For you, Lord, are good and forgiving, Abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.



PSALM 86:5



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
Assistant Priest	Fr Francis Pole	francis.pole@virgin.net	07764 752608
Curate	Revd Greta	curate@worthparish.org	

REGULAR SERVICES

Our regular services are shown below.

	St Nicholas', Worth	St Barnabas', Pound Hill	
Sundays	08.15 Holy Communion (BCP, 166)	2)	
	10.00 Sung Eucharist	10.00 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays - Eucharist	
		I 0.00 4th Sundays Child-Friendly Eucharist	
Tuesdays		10.30 Eucharist	
Thursdays	10.30 Eucharist		

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

St Barnabas' Café RH107DY		
Wednesdays	10.00 - 14.00	Coffee Shop
Thursdays	14.00 - 16.00	Knit 'n Natter
Fridays	10.30 - 12.30	Coffee Shop
	12.30 - 14.00	Friday Lunch Club (Please book - see P18)
Saturdays	10.00 - 13.00ish	Coffee Shop

CONTACT US



worthparish.org



office@worthparish.org



Worth Parish Office St Barnabas' Church Worth Road Crawley RH10 7DY



0300 111 8150



facebook.com/worthparish



instagram.com/worthparish



twitter.com/worthparish

Clergy

To contact Fr Michael, please phone 01293 882229 Tuesday to Sunday or email rector@worthparish.org

To contact Revd Sarah, please phone 01293 524804 Tuesday to Sunday or email vicarstb@worthparish.org

To contact Revd Gordon, phone 07802 432398.

Office

If you have a Baptism, Wedding or general enquiry, please call the office on 0300 111 8150 or email office@worthparish.org

Churchwardens

David Anderson stbwarden@worthparish.org

Rose Wells stnwarden@worthparish.org

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Good content is not storytelling, it's telling your story well

RESONANCE from the RECTORY!

Have you been to Burnham Deepdale in North Norfolk? It is well worth a visit to see the Anglo-Saxon tower, the medieval glass and square Norman font. Each side of the font, four panels on each, over three sides shows a countryman at his work. Digging the ground in March, pruning a vine in April, in May carrying a banner in the Rogationtide festival, weeding in June, scything in July, binding the sheaves in August, threshing in September, grinding corn in October, slaughtering the pig in November; then a change of tempo for



the cold quarter of the year. In December he's joined at a table by three others to enjoy the feast. January finds him drinking from a horn and in February, sitting in a chair in front of the fire with his feet up. The whole year is marked and measured out. The divisions between working and resting no longer seem to exist in our 24/7 world as we have come to expect instant access, instant results; so these depictions of a year following a steady rhythm give us pause for thought. If our lives are to avoid unending sameness and monotony, it helps to find and notice daily differences, such as by being in, or observing, a garden, or taking time to be out in the country, to reveal changing seasons, sometimes dramatically, sometimes almost imperceptibly.

The Church's year is one of ever-changing seasons, Advent to Christmas, Lent to Easter and so on. Many people after Christmas take on 'Dry January' to counter the effects of Yuletide excess and some go even further with a January fast. The traditional fasting seasons of the Church are Advent, in preparation for Christmas, and Lent, in preparation for Easter. (Many also like to keep a Wednesday or Friday day fast, at other times of the year.) The whole of January, in the Church's calendar, is taken up with the Feast of The Epiphany and the Christmas season doesn't come to an end until Candlemas, the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (2 February), so it's quite hard to see how in January, it would be possible to fit a fast into a feast. The rhythms of the Church's year take into account fasting and feasting and keep them in balance. After two months of the Christmas Feast, there's a short pause before Ash Wednesday (this year 22 February) and the start of the great Lenten Fast, in preparation for the great Easter Feast. To fast or to abstain from alcohol or meat for a period of time will undoubtedly bring physical and mental benefits. The tradition of the Church is to add a spiritual side; encouraging prayer, reflection and study and we are always encouraged to make the most of Advent and Lent to do so. For Muslims, Ramadan provides a similar rhythmic break in the year.

