



WORTH PARISH MAGAZINE



ST BARNABAS', POUND HILL
ST NICHOLAS', WORTH
Reg. Charity No. 1131090

£1.00 December 2020 — January 2021

CLERGY SERVING THE PARISH

Rector	Fr Michael Boag	rector@worthparish.org	01293 882229
Associate Vicar	Revd Sarah Upchurch	vicarstb@worthparish.org	01293 524804
Assistant Priest	Revd Gordon Parry	gordonmwparry@btinternet.com	07802 432398
Curate	Revd Greta	curate@worthparish.org	

REGULAR SERVICES

Our regular services are shown below.

	St Nicholas', Worth	St Barnabas', Pound Hill
Sundays	08.00 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer, 1662) 10.00 Said Eucharist (Common Worship)	10.00 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays - Eucharist 10.00 4th Sundays Child- friendly Eucharist
Tuesdays		10.30 Eucharist
Wednesday		
Thursdays	10.30 Eucharist	
Saturday		

And here's what's happening in the café each week:

St Barnabas' Cafe RH10 7DY		
Tuesdays	10.30 - 12.00	Closed
Thursdays		for
Fridays	10.30 - 12.30	the
	12.30	time
Saturdays	10.30 - 12.00	being

CONTACT US

If you have a Baptism, Wedding or general enquiry, please call the office on 0300 111 8150 or email [**office@worthparish.org**](mailto:office@worthparish.org)

To contact Fr Michael, please phone 01293 882229 Tuesday to Sunday or email him at [**rector@worthparish.org**](mailto:rector@worthparish.org)

To contact Revd Sarah, please phone 01293 524804 Tuesday to Sunday or email her at [**vicarstb@worthparish.org**](mailto:vicarstb@worthparish.org)

To contact Revd Gordon, phone 07802 432398.



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Two friends were walking through the desert. At some point of the journey they had an argument, and one friend slapped the other in the face.

The one who got slapped, was hurt, said nothing, and wrote in the sand:

"Today my best friend slapped me in the face."

They kept on walking until they found an oasis and decided to take a bath. The one who got slapped in the face got into trouble and almost drowned, but his friend saved him.

Continued on P 23

A note from your Ed

Thank you to all who responded so positively to the communications survey and to Viv and Liz who have volunteered to help with copy chasing and advertising. As a result, we are able to go forward into a new year – I wonder what it will bring? Certainly, this time in 2019 the year we have had would not have even featured in a nightmare! However, I don't think this year has been without its positives – Please email your list of things which, in your opinion, added value to your lives this year and, in the meantime, read on to see how our parish has adapted, innovated and grown.



Sue x

Vocals from the Vicar

Contingency Christmas Plans

Usually when we approach the winter season, in our communities and in our churches, we begin the preparation and waiting for the celebration of the first Christmas.

There is also an underlying theme that is interwoven in our everyday lives, which has become more significant now more than ever, and is something that is integral to our survival as humans, namely adaptability.

As humans we have an amazing capacity to adapt; this is how we have populated almost all areas of the world despite having to overcome extreme conditions. Our environment is constantly changing; creation itself is always changing.

During this last nine or ten months, we have all had to adjust to the enforced restrictions during this pandemic. Adapting in this way might feel new and unsettling but in all areas of our life we have to adapt as we learn and grow. We are used to it. Who remembers becoming a sibling, starting school, becoming a teenager, aunt, uncle, or parent?

Sadly, many have recently had to cope with more severe circumstances such as losing jobs or livelihood, illness, loss or bereavement and our hearts go out to those who are suffering in mind, body or spirit.

It makes me wonder how some people have been successful in adapting to challenging circumstances; what helped them through this experience? An example is Joseph from the Old Testament in the Bible, the one with the coat of many colours. Another is Nelson Mandela. In both cases they were imprisoned, and both men had a deep and profound faith in God which they did not lose. They retained their grace and sense of worth. Both rose to be leaders of nations. The gift they had is special, incredibly special, but not exclusive to them.

This week I watched a programme about a school for children with special needs where a disabled teenager was enabled to have a voice through advanced communication technology. Teachers adapted to the needs of the children, ordinary people doing extraordinary feats; nothing short of a miracle and extremely liberating for that young man.

As we return to our preparation and waiting for Christmas and our plans this year, everything will look quite different. Currently, no parties, no carols, no singing, no crib service. Yet, let us remember our capacity to adapt as humans that undoubtedly we already have. So, with the strength of faith, hope and love, we will find new ways of celebrating the birth of the Christ child.

I say this as I ponder, yet again, for another year how to arrange for a real live donkey to grace the doors of St Barnabas'!

One day it will happen!

Peace be with you.

