



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

WORTH PARISH

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

**24 March
2019**

Lent 3



Welcome to 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.

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.

There are soft toys and books available for
children. Note that we do not normally sing
the starred (*) verses in hymns.

SERVICES TODAY

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

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

10.00 Child Friendly Eucharist St Barnabas'
Celebrant & Preacher: Revd Sarah Upchurch

Please send pew sheet notices
to pewsheet@worthparish.org
or phone 0300 111 8150

A call to respond to God's mercy

Last week we were given a strong
protective picture of Jesus lamenting over
Jerusalem, wanting to protect her as a
mother hen protects her chicks, a warning
to come under the protection of God. This
week we are provided with a fig tree that is
not producing any fruit, another call to
repentance.

Repentance is turning away from things that
separate us from the goodness of God and
'putting it away' from us.

Firstly, Jesus is told about the brutal killing
of pilgrims by the Roman authorities. Jesus
is expected to denounce this, instead he
calls *them* to repent! This shows the
courage of Jesus. He could have been
physically attacked because of his response.
There is a suggestion that disaster was a
punishment for sin which Jesus refutes.

The second part of the scripture is about
the fig tree. Fig trees in Palestine bear fruit
ten months of the year, so at almost any
time the owner can find fruit.

Kenneth Bailey suggests that the fig tree
represents the spiritual leadership of the
nation which is unfruitful. After acts of
redemption are completed and sufficient
time for renewal is given, the fig tree must
respond or be cut down for the good of the
whole vineyard.

What is the lesson for us? Are we
producing good fruit? What does this look
like?

Let us put away things that separate us from
God and respond in love to His mercy.
Peace be with you,

Revd Sarah

Collect

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Reading *Isaiah 55.1-9*

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Psalm *Psalm 63.1-9*

O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because

your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.



My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; for you have been

my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

But those who seek to destroy my life shall go down into the depths of the earth.

Reading *1 Corinthians 10.1-13*

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did.

Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.' We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think



you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Gospel Luke 13:1-9

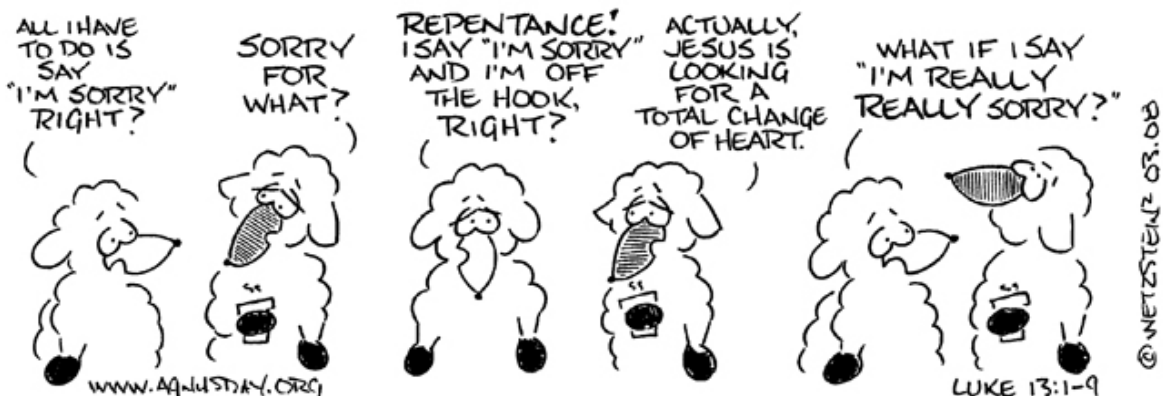
At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them - do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'



Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and

still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."