In recent years, the Daniel Fast has become popular. It's called the Daniel Fast after this account in Daniel I: Then the king commanded his palace master Ashpenaz to bring some of the Israelites of the royal family and of the nobility, young men without physical defect and handsome... The king assigned them a daily portion of the royal rations of food and wine... But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the royal rations of food and wine... Daniel asked the guard: 'Please test your servants for ten days. Let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink. You can then compare our appearance with the appearance of the young men who eat the royal rations, and deal with your servants according to what you observe.' So he agreed to this proposal and tested them for ten days. At the end of ten days it was observed that they appeared better and fatter than all the young men who had been eating the royal rations. So the guard continued to withdraw their royal rations and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

The Daniel Fast (usually twenty-one days) is a vegan diet (no animal products) and, in addition, no processed foods, additives, preservatives, spices, nuts, seeds, flavourings, sweeteners, caffeine, alcohol, oils, and products made with grains. Ellen G. White (1827-1915), founder of the Seventh-day Adventist tradition, says the example of Daniel demonstrates that 'a strict compliance with the requirements of God is beneficial to the health of body and mind.' She also wrote, 'A plain diet, free from spices, and flesh meats, and grease of all kinds, would prove a blessing to you, and would save your wife a great amount of suffering, grief, and despondence.' Time magazine reported that the actor Chris Pratt (Guardians of the Galaxy etc) gave the Daniel Fast new popularity by posting an Instagram story about adopting it as his latest diet.

Whatever your pattern of feasting and fasting, may they be times of spiritual richness and joy! Fr Michael

A note from your Ed

Well, as predicted, Christmas for our family was a full on affair. It was certainly celebrated with enthusiasm, both on the day itself and again on 6 Jan. Then we 'reduced' our decorations to those applicable to the Nativity until Candlemas. So, by the time you are reading this our house will have returned to normal (as far as that can ever be). However, if you feel you need a little more Christmas then our mag will not disappoint!

Today at different times I was watching the birds feeding, helping our Ukrainian Granny feed a multitude of people in our café and looking at the snowdrops - What a wonderful world God has given us and we should appreciate, love and protect it always.

Bless our world and everything and everyone in it.





PS In the Country Life recently they published an email by a G Vernon. In it he/she comments that in his/her parish there is a Church Mouse who is observant, wise and literate and provides the church magazine with all manner of information which may (or may not Ed) have originated from articles in the Country Life magazine. Apparently the mouse is one of the most successful of mammals due to its remarkable adaptability to almost any environment and, apparently the name 'mouse' comes from the Sanskrit word for 'thief'.



PARISH ROUNDUP



November 2022- early 2023

Happy New Year! It seems a little too late to type that but I think that many, if not all, of us could do with being wished health and happiness this year.

The sun is shining today and after a dull wet and snowy few months it is a very welcome sight, so I will add to that brightness by reporting what our Parish Branch has been up to, and some of what we are planning for 2023. Even if you are not a member you can come along to our afternoons if the topic appeals to you, or if you just want to come along and see what we are 'all about' as an organisation, you never know you may want to join us; that would be wonderful!

Last November we held our Preparation for Advent Eucharist service, led by Revd Greta, followed by the annual packing of socks as gifts for the Gatwick Detainees - and the not to be missed pre-Advent / Christmas mince pies and stollen!



Did you miss that? Oh dear, perhaps next November!

In December Mary and Joan ran the Cake Stall at the Christmas Fair, wearing their blue MU aprons. Thanks to everyone who supplied home-made cakes for us to sell for Parish funds.

Mothers' Union get everywhere, even to decorating the Blue Christmas tree for the special service that month.



January seems to arrive faster each year but is always welcome, especially when we join together as a Branch, for our New Year Supper. I am sure there will be one or two photos for you to see in the next magazine.