Rev'd Sarah

TIMES PAST & CURRENT



mothers union
Christian care for families worldwide

Worth & Pound Hill Branch Update

September – November 2020

Like everyone else, Mothers' Union has, sadly, not been able to hold any meetings or do any of their Fund Raising activities this year.

We were able to hold a service in September; a wonderful service led by Revd Sarah, when she talked to us about what prompted her to become a Priest. We were able to come together in St Barnabas' church but suitably spaced apart, wearing masks and without our usual rousing hymn singing.

Our second service, in October, was our Birthday Service celebrating 33 years of our Worth and Pound Hill Mothers' Union Branch. In October we usually have our Songs of Praise but instead of Songs members spoke, as part of the sermon slot, with the help of poems and readings, about how these had helped them through the first lockdown. Normally we have birthday cake and tea or coffee to follow the service and time for a chat; this year each member was given a bought cupcake, in a bag, to take home to have with their favourite cuppa. Then we had to leave.



The second lockdown means we will not be able to have our "Looking Forward to Advent" Service in November, which is normally followed by mince pies or a piece of stollen, and packing little parcels of socks for the Gatwick Detainees. This year we will be packing the socks at home and leaving them, on 26 November, in the Narthex or having them collected by a committee member. Mary will take them to a Contact for Brook House, in time for Christmas.



We are making "stars" that will be placed in both churches, leading up to Christmas, with love from us to you - we are still 'shining a light for the Birth of Jesus'. Please take one home and remember those we will not be able to see this Christmas; either keep it or pass it on to someone who needs a light in their lives.



In January we are hoping that we will be able to have another service. This will be in place of our annual New Year Supper, so watch the pew sheet for details.

We send Love and Prayers and Happy Christmas wishes, from all at Worth and Pound Hill Mothers' Union.

Joan Tick & Mary Fry

St Nicholas' Circle

We meet again for the first time since the beginning of March. This time it will be virtual and with an exciting new format and an exciting guest.

It's ironic that since March many of us have been locked at home, a lot of the time, on our own Desert Island. On Thursday 3 December Neil

Dobson, our Bell Tower Captain, will be talking about what he would do on a Desert Island. He chooses some music and reminisces about his life. The meeting will be by Zoom and if you would like to attend and have not yet received your Zoom invitation then please contact Max Perry on

max.perry@datamax.co.uk or contact the Parish Office on 0300 111 8150 and the message will get through. Everyone is welcome, members or non-members. Already two members of our Parish who have moved away (geographically) have signed up for December along with 20+ others.

Zoom could well be the future for our group while the health crisis continues, and into the future for Winter meetings. During the Summer, when weather and daylight hours and, in more normal times health, are better, we hope we will return to meeting together at St Barnabas'.

Based on the success of those who have signed up for 3 December we also have a speaker for a February Zoom meeting, Inside the Pyramids – Prof Graham Beaumont.

We are not old and past it, we are adaptable.

Max Perry 07435 788127



A View from a Pew

Just as I was becoming accustomed to our pared down, muzzled (and muffled) services, lockdown and, hence, lockout of our public worship are about to strike once more.

So... my pew will yet again become the edge of my bed and the view, rather disconcertingly, will be my own inescapable reflection in the mirrored floor-to-ceiling doors of my fitted cupboards!

Needless to say, in the first period of lockdown, I perfected the art of looking down, to avoid my image, assuming an appropriately humble posture and concentrating on the prayers in my hands.

For, before streaming (and receiving) of services became possible and glitch-free, I had taken up my trusty prayer book, given to me when I was confirmed, in order to follow the service of Holy Communion at 8am as usual.

Now this prayer book is some 55 or so years old and, somewhat perspicaciously, I had only repaired it earlier this year when, using it for research, I realised that the text block had come adrift from its cover.

The cover is white 'leather' with, on its front, a gold-tooled cross and, on its spine, gold-tooled letters:

COMMON PRAYER
HYMNS A & M

In my hands it guaranteed that I would get the right words in the right order as I worshipped alone - but in the knowledge that across the land, as always, others would be praying with me along with, as we're assured, the heavenly hosts.

As well as the devotions, however, it also summoned up memories:

of my parents who, though not privileged, gave me a loving, generous and Christian upbringing; of my dad who began my 8am tradition; of past congregations and churches; of simpler times when there was only one order of service for each worship 'event' so that every type of service - Marriage, Baptism, Burial, Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer and so on - could ALL be printed together WITH all the psalms AND almost 800 hymns in a little book which fits into the pocket of my coat!

Moreover, as I've said elsewhere, a little book containing words that have been prayed every week, at least, for some 400 years.

So, when normal services resumed - rather abnormally without books or sheets available - my prayer book came with me to provide the day's Collect, Epistle and Gospel. (Frustratingly, for lay people and sermon-writing clergy, these are NOT the same as the 10am readings).

Now, as I write, it is to become my sole worshipping companion again.