Agnus Day appears with the permission of www.agnusday.org



Post Communion

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

SERVICES THIS WEEK

Tues 26 Mar	10.30 Healing Eucharist and refreshments after	St Barnabas'
Thur 28 Mar	10.30 Eucharist and refreshments after	St Nicholas'
Sun 31 Mar	08.00 Holy Communion (BCP)	St Nicholas'
	10.00 Mothering Sunday Eucharist	St Barnabas'
	10.00 Mothering Sunday Eucharist	St Nicholas'

Sunday 31 March 2019

Lent 4 Mothering Sunday

Exodus 2.1-10 Psalm 34.11-20
2 Corinthians 1.3-7 Luke 2.33-35

Festivals this week

Mon 25 Mar	Annunciation to the BVM
Tues 26 Mar	Harriet Monsell 1883 (C)

(F) Festival; (LF) Lesser Festival; (C) Commemoration

Join us at Messy Church!

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

Wed 27 Mar 15.00 at St Barnabas' Hall



DIARY NOTES & NOTICES

Sat 9 Mar to 6 Apr 14.00-16.00.

Pastoral Centre. **Lent Course:**
Fr Michael will lead the Diocesan Course
“**Living Christ**”. Open to everyone
so please come and join us; you will
be made very welcome.

Mon 14.00-16.30 & Tues 12.30-15.00

JayDee's Café at the Pastoral Centre

Tues 26 Mar and Thur 28 Mar 9.15-11.00

Toddlers Group St Barnabas' Hall

Wed 27 Mar 19.30 Parish Prayer Group in
the Pastoral Centre. Please join us to pray for
the clergy, work and outreach of our two
churches and Parish.

Thur 28 Mar 14.00 Knit & Natter

Pastoral Centre.

**Thur 28 Mar 19.30 Mothers' Union Branch
Meeting.** Pastoral Centre

Friday Lunch 29 Mar 12.30 in the Pastoral
Centre; two courses and tea/coffee for £6.50. All
welcome. To help with catering, please order
tickets by **27 Mar** at the Pastoral Centre or by
calling 0300 111 8150.

Pastoral Centre Refurbishment

As one of the Co-op's three local charities,
we can receive 1% of our spend on selected
products. Register your Co-Op card for our
charity online or by ringing 0800 023 4708.
Every little helps (by 20 Mar £1,028 already
raised).
Let Phyl know of any problems (883362).

Worth Church logo products: please order
by **31 Mar** for the next batch of orders. After
that, the next date for ordering is 30 June

**Thur 4 Apr from 11.00 St Nicholas' Spring
Clean** Come and help us! No experience
needed but please bring cleaning equipment for
brushing and dusting, wood and brass polishing. It
is planned to provide a BBQ and bacon sarnies.

Sat 6 Apr 10.00-11.45 Saturday Market.
Pastoral Centre

Tues 9 Apr 10.00-15.00 (last entry 14.30)
Birds & Bugs: another Fun Day at Chichester

Cathedral. 3-11 year-olds accompanied by an
adult. No need to book. £2.50 per child. See
posters for further details.

Easter Cards with a Christian message, will be
on sale in the Pastoral Centre on **Sat 30 Mar, 6
& 13 Apr.** Cost: 70p per card; £2.80 pack of 4.
Proceeds to Pastoral Centre Refurbishment.

Safer Crawley Partnership seek views of
residents about community safety issues, to guide
the focus for 2019/20. Online survey until 31 Mar
at [Com Safe consultation 2019-2020](#).

Safeguarding & Well-being.

As Safeguarding Officer, I wish to remind all
parishioners that if they feel intimidated or
uncomfortable by the approaches of another
parishioner, they should contact me as S/G
Officer, or a member of the Clergy.

N. Oxlade 884172

As a parish we encourage **recycling**.

We collect:

- *Spectacles* (to Boots Chemist for Third World countries);
- *Postage stamps* (to St Catherine's Hospice who sell them);
- *Plastic bottle tops* – any with a triangle containing a '2' (to Billingshurst Library for local children's hospice);
- *Inkjet cartridges* (not Kodak).

As the storage facilities at St N's
are limited, please take directly to
St B's or give to Sue on a Sunday.



CONTACTS

The Rector

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Vicar at St Barnabas'

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