



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

# WORTH PARISH

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

**22 March  
2020**

## Mothering Sunday



Welcome to  
St Barnabas' in Pound Hill and  
St Nicholas' in Worth

*On the advice of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York **all public worship is suspended** until further notice. Our churches will, however, remain open as far as possible.*

### SERVICES TODAY

There will be no public worship today.

### ACCESS to St Nicholas'

will not now be restricted in the coming weeks.

St Nicholas' will be open 9:00 to 18:00,  
as will the Narthex at St Barnabas'.

### Revd Canon J Roger Brown

We regret to announce that Fr Roger died peacefully on Sunday 8 March.

A Requiem Eucharist will **NOT** now be held on

Thursday 26 March 11:30 at St Nicholas'.  
A celebration of Roger's life will be held in due course.

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

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

In Oscar Wilde's story, the Happy Prince of the title is a gilded bejewelled statue set on a column overlooking a town, who develops a friendship with a migrating swallow. 'Who are you?' he said. 'I am the Happy Prince.' 'Why are you weeping then?' asked the Swallow; 'you have quite drenched me.' 'When I was alive and had a human heart' answered the statue, 'I did not know what tears were... everything about me was so beautiful. My courtiers called me the Happy Prince, and happy indeed I was, if indeed pleasure be happiness. So I lived and so I died. And now that I am dead they have set me up here so high that I can see all the ugliness and all the misery of my city, and though my heart is made of lead yet I cannot choose but weep.' 'What! is he not solid gold?' said the Swallow to himself. He was too polite to make any personal remarks out loud.

And so the story unfolds. The statue of the Prince persuades the Swallow to take the jewels that adorn him, one by one, to particular people in desperate situations around the city. The ruby from his sword hilt to the mother of a feverish boy, the sapphires of his eyes and finally leaf after leaf of the gold covering to the poor and the sick and the hungry. The dramatic tension in the tale is added to by the Swallow lingering in the cold North at the onset of winter instead of flying south to the warmth of Egypt. In the end there is nothing left for the Prince to give and the Swallow who has helped him in his acts of benefaction, dies from the cold. It is a poignant and touching tale.

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Self-sacrifice born out of compassion and pity and love's response to love. The more the Prince is moved by the plight of his people the more compassionate he is, the more he gives of himself, until he has given all. Likewise the Swallow, as he becomes more and more engaged in the situation he finds himself in, the more obvious it becomes that he cannot quit, even if it means his own death.

The start of the list from the letter to the Colossians (chapter 3, verses 12-17), 'clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience' is not all that remarkable but the implications, when we really think about them, are. These qualities are not qualified, not limited and may involve a cost.

Today, being Mothering Sunday, is a day to remember and celebrate the compassionate gifts of those who nurture and support, who prefer the needs of others before their own, especially the needs of the dependent and vulnerable. We celebrate mothers present, absent and departed and it is a celebration of motherly qualities. Not all those who have and show these qualities of compassion, kindness and patience are mothers and, sadly, not all mothers are motherly, so today we also pray for individuals and families whose relationships are fractured, whose lives are blighted by indifference, coldness, selfishness or any of the other painful attributes of wounded personalities that diminish rather than enhance the lives of those around them.

The joy and pain of love is present in the little scene described in today's Gospel (Luke 2.33-35). Simeon with great presence of mind sees who it is who has been brought to the Temple, the very one promised of old, Messiah. And the implications of what that might mean slowly dawn on him, 'destined for the falling and the rising of many' he says to Mary. He also sees what it all will cost her.

The winter and spring months in the Church's calendar focus on the coming of Jesus the Messiah; his birth, the revelation to the world of God with us, then as the story progresses we hear more and more of his mission and sense the rising tension, the harder times, the conflicts with authority, the frustrations and disappointments.

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Through it all his Mother stands by him.

Scripture describes Jesus as being the visible image of the invisible God. We have seen the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. In him we see the qualities of God's love in clearest definition.

We are encouraged to imitate these qualities and replicate them in our own lives, especially in times of anxiety and uncertainty. 'Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience.' Compassion, which is drawn from the deep well of God's love, flows freely and is a powerful force for good in the world, it is a word of Christ, a word with costly implications as the Happy Prince and the swallow found, that, when written on human hearts influences our deeds and thoughts and is a word that 'dwells in us richly'.

Let this be the word we hear today and in the coming week: 'Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.' And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts... And be thankful.

*Fr Michael*



*Thank God  
for Mums!*

### **Collect**

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; 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** 1 Samuel 1.20-28

In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, 'For I have asked him of the Lord.' The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the Lord, and remain there for ever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time.' Her husband Elkanah said to her, 'Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only—may the Lord establish his word.' So the woman remained and nursed her son, until she



weaned him. When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was young. Then they

slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the Lord. For this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord.' She left him there for the Lord.

### **Psalm** Psalm 127.1-4

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain. Unless the Lord guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives sleep to his beloved.

Sons are indeed a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the sons of one's youth.

### **Reading** Colossians 3.12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.



### **Gospel** Luke 2.33-35

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'



### **Post Communion**

Loving God, as a mother feeds her children at the breast you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life: help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in grace within the household of faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## SERVICES THIS WEEK

There will be no public worship until further notice.

**Sunday 29 March 2020**  
**Lent 5**

Ezekiel 37.1-14      Psalm 130  
Romans 8.6-11      John 11.1-45

## Festivals this week

Tues 24 Mar	Walter Hilton, Mystic 1396 (C) Paul Couturier, Priest, Ecumenist 1953 (C)  Oscar Romero, Archbishop, Martyr 1980 (C)
Wed 25 Mar	Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary
Thur 26 Mar	Harriet Monsell, Founder of the Community of St John the Baptist 1883 (C)

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

## DIARY NOTES & NOTICES

**TODAY 13:15 Songs of Praise** on BBC1 will have a feature on Crawley District MU 'Cake Ministry' project in hospitals. Do watch or 'catchup' to learn more about this valuable work.

## EVENTS CANCELLED or POSTPONED

**Toddlers Group**

**Tues 24 Mar and Thur 26 Mar**

**Wed 25 Mar 'Scrabble and Cake'**

**Wed 25 Mar APCM**

**Thur 26 Mar Knit & Natter**

**Thur 26 Mar MU Evening**

**Friday Lunch 27 Mar**

**The Hangout**  
Youth Club at St Barnabas' on  
**Fri 27 Mar** Years 7-11.  
Cancelled until further notice.

**Sat 28 Mar Books, Plants and Toys Sale**

Lent Course: '**Chocolat**'  
Sat 28 March – cancelled.

**Thur 2 Apr St Nicholas' Circle**

**Sat 4 Apr Saturday Market**

The **Electoral Roll** will be displayed in both churches from 9-23 March. If you are registered, please check that your name is there. For amendments contact Jane Stanford 01293 543065 or [janestanford53@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janestanford53@yahoo.co.uk). If you wish your name added, please complete a form available either from Jane or the back of both churches. Thank you.

If you use **Amazon** please shop via [smile.amazon.co.uk](http://smile.amazon.co.uk) where you can choose to support The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of Worth, Pound Hill & Maidenbower. We will benefit from a percentage of your spend, at no cost to you. If you need help with this, please email [hello@worthparish.org](mailto:hello@worthparish.org)

## CONTACTS

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### Vicar at St Barnabas'

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### Assistant Priest

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