I know that, through the wonders of modern technology, I can gratefully attend streamed services, which have become an essential and much welcomed part of our lives but, when the wi-fi lets you down, the once white-hot technology of printing and the Book of Common Prayer won't!

Linda Eells

Ringling

The bell ringers continue to meet fortnightly via Zoom, though mostly for a chat rather than doing any virtual ringing, which we had tried in the first lockdown (as described in a previous magazine). We also keep in touch via WhatsApp. When there have been Sunday services at St Nicholas', Neil has appeared on the path armed with a recording of Worth bells, a Bluetooth speaker and a pair of ear defenders to provide 20 minutes of ringing before the 10.00am service. Weather permitting, he also had a crossword to do (in case you were wondering why he had a clipboard and appeared to be making notes). We also "rang" for two weddings in this way. Real ringing has not been possible due to the work on the spire and, in any event, the rules for social distancing would have meant that we would only have been able to ring three bells at most.

So, we have continued to meet and I have continued to provide the sound of bells for the arriving congregation - while doing a crossword.

Neil Dobson

Saturday Markets

These have been a regular social and fund-raising activity at St Barnabas' for over 30 years. They are held in the Pastoral Centre and run by a faithful band of volunteers. We have usually had one Market each month – usually on the first Saturday of the month from 10.00 -12 noon. Items for sale include books, bric-a-brac, clothing, toys and games – basically anything that people donate which will raise funds for St Barnabas' projects. We ask that items be in good condition if not new. The Café is open for refreshments with drinks and cakes for sale, and often other home produce such as preserves.

Years ago, the Markets each raised £100+ but in recent years we have tended to only raise, on average, about £70 at each event – not a great deal, but every little helps! More important than the money raised is the social aspect of these events – the Markets do bring people into the Pastoral Centre. Relaxing and chatting with drinks and homemade cakes is very satisfying!

Since March the Markets, like most other events, have been on hold – the first time in over 30 years. We were, however, fortunate in being able to hold a Market on 31 October 2020. This took place in the Hall with different timings to normal – open from 1.00pm. The Pastoral Centre Café was open for drinks and homemade cakes, and so on. Obviously, we had to follow Covid-19 rules with a risk assessment in place, social distancing, hand sanitising and the wearing of masks. The weather was unfavourable - being extremely wet and windy! We did, however, raise £130.15 (this included a couple of donations) and the event did bring some new people into the Hall and the Pastoral Centre.

We hope to resume with the Markets – or similar regular fund-raising activities - as soon as possible, when we hope you will join us. Let us have any items for sale, do come along and let us know if you would like to help at these events; there is always room on our rota!

Phyl Pennell

November 2020

BRF or the Bible Reading Fellowship

BRF is a registered charity that promotes studying the Bible by providing notes for daily reading.

Messy Church is part of BRF's work – did you know that? Lucy Moore was working for BRF when she started Messy Church in 2004.

Did you know that Worth Parish has a BRF Church Group? Probably not, because we have been 'lying low' for a few years! Julia Peaty, the previous Rural Dean, encouraged us to set up the group when we had the Year of the Bible. We started with about a dozen subscribers but we are now down to just five, which is the minimum number in a 'group' for BRF notes. One advantage of a Church Group is that the delivery of the notes, three times a year, is free of charge, as they are delivered to one address.

Try a FREE sample:

Visit www.biblereadingnotes.org.uk/samples-and-promotional-materials/

where you can download free samplers for all BRF notes.

It might help to know that several of our Parish regulars like "New Daylight".

The notes cost £4.70 for 4 months; and you get 140+ pages of absorbing reading.

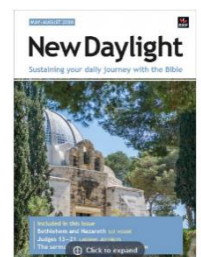
If you would like to join our Parish BRF Group, please contact Ann Phillipson on 01293 885517. The next set of notes covers Jan – Apr 2021 and postage is free if you order through us.

"A moment where you invest in yourself, in your relationship with God, and in the faith that carries you through hard times."

Of course, reading your Bible daily can be enjoyed using other materials (or none). But I am hoping that you have discovered that feeding your faith by reading God's Word regularly is just as vital as 'feeding your face'!!

Could this be your New Year's Resolution?

Ann Phillipson



Ordination Service

St Nicholas' 27 September 2020



Going in



The Presentation



Taking the Oaths



Making the
Declarations



Receiving the Holy Spirit



Giving of the
New Testament



Photo call with Bishop Ruth



Remembrance Sunday by the Flower Ladies

The Flowers Ladies here at St Barnabas' thought it would be rather pleasant to do something a little different for Remembrance Sunday this year as it marks the 75th anniversary of the ending of WW2.

We asked parishioners if they had any photos, documents or items of any kind relating to WW2 that they would be willing to loan to us and are extremely grateful to all those who so generously responded.

