



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

WORTH PARISH

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

**19 April
2020**

**Easter 2
Low 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.*

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
For the latest information

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

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe, that's us!

Jesus defeated death and rose again.

The tomb was empty, there are witnesses to this fact. We know he was definitely dead because the Romans were brutal, thorough and would have made sure. Jesus was placed in the tomb, then his body was not there.

Then begins the work of Jesus' resurrection appearances. He arrives among the assembled disciples and says, "Peace be with you". No pomp or ceremony, he just turns up. He begins to reveal his resurrected body, complete with wounds.

Why have his wounds not been healed? Jesus defeated death but still bears the scars. His scars identified him as the real man they knew and loved, who walked and talked with them, healed and preached. Those scars reveal who he is and what he suffered.

When things are going well and we experience great joy and deep faith and we know in our hearts that nothing can separate us from God's love, in these times we still bear the scars of our lives. These scars can be physical and emotional, seen and secret.

A pastor called Leonard J. Vander Zee puts it this way; "In Jesus' wounds the wounds of human life are never far from the heart of God. And if Jesus bears our wounds, then we know that he will also bestow on us his healing."

Doubt? As Christians, we feel pain and sadness, depression and anxiety, painful events and memories stay with us, just like everybody else. We are still driven to doubt.

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Thomas speaks for many of us who have doubts. I wonder, do you have any doubts? I notice that they come to me every so often. Maybe you find it difficult to cope with your own doubts, other people's doubts or questions?

Doubts are not necessarily bad; it is what you do in the face of your doubts that is important. Let's say that this Easter you think is it just too good to be true? Did Jesus really rise again? There is so much suffering in the world.....

I urge you to look at the evidence again; it is written in the Gospels. I have been asked before about the tomb and whether someone took the body of Jesus and hid it away and I know one of the 'clinchers' for me is something to do with the guards, but I can never retain the exact information so that it is readily available. So, I go back to the Gospels, re-read them, study them and the truth becomes clear once again...Here it is in Matthew 28:11-15

The report of the Guard

While they were going, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests everything that had happened. After the priests had assembled with the elders, they devised a plan to give a large sum of money to the soldiers, telling them, "You must say, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.' If this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." So, they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story is still told among the Jews to this day.

So, the question is; Why would the Jews circulate the story of Jesus' body being stolen by the disciples if the tomb was not empty? Interestingly, it was the Pharisees themselves who arranged with Pilate to place guards on the tomb in the first place! Matthew 27:62-25

So, when perhaps you, like me, have attended to your doubts and the fire of faith is once again kindled in our hearts, such a relief! We can drop to our knees and say together, Our Lord and our God!

Lastly, we can see a pattern in the approach of Jesus after the resurrection which we would be

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wise to take note of. **His revelation** is gentle and patient, real and honest. Jesus breathes on them the Holy Spirit to strengthen and embolden them. Come Holy Spirit.

Jesus is faithful. He turns up, often unannounced, says; "Peace be with you", he surprises, coaxes, convinces, shows, gives evidence, takes time, is patient, gentle and eats!

This will characterise the upcoming resurrection appearances from now on in. Won't this be how future Christians come to believe also? I look forward to the road to Emmaus, breakfast on the beach

Peace be with you,

Rev'd Sarah

Collect

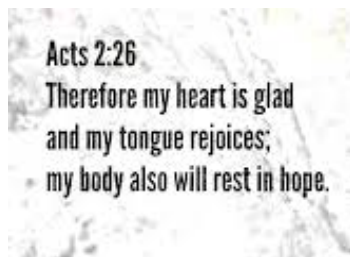
Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Reading Acts 2.14a,22-32

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

'You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know - this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him,

"I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;



therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or

let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence."

'Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, "He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption." This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

Psalm Psalm 16

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the Lord, 'You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.'

As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight.

Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink-offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips.

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure. For you do

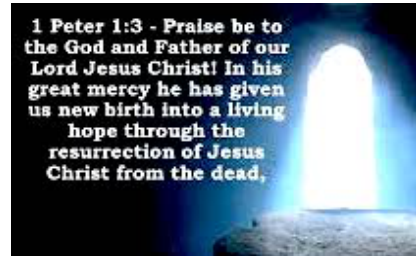
You make known to me the path of life, you will fill me with joy in your presence.

-Psalm 16:11

not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit.

You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Reading 1 Peter 1.3-9



Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a

living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith - being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire - may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel John 20.19-end

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.'



Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.'

Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Post Communion

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

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.

SERVICES THIS WEEK

There will be no public worship until further notice.

Sunday 26 April 2020 Easter 3

Acts 2.14a,36-41 Psalm 116. 1-3,10-19
1 Peter 1.17-23 Luke 24. 13-35

Festivals this week

Tues
21 Apr

Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, Teacher 1109 (LF)

Thur
23 Apr

George, Martyr, Patron Saint of England c.304 (F)

Fri
24 Apr

Mellitus, Bishop of London 624 (C)

The Seven Martyrs of the Melanesian Brotherhood, Solomon Islands 2003 (C)

Sat
25 Apr

Mark the Evangelist (F)

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

DIARY NOTES & NOTICES

Information about events at **Chichester Cathedral** and other resources can be found at:
at: www.chichestercathedral.org

Doris Violet March

We regret to report that Doris Violet March died on 6 April at the age of 100. Doris was a member of the St Barnabas' congregation for a number of years and helped at the Pastoral Centre.

The funeral at Snell Hatch Cemetery will be held on Monday 20 April but only for close members of her family.

It is hoped to hold a service of thanksgiving for her life later in the year.

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). A further grant of £5,000 has been made by the Bernard Sunley Foundation. 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. Much more funding is needed!

If you use Amazon please shop via 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

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
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



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