



**5 December
2021**

Advent 2



Welcome to
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.

SERVICES TODAY

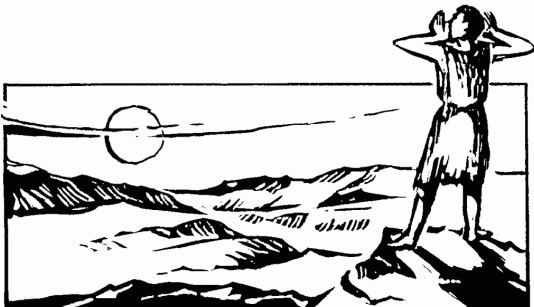
Our churches are now open again
(With Covid precautions – see page 3)

Certain services will still be available
online (live or recorded)

08:00 Said Eucharist (BCP) St Nicholas'
Celebrant & Preacher Revd Sarah Upchurch

10:00 Sung Eucharist St Barnabas'
Celebrant & Preacher Revd Sarah Upchurch

10:00 Sung Eucharist St Nicholas'
Celebrant Revd Greta
Preacher Fr Michael Boag



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

The 2005 film of *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*, the story of the land of Narnia where it is always winter and never Christmas, featured Tilda Swinton as the White Witch. One reviewer described her as a 'horribly vindictive creature sporting matted dreadlocks like a Notting Hill trustafarian, riding a chariot like an ice-maiden Boudicca and having albinoid eyes that are at once coy and murderously venomous. She commands our attention,' he writes, 'and we are seduced and repelled by her in equal measure.'

The seductive glamour of evil is not confined to children's tales: selfishness, corruption, greed, and so on are not new. The Old Testament prophets including (the last, from a Christian perspective) John the Baptist, the 'voice of one crying out in the wilderness', warned of their danger. Like the White Witch's Turkish Delight, giving a quick hit but leaving unsatisfied and empty, they would be high on any Advent list of sins to avoid.

As we go through another period of anxiety and uncertainty, we can be seduced, perhaps not so much by evil but by dread and the fear that if something bad hasn't already happened to us then it probably will. However, we must be resolute and confident that God is working his purpose out and that his will is always, ultimately, for good. We can and should resist the temptation to despair, as Baruch urges: 'Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction'

You don't need that old coat any more!

Fr Michael

Collect

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. **Amen**

Reading *Baruch 5.1-9*

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, 'Righteous Peace, Godly Glory'.

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look towards the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has



ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to

make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Psalm *Benedictus*

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty saviour for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant

us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be



called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Reading *Philippians 1.3-11*

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my

**May your love
increase and abound**

prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge

and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Gospel *Luke 3.1-6*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene,

during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into



all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,

as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Post Communion

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

SERVICES THIS WEEK

Tues 7 Dec	10:30 Said Eucharist	St Barnabas'
Thur 9 Dec	10:30 Said Eucharist	St Nicholas'
Sat 11 Dec	11:00 Burial of Ashes 15:30 Messy Christingle	St Nicholas' St Barnabas'
Sun 12 Dec	8:00 Eucharist (BCP) 10:00 Sung Eucharist 10:00 Sung Eucharist 16:00 Carols for All	St Nicholas' St Barnabas' St Nicholas' St Barnabas'

Sunday 12 December 2021 Advent 3 Gaudete Sunday

Zephaniah 3.14-20 Psalm 146.4-10
Philippians 4.4-7 Luke 3.7-18

Festivals this week

Mon 6 Dec	Nicholas, Bishop of Myra c.326 (LF)
Tues 7 Dec	Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, Teacher 397 (LF)
Wed 8 Dec	The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (LF)
(F) Festival; (LF) Lesser Festival; (C) Commemoration	

DIARY NOTES & NOTICES

Pastoral Centre Café

The Café is open for Coffee and Cake on Wed and Sat from 10:00.

Covid Precautions in Church

While many of the Government restrictions have now been lifted, we are continuing to be careful and cautious in both our churches:

- Please wear masks (if not exempt) and use hand sanitizer when entering and moving about inside.
- Masks may be removed during the service.
- We have resumed congregational singing. If you are uncomfortable with this, please sit somewhere apart from or behind those who are singing.

Toddlers Group

The Toddlers Group meets on **Tuesdays 13:00-15:00** and **Thursdays 9:00-11:00** during term time in St Barnabas' Hall.

Friday Lunches

Lunch in the Pastoral Centre at 12:30 on **10 Dec**. Two courses and a drink £6.50. To help with catering please book your place at the Pastoral Centre (café open Wed and Sat) or via the Parish Office, by Wed **8 Dec**. All welcome.

The Hangout

Youth Club at St Barnabas' continues on **Fridays 19:00-20:30** Years 7-11. Entry free. Weekly during term time.

Scrabble and Cake

Mon 6 Dec 14:30-16:30, in St Barnabas' Café. Come and enjoy a game of Scrabble (other games also available, e.g. dominoes, jigsaws), tea, cake and company. £3.50. All welcome. In aid of St Barnabas' Refurbishment Fund.

Ho, ho, ho! Olly Taylor's Christmas Show

There will be a (free) open dress rehearsal of Olly Taylor's 'Ho, ho, ho Christmas Show!' for the parish in St Barnabas' church on **Fri 10 Dec** at 16:30 (doors open from 16:00). Suitable for and enjoyed by all ages. Please email Olly to let him know if you would like to come:

olly.taylor@me.com

Messy Church Christingles

Please join us for the story, crafts, songs and prayers, followed by a light tea. The December Messy Church will be on:



Sat 11 Dec 15:30-17:00 and **Wed 15 Dec 15:15-16:45** both in the Hall at St Barnabas'. Everyone welcome - mums, dads, grandparents, carers - come and enjoy!

St Nicholas' Julian Group

will **NOT** meet in person in December due to the clashing commitments of our group. Prompts and prayers to aid our silent meditation at home, however, will be sent to all who wish it. Please let the Parish Office know if you would like to be sent a copy.

St Barnabas' Julian Group

Mon 13 December at **14:00** in St Barnabas'. Old and new friends very welcome.

Thanks

The Saturday Market on 27 November raised £181.95 towards St Barnabas' Refurbishment. Thanks to all our supporters.

Many many thanks to the donors of the iPhone, iPod and CD player. Very much appreciated.

CONTACTS

The Rector

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Assistant Priest

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Assistant Curate

Revd Greta, the Curate (Thurs & Sun)
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DOES ANYONE **REALLY**
"PREPARE THE WAY OF
THE LORD" OR IS THIS
JUST RHETORIC?



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WELL,

JESUS **WALKS** THE WAY
OF THE LORD. IS THE
CROSS "JUST RHETORIC?"



WAIT - IS THAT A
RHETORICAL
QUESTION?



LIKE 3:1-6

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