Not daunted by the latest government lockdown due to start a few days prior to Remembrance Sunday, we brought our plans forward and set about getting the display completed prior to lockdown commencing.

We thoroughly enjoyed putting the display together and hope as many people as possible were able to view online our own little tribute to those who gave so much in so many ways during WW2.

Thank you all so very much

Mary, Viv, Nicky and Jane



Virtual Autumn Quiz

The Parish Quiz was held remotely on 19 September. This was a very enjoyable affair (not least because we won!; see the winning team, right), ably organised by Sue and Max. Using Zoom, the questions were provided in written form on screen. Teams were allocated to their “breakout rooms” for each round of questions, so that they could discuss the answers with their teammates even if they were in separate locations, without being overheard. Everyone was then brought back together, the answers were read out by Max (with help from Sue) and you marked your own answers (no cheating!). The scores were then collected before the next round of questions. There was also a puzzle round and a set of Dingbats to solve (not marked) to entertain you during any downtime. And you can have a drink without worrying about having to drive home afterwards! The next virtual quiz is on 30 January. Put the date in your diary now for an enjoyable, light-hearted evening. It’s not taken seriously (unless of course you win), raises much needed funds for the Parish and gives us a chance to connect with each other. You don’t need to be a technical wizard to be able to participate; it’s as simple as clicking the link provided and letting Max do the rest.



More details are in the advert on page xx

Neil Dobson

How goes the Parish Finances?

Well in a few words – could be better!

If you would like to contribute to our own ‘lottery’ where you know what charitable organisation will benefit from your contributions and you stand a chance of winning it back why not join our 100 Club?



100 CLUB

The 100 Club is an initiative to raise funds on a consistent basis, toward the costs of the many projects that we need to fund over the coming years.

How does the 100 Club work?

The aim is to have 100 members (we currently have around 40). Each member commits to paying £10 per month, by standing order (to keep the administration simple) or an annual payment.

There are currently four prizes each month, half the proceeds going to the Parish and half in prize money.

1 prize of £100 1 prize of £50 2 prizes of £25 every month

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO TAKE OUT ONE OR MORE SUBSCRIPTIONS
TO THE 100 CLUB, PLEASE CONTACT

The Parish Office 0300 111 8150 or email office@worthparish.org

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE PARISH?

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners and The Annual Parochial Church Meeting



Following the postponement of the APCM from its original date back in March due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it was finally possible to hold the meeting after the Sunday service at St Barnabas' on the 25 October. The meeting was also live-streamed with Zoom. Considering the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the meeting was well attended – with 18 in person and 13 via Zoom.

The meetings followed the usual format with the Annual Meeting of Parishioners electing two Churchwardens: Gerald Sandwell and David Anderson.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting followed with reports being noted as published in the Annual Report. The Electoral Roll Officer reported that the Electoral Roll had reduced in number with a total of 147 members. The Treasurer reported that with the significant reduction in income, particularly from organizations hiring the facilities at St Barnabas', the Parish is running with a deficit of around £20,000. It was noted that since August there has been an increase in hiring both from existing and new organizations.

PCC appointments were made for Deputy Churchwarden (Colin Smith) and Members (Anita Wilkinson, Luke Milburn and Sebastian Pellisier). There were no volunteers for lay representatives to the Deanery Synod; the Parish being represented by our Clergy.

The next Annual Meeting of Parishioners and The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held at St Barnabas' on Sunday 25 April at 11:30am.

David Anderson

St Barnabas' Refurbishment

Following on from the last magazine article and the display of the Notice at St. Barnabas' re our intended works, we did receive the Faculty from the Chancellor giving us the go-ahead for the work.

A lack of funding has meant that, for the moment, we cannot carry out the whole project and so decided to phase the works. We asked two of the original contractors to re-tender for phase one – the Pastoral Centre work and associated outside work. Unfortunately, neither builder quoted for what we had asked. These quotes have been under discussion and we also decided to approach two other local builders for this first phase of our project. We have had one tender for a value of £49,950 + VAT + the cost of the kitchen (approx. £6,500), a total of around £66,500.

It is hoped that some of the VAT on the work would be refundable as the works are primarily to improve access for the disabled.

During the last eight months our fund-raising activities have been virtually wiped out by the

coronavirus pandemic so our project funds have not been increasing as much as we would like. We did, however, in October, benefit from a £300 donation from the Asda Foundation and on the 31 October we held a Saturday Market which raised £130.15 in spite of very rainy weather! Just this last week we have received a donation of £7,760 – this is amazing!

Hopefully we can proceed with Phase 1 - the Pastoral Centre – in the next couple of months. Thank you to all those individuals who have been donating to our project.

We still need much more funding for the other phases of the work – work on the Narthex, a new porch and landscaping; so please do support us.

