

**19 December  
2021**

## Advent 4



# 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 -** (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 Gordon Parry

10:00 Sung Eucharist  
Celebrant & Preacher

16:30 Lessons and Carols      St Nicholas'



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

This time last year, for the 4th Sunday of Advent, I wrote here about Advent being the season of waiting. Like Mary, we were waiting for the birth of Jesus; but we were also waiting for lockdown to end and the pandemic restrictions to be over. I had no idea that we would still be in the throes of a pandemic a whole year later... still waiting with uncertainty for life to return to 'normal'. And yet even when that waiting is over, and the pandemic is no longer centre stage, life will never be the 'normal' it once was. It will be a new 'normal'. Whenever an event of such epic proportions takes place, life is changed forever. Sometimes, the change is imperceptible. But there's often a tangible difference. I know I will never again take a handshake for granted; or the hug of a friend.

Mary waited for nine months to give birth to Jesus, and yet once that waiting was over, her life was never the same again; her new 'normal' began. The birth of Jesus was an event of epic proportions, not just for his mother, Mary, but for all of us.

Every Advent we wait in joyful anticipation to celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. This Christmas, when the waiting is over and we wake up on Christmas Day, let our new 'normal' begin. Lives filled with love, peace, joy and hope as we let the Christ child into our hearts and into our lives.

Revd Greta

## Collect

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## Reading *Micah 5.2-5a*

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.



## Psalm *Cantic: Magnificat*

'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'



## Reading *Hebrews 10.5-10*

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God" (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).' When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to the law), then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by

**SANCTIFIED**

*once and for all*

God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

## Gospel *Luke 1.39-45*

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy



Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

## Post Communion

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

## SERVICES THIS WEEK

Tues 21 Dec	10:30 Said Eucharist 18:00 Blue Christmas	St Barnabas' St Barnabas'
Thur 23 Dec	10:30 Said Eucharist	St Nicholas'
Fri 24 Dec	14:00 Crib Service 16:00 Crib Service (online only) 23:30 Midnight Mass 23:30 Midnight Mass	St Barnabas' St Nicholas' St Barnabas' St Nicholas'
Sat 25 Dec	8:00 Eucharist (BCP) 10:00 Sung Eucharist 10:00 Sung Eucharist	St Nicholas' St Barnabas' St Nicholas'
Sun 26 Dec	8:00 Eucharist (BCP) 10:00 Family Service 10:00 Sung Eucharist	St Nicholas' St Barnabas' St Nicholas'

### Friday 24 December Midnight Mass

Isaiah 62.6-12   Psalm 97  
Titus 3.4-7   Luke 2.8-20

### Saturday 25 December Christmas Day

Isaiah 52.7-10   Psalm 98  
Hebrews 1.1-4   John 1.1-14

### Sunday 26 December 2021 Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr

Acts 7.51-60   Psalm 119.161-168  
Galatians 2.16b-20   Matthew 10.17-22

## Festivals this week

There are no Festivals this week

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

## Payments to the Parish

If you possibly can, please avoid making payments to the Parish by cheque, especially for small amounts (there are significant bank charges). Instead, please transfer the money by electronic payment to: Worth PCC, sort code 40-18-22, account 61223372. If you need help, call the Office.

## DIARY NOTES & NOTICES

### Pastoral Centre Café

The Café is now closed.  
It will re-open on 7 Jan 2022.

### Covid Precautions in Church

Government restrictions have now been extended and we are continuing to be careful and cautious in both our churches:

- You are required to wear masks (if not exempt) and use hand sanitizer when entering, moving about inside and during the service.
- Guidance is awaited on congregational singing.

### Limited attendance

If you would like to attend the Nine Lessons & Carols service on Sun 19 Dec at 16:30 and/or Midnight Mass at St Nicholas' on Christmas Eve at 23:30, **please email or call the office**, as numbers will have to be limited again this year: office@worthparish.org 0300 111 8150

### 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

Lunches resume on **7 Jan**.

### The Hangout

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

### Christmas donations for Open House

Donations of soap, deodorant, shampoo, coffee, sugar, biscuits, long life milk, tinned meat, tinned veg and fruit, **new socks and underwear, still in the packaging**, woollen hats, scarves & gloves etc., can be left in the boxes provided at the back of each church. Thank you.

## Recycling

Please keep your bottle tops, stamps, and ink cartridge recycling until the last two weeks of January. A reminder will be put in the pewsheets nearer the time.

## Help with Energy Bills and Supply

Advice available from Citizens Advice 0808 223 1133; or visit these sites – [gov.uk/cold-weather-payment](http://gov.uk/cold-weather-payment) and [gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme](http://gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme) and [britishgasenergytrust.co.uk](http://britishgasenergytrust.co.uk) or contact your supplier,



## CONTACTS

### The Rector

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### Vicar at St Barnabas'

Revd Sarah Upchurch 01293 524804  
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### Assistant Priest

Revd Gordon Parry 07802 432398  
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### Assistant Priest

Fr Francis Pole 07764 752608  
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### Assistant Curate

Revd Greta, the Curate (Thurs & Sun)  
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### Churchwardens

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Rose Wells (St N) 01293 884250  
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Colin Smith (St N) 01293 889894

### Worth Parish Office

Sue Perry 0300 111 8150  
[office@worthparish.org](mailto:office@worthparish.org)

[www.facebook.com/worthparish](http://www.facebook.com/worthparish)

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

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

SO MARY WALKS INTO  
ELIZABETH'S HOUSE AND  
JUST BREAKS INTO SONG  
LIKE JULIE ANDREWS?

WELL, MARY  
KNEW THE  
SONGS OF THE  
SCRIPTURES.

AND MARY'S SONG IS BASED ON  
HANNAH'S SONG\*. MAYBE THAT WAS  
ON HER MIND AS SHE TRAVELED  
TO SEE ELIZABETH.)



\* 1 SAMUEL 2:1-10



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