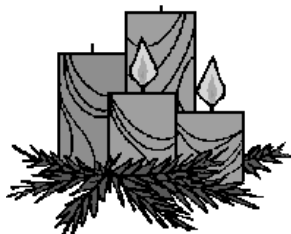


**9 December  
2018**

**Advent 2**



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

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 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: Fr Michael Boag

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

10.00 Eucharist St Barnabas'  
Celebrant & Preacher: Revd Sarah Upchurch  
Sunday School: Leader, Caroline Formby

16.00 Christingle St Barnabas'

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

John the Baptist, son of a priest, who lived what we would now call an 'alternative' lifestyle is the last of the great line of prophets to foretell the coming of Christ into the world. Today's Gospel reading begins with a detailed description of the political and religious order of the time which demonstrated brutality and religious corruption. It was into such an order that John was announcing that Christ would come.

John, like Christ, had his wilderness time during which he reflected upon earlier prophets, especially Isaiah, whom he quoted as he (John) prepared people for a different 'coming' from the one that they might have expected. John talks of transformation as absolutely fundamental for humanity, using the imagined smoothing of the physical landscape in which they lived as a metaphor for this transformation – a transformation like no other.

How are things any different now from how they were then? The media relentlessly expose corruption, misdemeanours and the petty jockeying for power of politicians. Life with and through God seems impossible to many. There are still those who don't 'get' the fact that Christ was not, in a conventional sense, a superstar or great political hero. Yet the coming of Christ has demonstrated a whole new phase of his Father's creation. Christ lived as a human being. He experienced many of the tribulations that are found in human life. He never said that our lives would be easy but, to those of faith he is experienced in us and through us and the living of our daily lives. The message that John brought is that if we consciously live in Christ then he will always be there to meet us.

*Gordon*

## Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

**Amen**

## Reading

*Baruch 5.1-9*

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the

righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your



splendour everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, 'Righteous Peace, Godly Glory'.

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look towards the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

## Canticle *Benedictus*

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel for he hath visited, and redeemed his people; And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us in the house of his servant David;

As he spake by the mouth of his holy Prophets which have been since the world began;

That we should be saved from our enemies and from the hands of all that hate us; To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers and to remember his holy covenant;

To perform the oath which he swore to our forefather Abraham that he would give us,

That we being delivered out of the hands of our enemies might serve him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before him all the days of our life.

And thou, child, shalt be called the Prophet of the Highest for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; To give knowledge of salvation unto his people for the remission of their sins; Through the tender mercy of our God whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us;

To give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death and to



guide our feet into the way of peace.

## Gospel *Luke 3.1-6*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went

into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." '

## Post Communion

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Festivals this week	
Wed 12	Ember Day
Thur 13	Lucy 304 (LF) Samuel Johnson 1784 (C)
Fri 14	Ember Day John of the Cross 1591 (LF)
Sat 15	Ember Day
(F) Festival; (LF) Lesser Festival; (C) Commemoration	

## Join us at Messy Church!

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

**Wed 12 Dec 15.00**  
St Barnabas'



DOES ANYONE REALLY  
"PREPARE THE WAY OF  
THE LORD" OR IS THIS  
JUST RHETORIC?



WELL,

JESUS WALKS THE WAY  
OF THE LORD. IS THE  
CROSS "JUST RHETORIC?"



WAIT - IS THAT A  
RHETORICAL  
QUESTION?