Donations can be sent by Bank Transfer to:
Worth PCC, sort code 40-18-22 a/c 61223372

Phyl Pennell
November 2020

St Nicholas' - What's happening up the tower!

Something positive to see, on the brink of another lockdown...

Below is the regilded weathervane cockerel, ready to go aloft but at present sharing space on a desk with a pair of walking boots, maybe in (our local DBR manager) Cary Wadey's study at home. Just back from the restorer/panel-beater.

& what the bird looked like in the summer, held by Cary for me to look at after they'd brought it down from the top of the spire. The weather & occasional sniper had not been kind.

It'll look stunning when it's back up where it belongs & catches the sun!



St Barnabas'

Whilst there have been many restrictions imposed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, it has been a busy time at St Barnabas'. To ensure our facilities are "Covid-19 secure" we have created new risk assessments and worked closely with all our hirers to help them restart their activities. This has meant that some groups now meet in the church so that they can maintain adequate social distancing; particularly the various support groups that meet within our facilities.

We have also been working hard maintaining the buildings and the grounds and thanks go to the team that has worked quietly in the background throughout, ensuring everything is kept in good order. Special thanks to the Hangout for their considerable efforts in the Jubilee Garden to develop a quiet reflective area.

The St Barnabas' mission project plan aiming to improve access and facilities has required significant effort over the past year and is progressing well; this is detailed in a separate article.

The Tuesday services continue to be live-streamed, with the Sunday services alternating live-streaming with the St Nicholas' service. When we are not "live" the service is recorded and posted on Facebook later in the day. This is proving to be very popular, reaching a weekly average of around 200 people for the Sunday service and around 125 for the Tuesday service.

David Anderson

Gifts under the Christmas Trees at St Barnabas' and St Nicholas'

This year we will be collecting gifts for Open House. Items must be new and can be warm winter clothing, non-perishable foods and toiletries. Please place your gifts in one of the boxes provided under the trees by Tuesday 22 December or contact Phyl on 01293 883362 or Joan on 01293 884695

We usually also collect gifts for the Golden Lion Children's Trust, but this year they are unable to collect due to Covid-19 regulations.

Israel and Judah: Confused?

Well, I am! I realised that I was thinking of 'Israel' and 'Judah' as essentially the same. I was wrong, but of course you may have paid more attention at Sunday School.

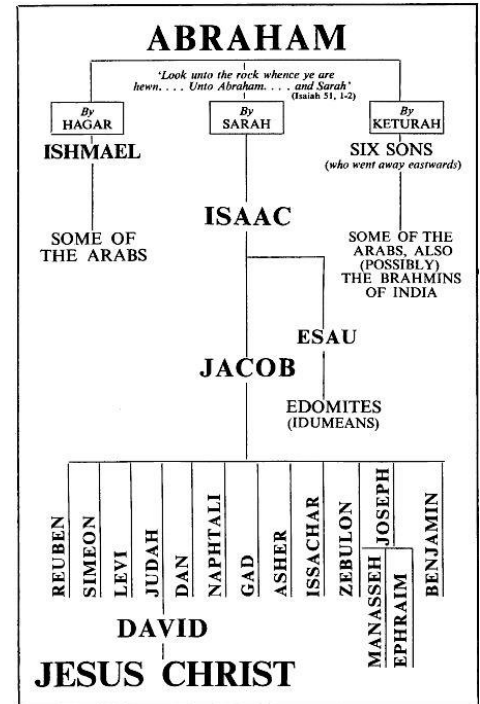
Israel

'Israel' was the name given to Jacob after he had wrestled with the angel (Genesis 32). The name was then given to all the sons of Jacob, who formed the 12 Israelite tribes, and so all Jewish people.

During the reign of Rehoboam, around 930 BCE, the 10 Northern tribes who were attached to Jeroboam on the death of Solomon (933 BCE) split to form the Northern Kingdom (in blue on the map below).

The Northern Kingdom was captured by the Assyrians under Sargon II in 721 BCE, and the people scattered, or taken captive. The area became the Assyrian province of Samaria.

In the New Testament the Christian Church is referred to as the 'new Israel of God' (e.g. Galatians 6). 'Israel' was taken as the name of the Jewish homeland created 1948.



Judah

At the time of the split with the Northern tribes, the tribes of Judah and Benjamin formed the Southern Kingdom, faithful to the House of David, which was essentially the cause of the split, and known as 'Judah' (dark yellow on the map, left). Judah was the fourth son of Jacob and Leah and his tribe were loyal to the Davidic kingship.

The most powerful of the tribes of Israel, they outlasted the Northern Kingdom and continued to maintain a purer religious faith. Joseph, the 'father' of Jesus, was directly descended from David and so Christ was considered of the 'house and family of David' (Luke 2).

Well, I am clearer and I hope that you may be, too.

