our friend and he was able to walk out to the ambulance for a thorough medical check including ECG.

Nonetheless, it was a rather shocking reminder that we are frail creatures very dependent on each other and yet, at the same time, are the very substance of the church rather than its buildings – magnificent though they are.

Those prayers absorbed in the arches and walls, down the ages, were from the lips of people like you and me: faithful and flawed, joyous and anxious, glad and grieving, young and old.

May we truly care for each other as much as we care for our wonderful church buildings!

*Linda Eells*



# VOICE OF THE VICAR Revd Sarah Upchurch

Sarah grew up in Hertfordshire and went to school in Goff's Oak. Her nursing training was at the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead. Then she did a course in Infectious Diseases at Coppetts Wood Hospital, where she decided to specialise in paediatrics. From there, Sarah eventually went to Harlow and then onto Romania to work for the Alba-Lulia project, working in a hospital with children and orphans. On her return, she worked as an Agency Nurse at Crawley Hospital before finally taking a permanent job on Jumbo Ward.

She met Colin on a parachuting weekend in 1994. They married in 1995 and along came three children, Tim, Matthew and James. The boys all play field hockey with Tim coaching the Under 14 Sussex County Team. Matthew has played for England in the Under 16 and Under 18 teams. James now plays with the County, too. A sporty family, the boys also enjoy playing cricket in the summer.

Colin started playing hockey in Haywards Heath due to a contact of Sarah's. He has a real commitment to the St Francis Club in Haywards Heath. He was Club Captain and is now coach of the development team (they are called the 'Leprechauns'). Colin is an inspirational coach and leader, particularly for the young players. When he's not playing hockey, he is busy as a professional plumber and heating engineer. There are sporting genes in Sarah's family, too, where there are some high-achieving sportsmen.

Sarah grew up in the Church, having a faith in God since childhood. She was a Brownie and a Guide; those units were closely connected to the local church. She was confirmed when she was fourteen. During Sarah's London years, a Baptist friend took her to Holy Trinity, Brompton. Her faith was deepened by her experiences there. Later, she met her husband and during Sarah's third pregnancy she reconnected with the local church. Through the care and loving support of Christian priests at that time, she feels she was "scooped back" into the Church. From then it was

not long before she felt a sense of calling to be ordained.

Sarah was ordained Deacon in 2012 and priested in 2013. She served her curacy at St Peter's, Ardingly and then was seconded back to her 'sending' church – the Church of the Ascension in Haywards Heath. She was needed to



provide Pastoral Care as the Vicar was on compassionate leave. She was licensed in September 2016 as the Associate Priest, working with an Assistant Curate and a Reader.

Sarah is looking forward to living and working with the people of St Barnabas and St Nicholas. She will share in the ministry of modelling God's love with and for each other, which will continue to cascade into the community. We warmly welcome Sarah!

*Ann Phillipson*

## WORTH BOOK CLUB

Our latest book is *The Captain's Table* by Muriel Bulger. Why not give it a try? See Liz Gallagher for a copy or download it on your Kindle. We will be meeting on the last Monday of April (and each month) at 19.00 to discuss the highs and lows, good and bad, but the best part of the evening is getting together and talking, chatting about something that is a pleasure to do. Everyone is welcome, so come along and join us; we would love more members.





# REFLECTIONS -

## ON BISHOP GEOFFREY ROWELL, 3<sup>rd</sup> BISHOP OF GIBRALTAR IN EUROPE

In June 2017 Bishop Geoffrey died after two years of retirement at the age of 74. His death marked the end of an era - in fact he had relayed to me that he would like to come to preach at Worth



Church over Easter 2017 during our interregnum but he was then too ill to do so. Bishop Geoffrey took occasional Sunday services at Worth Church over the ten years he lived in Bishop's Lodge, when he wasn't over in Europe visiting his chaplaincies and was very fond of our parish.

