



**11 December
2022**

**Advent 3
Gaudete Sunday**



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

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

08:15 Said Eucharist (BCP)	St Nicholas'
Celebrant & Preacher	Fr Michael Boag
10:00 Sung Eucharist	St Barnabas'
Celebrant & Preacher	Rev'd Sarah Upchurch
10:00 Sung Eucharist	St Nicholas'
Celebrant & Preacher	Fr Michael Boag
16:00 Carols for All	St Barnabas'

Please try our new QR code to donate to
Worth Parish. Scan this code with a
smartphone to take you straight to a giving
page.



An imprisoned John the Baptist must have been desperate to authenticate the identity of Jesus, about whom information was even penetrating the walls of his prison. Those who had seen John asked Jesus what they should say to John. The response from Jesus was to ask them to recount his healing actions and the hope given to the disadvantaged.

Jesus was well-aware of the nature and ministry of John and how counter-cultural it must have seemed to the crowds who saw and followed him. He then went further and compared John's status and appearance to what might have been expected of a person of power and influence. He then suggested that those who had already gained the kingdom of heaven had achieved a greatness infinitely beyond even that of John - so compounding the surprise that those of so unbecoming an appearance and of so inconsequential a status should acquire in heaven an incomparable value and status in the eyes of God.

Our society has a curious view of human value. We attribute colossal value to particular activities - roles in the media for example - and relatively little value to what we often see as simple, repetitive jobs, however vital they are in maintaining the quality of our environment and our wellbeing. We attribute relatively low levels of remuneration to many areas of the caring professions.

Our country is becoming increasingly disrupted by industrial action which, in part at least, is intended to draw attention to this. How is the value of what we do to be assessed? Surely Christians should become involved in what is a really serious debate about the value of each and every human being and our attribution of status and esteem to them.

Gordon

Collect

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Reading *Isaiah 35.1-10*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a



fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with

vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Psalm *Psalm 146.4-10*

When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish. Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith for ever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.



The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. The Lord will reign for ever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

Reading *James 5.7-10*

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late



rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See,

the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel *Matthew 11.2-11*

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?'

To Ask Him, "Are You The One Who Was To Come, Or Should We Expect Someone Else?"

Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Post Communion

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

Amen

SERVICES THIS WEEK		
Tues 13 Dec	10:30 Said Eucharist	St Barnabas'
Thur 15 Dec	10:30 Healing Eucharist	St Nicholas'
Sun 18 Dec	8:15 Eucharist (BCP) 10:00 Sung Eucharist 10:00 Sung Eucharist 16:00 Nine Lessons and Carols	St Nicholas' St Barnabas' St Nicholas' St Nicholas'
Sunday 18 December 2022 Advent 4 Isaiah 7.10-16 Psalm 80.1-8 Romans 1.1-7 Matthew 1.18-25		

Festivals this week	
Tues 13 Dec	Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse 304 (LF) Samuel Johnson, Moralist 1784 (C)
Wed 14 Dec	John of the Cross, Poet, Teacher 1591 (LF)
Sat 17 Dec	O Sapientia Eglantyne Jebb, Social Reformer, Founder of 'Save the Children' 1928 (C)
(F) Festival; (LF) Lesser Festival; (C) Commemoration	

DIARY NOTES & NOTICES

St Barnabas' Julian Group

Meets on **Mon 12 Dec** at **14:00** in St Barnabas'. All welcome.

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

Returns in the New Year on **10 Jan**.

St Nicholas' Julian Group

will meet for half an hour of silent prayer **Wed 14 Dec** at **12:30**. Please feel free to join us - everyone welcome!

Pilgrim's Nurture Course

on **Wed** nights at 19:00 in the Café at St Barnabas'; for those who are exploring or want to refresh their faith.

Friday Lunches

Friday lunch on **16 Dec** in the Pastoral Centre at 12:30. Two courses and a drink £7.00. To help with catering please book your place at the Pastoral Centre (café open Wed and Sat) or via the Parish Office, by Wed **14 Dec**. All welcome. We will be closed for Lunches on 23 and 30 Dec.

The Hangout

Youth Club at St Barnabas' on **Fri 16 December 19:00-20:30**
Ages 12-16. Entry free. Weekly during term time.
Last meeting until the New Year.

Parish 2023 Calendar

A Calendar with photos of the Parish. Lots of space for writing engagements; public holidays and major Christian festivals shown.

£10 – **all of which goes to charity.**

Widely available, or contact Liz Gallagher.

Every home should have one; perfect present!

Gifts under the Christmas Trees

Both churches will be collecting gifts for two charities. Open House welcomes tea, coffee, canned and packaged foods, toiletries and warm clothing. The Golden Lions Children's Trust welcomes toys, books and puzzles. Items must be new and unwrapped (although rolls of wrapping paper are welcomed). Donations can be brought to either church up to and including the Crib services on Christmas Eve. Thank you

Christmas Eve Nativity

16:00 at St Nicholas'. If any children, age 3+, would like to join in creating the Nativity Story during the Crib Service we will be holding rehearsals on **Thurs 22 Dec & Fri 23 Dec at 16:00 until 17:00** at St Nicholas'. Interested? Please come along, collect a costume and see what you will have to do. All are welcome.

Scrabble and Cake

Scrabble and Cake on 7 Dec raised £26.50 for St Barnabas' Refurbishment Fund. The next session of Scrabble and Cake will be on **Wed 25 Jan, 14:30 – 16:30** in St Barnabas' Café.

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

Assistant Priest

Fr Francis Pole 07764 752608
francis.pole@virgin.net

Assistant Curate

Revd Greta, the Curate (Thurs & Sun)
curate@worthparish.org

Churchwardens

David Anderson (St B) 01293 409914
stbwarden@worthparish.org
Rose Wells (St N) 01293 884250
stnwarden@worthparish.org
Colin Smith (St N) 01293 889894

Worth Parish Office

Sue Perry 0300 111 8150
office@worthparish.org



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