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## SERVICES THIS WEEK

Tues 11 Dec	10.30 Eucharist and refreshments after	St Barnabas'
Thur 13 Dec	10.30 Eucharist and refreshments after	St Nicholas'
Sun 16 Dec	08.00 Holy Communion (BCP)	St Nicholas'
	10.00 Eucharist	St Barnabas'
	10.00 Sung Eucharist	St Nicholas'
	16.00 Carols for All followed by mulled winter punch / tea / coffee / mince pies	St Barnabas'

## Sunday 16 December 2018 Advent 3

Zephaniah 3.14-20 Canticle: Isaiah 12.2-6  
Philippians 4.4-7 Luke 3.7-18

## Jazz in January

Tickets are now available from [jazzinjan.eventbrite.co.uk](http://jazzinjan.eventbrite.co.uk) – Come and hear the Gentle Jazz Trio and guest vocalist Penny Payne. **Sun 20 Jan 14.00-16.00** at St Nicholas'. Turn up any time and listen to jazz while enjoying refreshments. Tickets £10 on the door or available from churchwardens

Thank you to all who helped with, or attended, the **Christmas Fair**.  
£1,061.56 was raised.

## **DIARY NOTES & NOTICES**

### **CHRISTINGLE - Today**

**Sun 9 Dec 16.00 St Barnabas'**

Come and make a Christingle with us! If you can, please bring an **\*\*unwrapped\*\*** gift.

**Christmas Gifts** under the Christmas trees – we will be collecting gifts at our Christmas services. These may be toys, books, games, craft items for the Golden Lions Children's Trust ([glct.org.uk](http://glct.org.uk)) or warm clothing, packaged foods or toiletries for Open House. All items must be new and unwrapped (although rolls of wrapping paper are welcome). Thank you!

**Mondays – JayDee's Café 12.00 – 17.00**  
at the Pastoral Centre.

**Mon 10 Dec 11.00** St Barnabas'; **Thur 13 Dec 14.30** St Nicholas'; **Julian Group** 30 mins of contemplative prayer and meditation.

**Wed 12 Dec Pastoral Assistants' Tea 14.30** Pastoral Centre

**Thur 13 Dec 14.00 Knit & Natter.**  
Pastoral Centre

**Fri 14 Dec 12.30 Pastoral Centre Christmas Lunch.** Turkey, trimmings, Christmas pudding, mince pies, tea/coffee etc. £11. Free raffle. Reserve your tickets at 01293 883362 by **12 Dec**. All welcome.

If any child (age 3+) would like to join in the **Nativity** at St Nicholas' on **Christmas Eve**, please email Joan at [tickjoan@gmail.com](mailto:tickjoan@gmail.com) for details of rehearsals. Thank you.

**Southeast Kids Camps** are looking for a fun & outgoing full time (possible job share) Manager to cover wraparound Club, Monday-Friday 7am-9am and 3pm-6pm. Initially at St Barnabas and then in the new School. Call [01444 461889](tel:01444461889) or email for more details [admin@southeastkidcamps.co.uk](mailto:admin@southeastkidcamps.co.uk)

**Alfred Holman** died 7 Dec 1918

A gunner in the 14<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Royal Horse Artillery; buried in Belgrade Cemetery, Namur. Born about 1887, the son of James and Sara Holman of Caxtons in Worth. His father was a Stud Groom at Crabbet Park. His brothers, William and Herbert also died in the war.

### **Pastoral Centre Refurbishment**

As one of the Co-op's three local charities, we can choose our charity. To give 1% of our spending on selected products register your Coop card for our charity online or by ringing 0800 023 4708. Every little helps. Let Phyl know of any problems (883362).

### **Pastoral Centre Café Christmas**

**Closure** Open on 18 Dec as usual, until noon. Re-opens Friday 4 Jan at 10.30.

### **Church Cleaners**

for St Nicholas' desperately needed. If you can give 2 hours (times flexible) 4 to 5 times a year to dust, Hoover and sweep; please call Jill Freeborn 01293 883631 for info

## **CONTACTS**

### **The Rector**

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

### **Vicar at St Barnabas**

Revd Sarah Upchurch 01293 524804  
[vicarstb@worthparish.org](mailto:vicarstb@worthparish.org) (Tues-Sun)

### **Assistant Priest**

Revd Gordon Parry 07802 432398  
[gordonmwparry@btinternet.com](mailto:gordonmwparry@btinternet.com)

### **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)