During February we will be holding a Shriving Service, at St Barnabas', led by Revd Sarah, on Tuesday 21 February at 10:30; where two of our Crawley

District branches will join us and our Parish Congregation. All are welcome, to ask for forgiveness and be absolved of our wrongdoings. Traditional pancake refreshments will follow the service, as in years past. No, sorry, I will not be tossing the pancakes!

Later in the month we will hold our AGM and, hopefully, welcome two 'already Members' to our Fold, err, Branch, which will be marvellous.

We have lots of other things planned including a summer Cream Tea, so look out for the posters and adverts, and then you can help us raise money for the Away From It All holidays.

Joan Tick and the Committee

St Nicholas' Circle

We had a great turnout for the Wine and Cheese evening in December and look forward to meeting again after the clocks spring forward. More in the next mag.

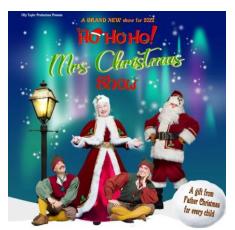


St Barnabas' Churchwarden Update

As you can imagine Advent and Christmas are a busy time, not that the rest of the year is quiet! We started with the Parish Christmas Fair at the start of December. It was very popular and enjoyed by all those who came along on the day. We had many stalls offering homemade cakes, decorations, as well as pre-loved gifts with an innovative price structure based on the cost of various cups of coffee – well done Rose! There was also a raffle, jigsaws and a visit from Father Christmas! The café provided refreshments and homemade Christmas treats.



After the Christmas Fair we provided the rehearsal space for Ollie Taylor's theatre show, "The Ho Ho Ho Mrs Christmas Show", which was a wonderful show telling the Christmas story with a mix of actors and puppets. We were able to see the final dress rehearsal before the show moved to Swindon for a two week run at the Swindon Arts Centre – it was a fabulous show enjoyed by children and adults alike. This followed on from last year's show, making this something of a tradition at St Barnabas' – I wonder what we have to look forward to this year?





Through Advent – thanks to Revd Sarah and Colin – we had a representation of the Advent candles outside St Barnabas', which certainly caused a reaction in Pound Hill with more than 170 "likes" and "comments" on Facebook; hopefully leading more people of Pound Hill to Jesus. Thanks also to Mid-Sussex Timber www.mst.co.uk for donating the materials for our candles.





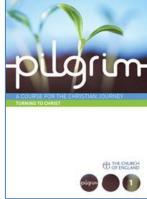
The Nativity service was as popular as ever; lovely to see the church full of young people to recreate the Christmas story.

The Café at St Barnabas' continues to be well used by many groups meeting during the week and remains popular on Wednesday and Saturday for coffee and cake. More volunteers are always needed as are cakes – please let us know if you can help.

After a break over Christmas the Saturday Markets return and are, as always, popular, raising much needed funds for the St Barnabas' project to provide level access throughout the church – thanks to Phyl for organising these events, the helpers and, of course, our customers!

The Pilgrim's Nurture course for those beginning to explore, or wanting to refresh, their faith continues. This is in the Café at St Barnabas' on Wednesday evenings at 19:00. It is a course that helps to discover and understand the Christian way of life, as well as showing you how to pray through readings, reflection and conversation. Thanks to Revd Sarah and Mary Fry for leading us on this journey. As the initial course draws to an end, further courses are planned – look out for details.

David Anderson



St Nicholas' Churchwarden Update

November 2022

To be honest (there's an opening for you!) news of our proposed Archdeacon's Visitation at the beginning of December was a pretty large fly in my jar of Spruce and Spice scented Advent ointment There was, however, as the letter from the Archdeacon's secretary breaking the news went on to say "no wiggle room" on the date. It was the 6 or the 9 December; the Archdeacon was going on a Sabbatical after Christmas. Father Michael suggested the 6 as it was our Patronal Festival Day and a little Saint-power might help us rise to the Occasion. For any of you unfamiliar with the traditional practice of a Visitation, as I was, it might be helpful to compare it with Ofsted or the CQC 'visiting' your School or Hospital? Hmm. Interesting use of the word 'helpful'