I was privileged to be his secretary for his final 3 years as Bishop in Europe before his retirement. The role of Bishop in Europe was then moved to Brussels as it was decided that was a more appropriate base for a Bishop in Europe's office and I decided to retire.

Bishop Geoffrey's innate ability to relate to a wide range of people, including a non-believer like myself, had a profound effect on me. The day I started as his secretary he held a Eucharist for me and it felt so amazing that eventually I decided to start attending Worth Church and be confirmed into the Church.

Being with Bishop Geoffrey in the Bishop's Lodge in Worth was a constant delight. He would very quickly get talking to someone, and could talk about anything, from the Great Schism to the rising cost of child care. Every day working there was a delight. He had a breath-taking humility and an amazing capacity for friendship. Under his leadership, the Diocese in Europe grew, despite the Diocese not having substantial financial resources. Reflection on the experience of the Church, worship that engaged with the reality of God, and a creative engagement with the social and cultural context was, for him, the way the Church could touch hearts and minds.

The fact that I was not a church goer did not bother him. He would quickly win over the trust

of those who differed with him simply because he was a gracious, generous and hospitable person.

He was trusted as a theologian, historian and ecumenical adventurer. He knew why people differed with him and he respected their stance. He had friendships throughout the world including Orthodox and Oriental churches, the Roman Catholic Church, the European Lutheran and Reformed churches.

Being Bishop in Europe was his dream job, and he made the most of the travel opportunities. Quite content with the economic constraints of Easyjet and Ryanair, he loved nothing more than spending time in his Diocese every weekend, invariably staying with the local chaplain, and making that all-important investment in relationships with his clergy. A large part of my job was booking flights, trains (his main love) and taxis to ensure his trips to Europe ran smoothly.

Bishop Geoffrey read widely and his library was something to see. He was generous and hospitable in sharing his home with a wide range of people; he was an inspiration to me and he changed my life. For that I am eternally grateful.

*Sue Walshe*

"Ma'am, may I close the window?" Geoffrey Rowell once asked the Queen, during a draughty weekend at Sandringham. She agreed, but warned that it was particularly hard to shut. Failing, Rowell asked if they should call a footman. "No," Her Majesty allegedly replied. "I will do it, but you will have to hold me." The bishop complied, as she stoutly tackled the window, managing to shut it.



"My dear," Rowell would later tell friends with a rich chuckle, "I must be one of the only bishops to have held Her Majesty's bottom."

### **A quote favoured by Bishop Geoffrey**

The Church that 'changes always in order to remain the same' - *John Henry Newman*

# FROM THE ORDINAND'S DOG



Hi. Have you all thawed out now? I hope you were all safe and well in the snow. I like the snow, especially when my humans use dog treats for the eyes and mouth of the Snow Man. I have developed quite a talent for removing the treats without disrupting the snow! It took my humans quite a while to work out what was going

on! I'm not so keen on the snow though, when I can't find my favourite bone in the garden. Now where did I leave it?

The Ordinand had a snow day at home when the college was closed. She quite enjoyed watching the lectures from the comfort of the sofa via video link, and of course I was there to keep her warm and cosy. Her Church History module is progressing well. She relished the opportunity to find out about Christianity and Darwinism for her first assignment, but judging by the amount of tea needed during her study days, the current assignment on the Trinity is proving to be more of a challenge! I will have to ask her to explain it... one day!

Must go. It's time for Walkies!

*Shadow the Ordinand's Dog*

\*\*\*\*\*

## MESSY EASTERTIDE

### **EASTER EGGS – have you any left?**

Although chocolate eggs are quite a modern idea, the egg has been a symbol of new life and rebirth since before Christian times. Our name for Easter is thought to come from the northern goddess of spring – Eostre. Even in the pagan world there was a celebration of new growth in the spring after the long dark days of winter. Many of the pagan rites and symbols have been brought into the Christian festival of Easter. If the pagan feast celebrated renewed light and warmth, then our Easter celebrates so much more. We celebrate the fact that Jesus died for us and overcame death. He is no longer dead. If all those delicious Easter eggs remind us that Easter means new life, new life in Jesus, then we should enjoy them. More chocolate for everybody!