Sea of Galilee, Sea of Tiberias, Lake Gennesaret

Well, here's another confusion, at least for Church Mouse! This one is easier to sort out as they are in fact all the same body of water, about 13 miles long and up to 8 miles wide. 'Galilee' because that is the region, 'Tiberias' from a major town on its shores and the capital of Herod Antipas, 'Gennesaret' from another town and because the lake is harp-shaped. But all the same place.

Church Mouse



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Vanishing Religions [4]: The Druze



You may have heard of the Druze; they form militias in Syria which support the Al-Assad government, and are one of the 18 religious groups in Lebanon. Currently there are about 500,000 Druze, or maybe a few more, roughly half in southern Lebanon, and the remainder divided between south-west Syria and northern Israel, where many Druze fight within the Israeli army. Their heartland, previously on the Druze plateau in Syria, is now in the Shouf Mountains in southern Lebanon.

You may also be aware that the wife of George Clooney, Amal Alamuddin, is of Druze heritage. As the Druze strongly discourage marriage outside the community, an elderly Druze woman on their engagement commented: "Aren't there any young Druze men left? ... God give you better luck my girl."



It is difficult to describe Druze' beliefs as their religion is extremely secretive, and not even understood by most 'lay' Druze. Only the clergy, who include both men and women and comprise about 15% of the Druze population, are admitted to the 'mysteries', and then only in a limited and graded way.

However, it seems that they believe in the One, a changeless and timeless 'still point' on which the universe depends. The One did not create the universe, but the Universal Mind and the Universal Soul emanated from the One. From these emanated the physical and spiritual worlds. There are three other, inferior, celestial beings: the Word, the Precedent and the Successor. These five beings are all subject to reincarnation and Jesus previously appeared as one of these beings in human form.

Although regarded as a form of Islam, the Druze are not bound by Muslim religious practices. Indeed the 'ordinary' Druze is not required to undertake any religious or devotional rites, although the clergy are expected to live a rigorously ascetic life. To be a good Druze you only have to: observe truth in speech; give protection and aid to the Druze community; renounce other forms of worship and false belief; repudiate Iblis (the devil); recognise the divine unity in humanity.



The Druze beliefs have two sources. The first is in Greek philosophy; they are neo-Platonists and, in particular, revere Pythagoras. Their symbol the pentagram (top right) is a Pythagorean geometrical symbol and reflects the five beings. Their second source is descent from Ismailis, an esoteric set of minority Muslim groups, whose source is in the complex arguments over succession from Jafar al-Sadiq, the sixth Shia Imam. However, the Druze became established in the 11th century in Fatimid Cairo. Kalifa al-Hakim, an important figure in early Druze history, was recognised as incarnate reason; he disappeared in 1021 and although, they believe, he is not dead, he is hidden. The Druze believe that since they are reincarnated in the community of the enlightened, only they can ever hope to attain real wisdom – a true reflection of Pythagoras.

The Druze have the usual problems of a religion which strongly discourages marriage outside the community and does not welcome converts. However, although a very small group, they have succeeded in maintaining their land and their autonomy, unlike the Yazidis and the Zoroastrians, and continue to be influential in Middle Eastern affairs. It is too early to write them off.



Church Mouse

For more information, see 'Heirs to Forgotten Kingdoms' by Gerard Russell (2014); the book which inspired these articles.

#trendingchurch

Pound Hill Toddlers

It is with regret that the Toddler Group has been unable to meet as a result of the pandemic.

Ensuring the safety and welfare of all volunteers and members has been the major concern, coupled with the difficulty of cleaning all the equipment and the need to ensure social distancing. We hope to start back as soon as conditions permit.

Jenny



Sunday School

Although not back to what we used to do, we have some packs made up to entertain our youngsters during the service at St Barnabas.

Nicky and Caroline x



Baptisms

October 2020
Hally Isabella Mead
Logan Arthur Katigbak-Jones

Child-friendly services
Come and celebrate with us!
At St Barnabas' Sunday School is every week and the 4th Sunday every month is especially child-friendly – except in a lock down!

the hangout

Great to be back in a socially distanced, masked, but friendly way.

Your hangout team

A white PlayStation 4 DualShock controller is shown diagonally across the left side of a wooden-textured background. The controller has black buttons and a black touchpad.

St Barnabas' Hall
Pound Hill
RH10 7DY

the hangout
youth club

Fridays 7-8.30pm

POOL
TUCK SHOP
TABLE TENNIS
COMPUTER GAMING
GROUP ACTIVITIES

Ages 11-16
Running in term times

worthparish.org

Shadow's Blog

I don't know about you, but I don't like the chilly weather. I know I've got fur but to be honest most of that ends up all over the sofa which is why my humans put a lovely cover over the sofa to protect it. Anyway, the other week it was really cold and I couldn't find my blanket, so my only option was to burrow through the sofa cover to get underneath it. It was warmer in there, but I don't think my humans approved or enjoyed the game of hide and seek that ensued when they came into the room and couldn't find me! I have promised to 'try' not to do it again, but they are not convinced. I know it's especially important to keep warm this winter, but maybe next time I'll use my blanket instead. Must go, I can smell that dinner's ready!