Two phases of enquiry were required. Firstly a summary of the Mission within the Parish covering Everything. What a daunting task – so much to say and so little time to prepare and organise. There was a deadline of 23 November for submission of this document. We achieved this with time to spare by invoking 3 powerful helpers:

- I. Prayer
- 2. Team Work with Clergy and the Wardens
- 3. Creating a matrix from the document of requirements sent to us

Then we had to turn our attention to preparing for the second 'Live' part of the Visitation . All manner of things needed to be collected and collated: Lightening Conductor tests, records of gutter clearance, Insurance Certificates, all the Parish registers, Logs and Inventories. Pre 2020 when I was a 'Pray and Go' member of the Sunday Congregation the existence of all this enablement of our Parish life was unknown to me. My part in the process this time allowed me to glimpse, in the Logs and Registers, the dedicated work of current and previous Wardens, Clergy and many faithful friends who have given their time and energies to see the Parish well-run. Thank you to all of them.

The Venerable Angela Martin did a thorough review on the 6 December, and was with us much longer than we were probably expecting, but the process was fair and fruitful and we received encouragement in all our respective roles. I learned a lot from the experience. On the very same day we received the Faculty from the Diocese allowing the installation of our new boiler - but that's copy for the next edition.

Rose Wells

Holy Baptism

8 Jan 2023	Harper Ava Scarlet Menzies &
	Freya Ami Elizabeth Menzies
29 Jan 2023	Eva Alicia Luckett

It has been our pleasure to baptise all these children. Baptism is a Sacrament of the Church – through baptism we become members of the Church, the body of Christ here on earth. Baptism is available for everyone, young or old – come and talk to us.







Click & Collect: www.mstc.co.uk The Golden Lion's Children's Trust were very grateful for the donations we sent at Christmas. They sent letters to both churches.



20th January 2023

Dear Revd Michael and Revd Sarah,

Re: Donation of toys, etc to Golden Lion Children's Trust

On behalf of the Committee of Golden Lion Children's Trust I should like to thank everyone at St Nicholas Church, Worth and St Barnabas Church, Pound Hill kind enough to donate so generously once again to the Golden Lion Children's Trust at your Christmas Eve Toy Service. The collection this year was amazing. We really appreciated the gifts, which were used to make up the sacks of presents we gave to local children of families in crisis in the GLCT Christmas 2022 Special Deliveries project.

Starting in summer to source toys, books and games we have worked with school SENCOs, social services, domestic abuse agencies, etc to identify families expecting to have very little to celebrate in the way of festivities. Each family was helped with a questionnaire to choose the most appropriate main present from a GLCT catalogue of possibilities for their child or children. In addition to the main present each sack contained an additional small present together with a selection box of sweets.

The sacks were delivered by a team of GLCT helpers on Saturday 17th December to each of 398 local children- and on Christmas Eve morning, when we were made aware of families suddenly involved in domestic violence we supported 7 more children. 405 children in total. And if we are informed of more families who had nothing or very little over Christmas, or generally bleak circumstances in 2023, thanks to *your* generosity we shall be donating to even more children throughout the year.

Since the men and women working at Gatwick founded the charity in 1973 the GLCT have worked with local organisations and individuals assisting in various ways, to support local children with special needs or disadvantaged families. Thank you to everyone in St Nicholas and St Barnabas congregations for helping GLCT once again. We can only tell you how grateful the families are and how much they appreciate such generosity.

Our very best wishes to all members of St Nicholas' and St Barnabas' congregations for a healthy & happy 2023.

With kind regards,

Chairman Golden Lion Children's Trust

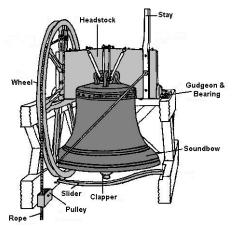
PO Box 400 • Lewes • BNS 4RZ Tel: 01273 **891963** Email: enquiries@glcl.org.uk

> www.glct.org.uk Founder: Harry Davis

Tower Captain's Report 2022

It was good to continue our return to normality this year although we did keep planning the practices in advance until the end of May, after which we abandoned the process and went back to the old way of running practices! This was around the same time that we welcomed Jean into the band. Jean learned to ring some time ago and has decided to take it up again, now that she has the children off her hands!