### **WHICH CAME FIRST – THE CHICKEN OR THE EGG?**

This is often posed as a problem to which there is no answer. There can be no chicken without an egg, and no egg without a chicken, so which came first? However, there is now an answer! The essential nature of the chicken is contained in the DNA (biological instructions) which is also present in the egg from which the chicken hatched. The change in the DNA which lead to the first chicken, or to a new kind of chicken, must have been in the DNA of the egg which the nearly-a-chicken laid. So, the egg must have come first! Amaze your friends!

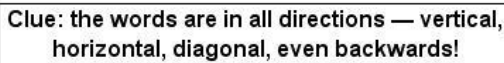
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If plan A fails,  
remember  
there are 25  
more letters  
*-Chris Guillebeau*

God gave us two ears  
and one mouth, so  
He must have wanted  
us to do twice as  
much listening as  
talking.

A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military  
defence than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual doom.  
*- Martin Luther King Jr.*

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## TUNING IN ... FROM APHRODITE'S ISLE

Since I left Worth - after five and a half years - in 2010, I have endured somewhat of a "mid-life wanderlust"! From that time, I have been in Zimbabwe, Kenya, Ely, Wales; and now find myself here in Paphos, on the island of Cyprus.



*Diocesan Link Service at St Stephen's*

There are three churches in the Anglican Parish of Paphos - St Stephen's at Tala, St Luke's at Prodrumi (near Polis), and the ancient basilica of Ayia Kyriaki, founded on the 4th century building in the middle of Kato Paphos. Paphos is mentioned in the New Testament (Acts 13) where Paul and

Barnabas preached, and later Mark, St Lazarus (the same who Jesus raised from the dead) and St Francis of Assisi. Later - much later - Pope Benedict XVI visited the church in 2010 to pray. The parish church is shared by the Anglicans and Roman Catholics, though owned by the Greek Orthodox, and administered by the Department of Antiquities.



*Lady Chapel, St Luke's, Polis*



As Associate Priest, I am mainly responsible for the wedding ministry (we have 83 weddings this summer), but also assist on Sundays and at occasional services throughout the year. Inevitably the congregation is the mainstay of "ex-pats" with a smattering of tourists and visitors, and they are a great support to our worship and the maintenance of the parish.



*Ayia Kyriaki*



**29 June Feast of St Peter & St Paul at St Paul's Pillar** The vesper took place in the presence of His Beatitude, the Archbishop of Cyprus Mr Crystostomos, His Eminence the Metropolitan of Paphos Georgios and other Bishops. Our Associate Priest, the Reverend Canon Anthony Stidolph was invited to be present for this special occasion and represented the Anglican Church of Paphos.

Living in Cyprus is an interesting experience. Just one hour from Tel Aviv airport we can be justified in thinking we live in the Middle East, and as such (for some people) this would seem a difficult and dangerous place to be, although it is well attested that Cyprus is one of the safest places in the Mediterranean area. The Christian presence is very prevalent, and unlike some places in other parts of this diocese - Yemen, Baghdad, Damascus - we feel safe though in no way complacent. There is still an on-going need for prayer for the persecuted and the refugees in this part of the world, and for tolerance to recognize the huge humanitarian need of so many peoples.

Other than the parish, there is a vibrant cultural life in Cyprus and until recently I have been involved in conducting an 'a cappella' choir- Sine Nomine - and we have given some concerts to great acclaim. I have also

given some organ recitals as part of the summer series here, and last year conducted Handel's Messiah at Nicosia Cathedral, which was good fun.