Shadow





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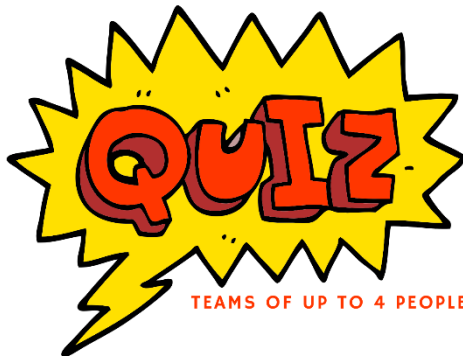
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Oh, what a year for a poor little bear!

I really do not know if I am supposed to be in or out!



After last Christmas I made plans, silly I know but I did, just before I went for my winter sleep. When I woke up I looked at my Little List and as it was a lovely sunny day, decided now is the time to lose some of my winter fluff (Christmas cake fluff mostly) so off I waddled and returned refreshed vowing to do it every other day, or three!

My Little List was going well until March when my plan for Mothering Sunday went downhill. Would you believe it I had to stay in. I had not long started going out and I had to wear a mask! No, not a funny one but a 'surgical' one. I am still wearing it; not the same one I might add. I have been out, then in, then out and now in again. I really don't know where I am going. What I do know is that I am not going OUT. Like you, I expect, I am trying to be a good little bear, to stop me and everyone I am in contact with getting the horrible Covid -19 virus.

Suddenly, I have realised it is nearly Christmas again. How did that happen; did they chop off part of the year and I missed it? If so, no one told me.



I am going to cheer myself up now and think about what Jesus would want us to do. If you would also like to know -- READ ON...

When Jesus was born, humbly in a stable, he had nothing around him, except some animals, his parents Mary and Joseph, and his Father in heaven. Then, suddenly there were visitors, angels, shepherds, villagers and eventually three Magi (wise men). There were gifts, a lamb and gold, frankincense and myrrh, just what a



baby wanted! I am sure he didn't complain but I expect Mary and Joseph were a bit surprised! There was a significant reason behind all the gifts that were given to Jesus, as I am sure you may know or perhaps guess; all to do with His future here on earth.

I wonder how many of us had gifts when we were younger that either shaped our lives or that we have found useful now we are older. At this time of the year we are USUALLY all pondering what we can buy someone for Christmas. I expect none of us are thinking of trying to buy the same gifts that Jesus



had. The thing is I believe what we should be giving this year is friendship, peace, joy and love. It can't be bottled but it is free! The Bible tells us the greatest is **love**.

We must all take care of each other and ourselves so that we can share our Christmases in the future in the way we have in the past, but are unable to do this year.

Now I am sorted and know that I should be 'in' as the nights are dark and cold, so before I tuck down, I send you all a Cuddly Bear 'love hug' and pray we will all meet again next year, peace be with you. Stay safe.

With love from me



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At the time of writing we are thinking hard about how we can celebrate Christmas in a safe way. It is best to hope for the best, but prepare for the worst, then whatever happens we will have something to look forward to.



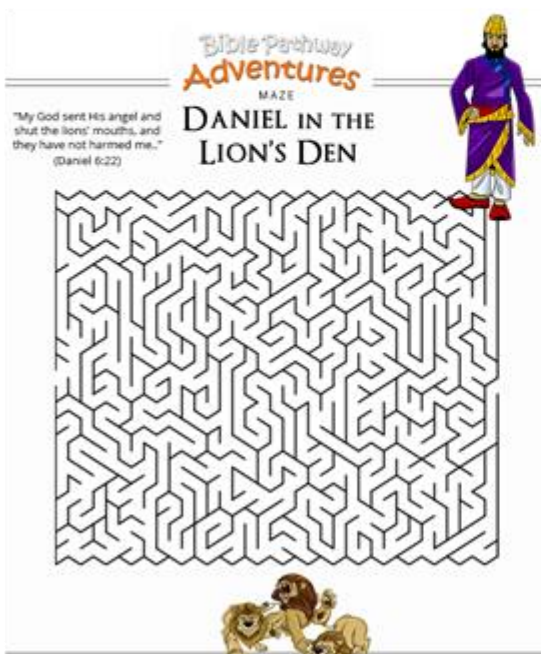
We may not be able to meet face to face, but we keep our stories and crafts going via our Messy Messenger which is being emailed out every month. If you are not on our Messy mailing list and would like to receive this every month please email Stuart

jstuartsharp@aol.com;

