



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

# WORTH PARISH

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

**12 April  
2020**

**Easter Day**



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.*

## **SERVICES TODAY**

There will be no public worship today.

## **CHURCHES NOW CLOSED**

There will no longer be access to either  
St Barnabas' or St Nicholas'  
until further notice.

## **ALL**

Events and Meetings  
are cancelled or postponed  
until further notice.

See [www.worthparish.org](http://www.worthparish.org)  
For the latest information

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

This time of restriction and confinement has reminded me of a story of a certain monk who dreamed of going on pilgrimage to Jerusalem. He prayed about it, studied maps and ancient texts for many years until, at last, the abbot gave him permission to leave the monastery for one year. Thus he was free to walk to the Holy Land, pray at the sacred sites and walk around the hallowed walls. When the day of his release arrived he set off with enthusiasm down the hill from the monastery, staff in hand, his bag on his back.

He had not travelled far before he met a man sitting by the road who told the monk he and his family were starving and that he was almost too weak now to continue begging for those he loved most. The monk knelt down with the man and prayed and then startled him by walking around him three times before emptying his purse and giving the man his cloak. Then the monk turned and headed back to his monastery where the brothers were amazed to see him. Why had he come back? Had he forgotten something? 'Yes,' replied the monk, 'but now I have been to the Holy Land. Jerusalem was brought to me.'

And the tellers of this story end by saying the monk then had a vision in which Jesus appeared and told him he had been the beggar sitting on the side of the road. But then we knew that already, didn't we?

*Continued ➡*

What this story doesn't record is the internal anguish of the monk as he knelt and prayed besides the man on the side of the road. Remember his pilgrimage had been years and years in the planning and yearning and here he was confronted with something so clear in its demands, so simple in its expectation. To change his plan must have seemed almost unbearable had it not been for his certainty that his Lord wished him to do so.

It is so very demanding and painful for us not to be able to be together as Easter, the Queen of Seasons, begins and the joy of the Resurrection bursts forth after a long and taxing Lent. The eighth-century Greek poet and theologian John of Damascus wrote:

Now the queen of seasons, bright  
With the day of splendour,  
With the royal feast of feasts,  
Comes its joy to render;  
Comes to glad Jerusalem,  
Who with true affection  
Welcomes in unwearied strains  
Jesu's resurrection.

In our context, we are 'glad Jerusalem' wherever we are and whatever our circumstance is at present. No restriction or deprivation can diminish for us the promise or reality of resurrection life.

There's a parallel in another story, told many years ago now, at the height of Soviet power, when the regime in Russia worked hard to obliterate the Christian faith and to persuade the people not just of the inherent rightness and logic of atheistic Communism but specifically of the illogical naivety of the 'Christian myth', an old wives tale that was best consigned to the scrap heap of history, in order to free the people of superstition and enable them to embrace the truth of the new ideology.

*Continued* ➡

At one village meeting, after the local commissar had been haranguing the folk for a good hour and a half, he came to a triumphant conclusion of unimpeachable logic and argument and sat down. Convinced he had won the day and persuaded the rather impassive crowd of country folk before him; were there any questions, he asked, anything anyone wished to say? After a moment, finally, one old villager rose to his feet and in clear voice proclaimed: 'Alleluia. Christ is risen!' And with one voice the villagers responded, 'He is risen indeed. Alleluia!'

This simple yet passionate response, is the Christian answer to those who say the end of life is death and nothingness. We say after death comes resurrection life. If it were not so, Jesus' death would not only have been the end for him, his story would have no substance, no impetus, no real impact, no future and would have ended in obscurity some 2000 years ago, And we would have no hope now. Whereas, with all who are with us but separated from us, by distance or time, we boldly proclaim the great triumph of love:

Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

*Fr Michael*

### **Collect**

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity.

**Amen**

### **Reading** Acts 10.34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but

in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ - he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

### **Psalm** *Psalm 118.14-24*

The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: 'The right hand of the Lord does valiantly; the right hand of the Lord is exalted; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly.' I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord. The Lord has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death.

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the

builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our

eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

### **Reading** *Colossians 3.1-4*

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

**Set your minds  
on things above,  
not on  
earthly  
things.**  
-Colossians 3:2

### **Gospel** *John 20.1-18*

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid



him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb.

The two were

running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one



at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

### Post Communion

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

### SERVICES THIS WEEK

There will be no public worship until further notice.

**Sunday 19 April 2020  
Easter 2**

Acts 2.14a,22-32      Psalm 16  
1 Peter 1.3-9      John 20.19-end

### Festivals this week

There are no Festivals  
in Easter Week

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

## DIARY NOTES & NOTICES

Information about events at **Chichester Cathedral** and other resources can be found at: [www.chichestercathedral.org](http://www.chichestercathedral.org)

### St Barnabas' Refurbishment Project

As already reported, a grant of £10,000 has been received from the Lottery Community Fund. A conditional offer of £2,500 has also come from The Beatrice Laing Trust (this will be available once we have a starting date for the Project and other funding in place). We have also just been informed that The Gatwick Foundation Fund of the Sussex Community Foundation are donating £5,000 to the Project.

The Pastoral Centre was nominated for the Asda Foundation Green Token Giving scheme, due to feature on the Community Board at Asda, Crawley, during the next vote to begin on 1 April. This has now been delayed due to the coronavirus. Further details to follow.

This is all good news for St Barnabas' but more funding is needed before our Project can go ahead.

### St Nicholas' Easter Flowers

It is with regret, but in keeping with current advice, the fact that all churches are now closed for the foreseeable future and the fact that flowers are not likely to be available, added to the fact that we don't want people to leave home to deliver money and so put themselves and others at risk, that we are not going to collect slips, names or money this year. We are sure that you will remember your loved ones in your own way! Please take care and stay safe.

Noreen Oxlade.

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)

### Peter Gusterson

It is with great regret that we announce that Peter Gusterson died on 8 April 2020.

Further details to follow.

Rest in Peace; Rise in Glory.



## CONTACTS

### The Rector

Fr Michael Boag 01293 882229  
rector@worthparish.org (Tues-Sun)

### Vicar at St Barnabas'

Revd Sarah Upchurch 01293 524804  
vicarstb@worthparish.org (Tues-Sun)

### Assistant Priest

Revd Gordon Parry 07802 432398  
gordonmwperry@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



[www.facebook.com/WorthParish](https://www.facebook.com/WorthParish)



[www.twitter.com/worthparish](https://www.twitter.com/worthparish)



[www.instagram.com/worthparish](https://www.instagram.com/worthparish)



[www.worthparish.org](http://www.worthparish.org)

Registered Charity no. 1131090



IT'S FUNNY THAT  
SO MUCH ATTENTION  
IS GIVEN TO THE  
GRAVE LINENS.



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

THEY'RE EVIDENCE  
OF THE RESURRECTION.  
IT'S THE RIGHT TOMB  
AND THE BODY HASN'T  
BEEN STOLEN.



WOW! —  
THE SON OF GOD  
MAKES HIS BED  
EVEN IF HE'S NOT  
GOING TO SLEEP  
IN IT AGAIN!



JOHN 20:1-18

C. WETZSTEIN 07.04.05

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