My "House for Duty" apartment is about 15 minutes' drive from the harbour and I can have my corn flakes with a lovely view of the Med! So, all in all, it's not a bad place to be! Last year, I wrote a hymn for the diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf which includes this verse, which I believe says something of what we are about and what we are striving to do:



This land was trod by Saints of God  
And in their way we walk  
As heirs to God's Almighty grace  
We proudly take our place

God bless you, wherever you are, and where your journey takes you

*Love from Anthony*



## 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)



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**Sunday 20 May**

**12 NOON ONWARDS**

**St Barnabas' Pastoral Centre**

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**Celebrating Pentecost and the Royal Wedding**



See pew sheet nearer the time for food arrangements



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# USEFUL NUMBERS

Administrator (Parish)	Sue Perry
Altar Servers (St Barnabas')	David
Altar Servers (St Nicholas')	Jenny Dobson
Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals	Parish Office
Bellringers	Neil Dobson
Bookings (Hall, Meeting Rooms, Café, Church)	Sue Perry
Buildings and Facilities	See
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')	Gerald Sandwell
Events	Jane Stanford
Families, Youth and Children's Work	Parish Office
Fellowship Activities	Joan Tick
Flower Arranging (St Barnabas')	Jane Stanford
Flower Arranging (St Nicholas')	Noreen Oxlade
Friends of St Nicholas'	Colin Smith
Giving (Donations etc)	Sheila Dring
Julian Group (St Barnabas')	Don
Julian Group (St Nicholas')	Gill Gusterson
Knit and Natter	Val Rudd
Magazine	Sue Perry
Messy Church	Sue Walshe
Mothers' Union	Mary Fry
Office (Parish) (manned or ansaphone 24/7)	
Office at St Barnabas' (not currently manned)	
PCC Chair	Michael Boag
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	Linda Eells and Joan Tick Colin Smith Phyl Pennell Michael Boag Phyl Pennell
PCC Treasurer	Max Perry
Prayer Group	Linda Eells
Safeguarding Officers	Noreen Oxlade
Social Media	Elizabeth
Stewardship Officer (St Barnabas')	Stuart Sharpe
St Nicholas Circle	Max Perry
Toddlers (Tues/Thurs am)	Jenny Dobson
Website	Elizabeth
Weddings	Parish Office

0300

111

8150



# APRIL-MAY CALENDAR

If you are travelling far, we recommend that you check dates and times either on the calendar on our website or with the office.

When?		What?	Where?
Wed 18 April	3.15pm	Messy Church,	Maidenbower Infants School
Wed 18 April	7.30pm	APCM	St Barnabas'
Wed 25 April	3.00pm	Messy Church,	St Barnabas'
Thurs 26 April	7.30pm	MU Talk by Revd David & Compline	St Barnabas'
Fri 27 April	7.30pm	Quiz night with supper	St Barnabas'
Sat 28 April	10.00am	MU Coffee Morning	St Barnabas'
Sat 28 April	7.00pm	City Lit Opera	St Nicholas'
Tues 1 May	11.00am	Home Communion,	Lanehurst Gardens
Thurs 3 May	8.00pm	St Nicholas Circle	St Barnabas'
Sat 5 May	10.00am	Saturday Market,	St Barnabas'
Wed 9 May	2.30pm	Pastoral Assistants' Tea	St Barnabas'
Wed 9 May	3.15pm	Messy Church,	Maidenbower Infants School
Thurs 10 May	2.30pm	Julian Group	St Nicholas'
Sat 12 May	10.00am	Plant Sale	St Barnabas'
Mon 14 May	11.00am	Julian Group	St Barnabas'
Sun 20 May	12.00noon	Bring 'n Share Lunch	St Barnabas'
Wed 23 May	3.00pm	Messy Church,	St Barnabas'
Wed 23 May	7.30pm	PCC Meeting	St Barnabas'
Thur 24 May	7.30pm	MU Meeting with Eucharist	St Barnabas'
Sat 2 June	10.00am	Saturday Market,	St Barnabas'
Thur 7 June	8.00pm	St Nicholas Circle	St Barnabas'
Sat 23 June		Summer Fair	St Barnabas'



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