In the meantime

Keep safe

Sue x



USEFUL NUMBERS

Altar Servers (St Barnabas')	David Anderson	Please contact the office on 0300 111 8150 or office@worthparish.org if you would like to be put in touch with any of these groups
Altar Servers (St Nicholas')	Jenny Dobson	
Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals	Parish Office	
Bellringers	Neil Dobson	
Bookings (Hall, Meeting Rooms, Café,	Revd Sarah	
Buildings and Facilities	See	
Children's Society	Ann Lane	
Choirs (Worth Church and Festival)	Alex Hiam	
Church Cleaning (St Barnabas')	Jane Stanford	
Church Cleaning (St Nicholas')	Jill Freeborn	
Churchwardens (St Barnabas')	David Anderson	
Churchwardens (St Nicholas')	Gerald Sandwell Colin Smith	
Co-ordinator (Parish)	Sue Perry	
Events	Jane Stanford	
Families, Youth and Children's Work	Caroline Formby (
Flower Arranging (St Barnabas')	Jane Stanford	
Flower Arranging (St Nicholas')	Noreen Oxlade	
Friends of St Nicholas'	Colin Smith	
Giving (Donations etc)	Sheila Dring	
Julian Group (St Barnabas')	Don Hewerdine	
Julian Group (St Nicholas')	Linda Eells	
Knit and Natter	Val Rudd	
Magazine	Sue Perry	
Messy Church (not running during the	Sue Walshe	
Mothers' Union	Mary Fry	
Office (Parish) (manned or ansaphone 24/7)		
Office at St Barnabas' (not generally		
PCC Chair	Michael Boag	safeguarding@worthparish.org
PCC Secretary	Liz Gallagher	
PCC Electoral Roll Officer	Jane Stanford	
PCC Treasurer	Sheila Dring	
Prayer Group	Linda Eells	
Safeguarding Officer	Anita Wilkinson	
Social Media	David Anderson	
Stewardship Officer	Stuart Sharpe	
St Nicholas' Circle	Max Perry	
Sunday School	Caroline Formby	
Toddlers (not running during the pandemic)	Jenny Dobson	
Website		hello@worthparish.org
Weddings	Parish Office	0300 111 8150

After he recovered, he took a chisel and with it carved in the stone:

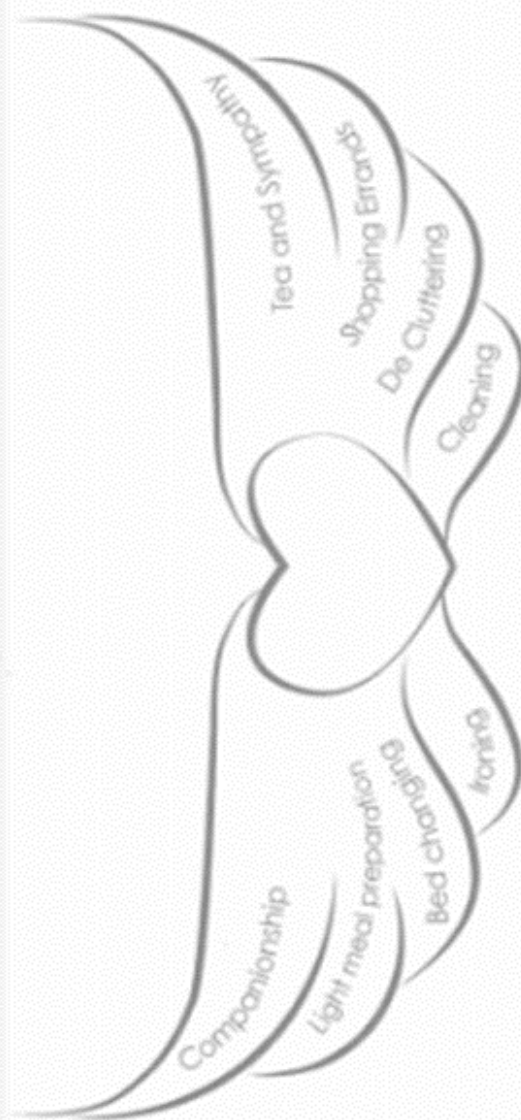
"Today my best friend saved my life".

The friend who had first slapped him and then saved his life, asked:

"When I hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now you write on stone. Why?"

The other friend replied:

"When someone hurts us, we should write about it in the sand so that winds of forgiveness can blow it away. But when someone does something good for us, we should engrave it into stone so that no wind can erase it.



Heaven Scent

Are you or a family member or friend suffering from loneliness or social anxiety and would like to have a companion to go out with?

Do you have a relative or someone you know that are left for long periods of time? and you can't help much due to your work commitments and your busy family life?

To see if Heaven Scent can be beneficial to yourself, a relative or neighbour,
please contact Julie on

07771 393 371 or email: julieeydman@mail.com