Normality means that we rang for every Sunday morning bar one (the reason for missing one, I will come to). We met on 45 out of 52 Thursdays for practice, missing two because of insufficient ringers and others for the AGM, Maundy Thursday, Sue's party, our social in December and our rest break after Christmas (although to be fair, with Christmas Day being a Sunday there was less seasonal ringing



than usual). We rang for 12 weddings and one funeral. We also provided the sound of bells for a wedding at St Barnabas! A sign of the times is that only 6 of the weddings took place on a Saturday, which can make getting bands a bit more of a challenge, so we do need to call on outside help from time to time. An innovation this year was the introduction of an additional advanced practice on a monthly basis, so that our more experienced ringers get a chance to learn new methods. We managed 9 of these and hope to continue into this year. We also rang for other services throughout the year; a Choral Evensong in August, the Requiem in November, the Advent Carol Service and the Service of Lessons and Carols, as well as the usual Christmas services – the Crib Service (back "live" this year), Midnight Mass and Christmas Day.

Although we nominally had 18 ringers on our roll at the start of the year, average attendance is around 8. There are several reasons for this. Phil decided to leave the band during the year and Caroline has now moved away. Lucy and Richard have young children to look after, Graham cannot manage the stairs and Judy has been unwell. Work commitments also restrict our numbers. All in all, this means our core group has only been about 9 or 10 ringers although we can now add Jean to that and we are teaching Sasha to handle a bell, having introduced her to ringing in August. We are always happy to take on new recruits and there is a national campaign – Ring for the King – to promote ringing as a hobby, which may generate some interest.

There were 9 quarter peals on the bells this year (one of which was by a visiting band). We rang for the 70th anniversary of the Accession of HM Queen Elizabeth II in February and for the celebrations in June to mark the Platinum Jubilee. It is worth recording that Gerald rang for the Coronation and each of the subsequent Jubilees (Silver, Golden and Diamond) as well as for the Platinum Jubilee. We rang to celebrate the birth of a daughter to Caroline and for the end of the year as has been our tradition. Carolyn rang her 50th quarter on the bells!

Following on from the joy of the Platinum Jubilee, we had the sadness of the death of Her Majesty. As this happened on a Thursday, we took the opportunity to fully muffle the bells (with the tenor left "open" at backstroke) and curtailed our usual practice to a couple of short touches. The following day Carolyn, Gerald and I tolled the tenor continuously for one hour as part of the protocol following the Queen's passing. The bells were then to be left fully muffled for any ringing until after the State Funeral. The exception to this was for 24 hours following the proclamation of King Charles III, when bells were to be rung open in celebration. As this would have meant unmuffling the bells for Sunday service and then re-muffling them again (not an easy task), we decided that we would not ring on that particular Sunday (and not least because we were likely to be short of ringers). On the day of the funeral Martin tolled the tenor 96 times finishing spot on the start of the service.

Once again, I would like to thank everyone for their continued support and in particular Carolyn, initially for helping with the planning and now for taking on the training of Sasha. Now we need to start planning for the Coronation on 6 May!

Neil Dobson, Tower Captain, January 2023

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Everyone has their unique story to tell. Come and talk to us; we would love to have a chat.



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BRF or Bible Reading Fellowship

This 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 six, 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, if they are delivered to one address.

Try a FREE sample. Visit <u>www.biblereadingnotes.org.uk/samples-and-promotional-materials/</u> where you can download free samplers for all BRF notes.

It might help to know that the Parish regulars like "New Daylight".

The notes cost £4.95 for 4 months. (Sorry, regular readers – it's just gone up!) 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 May – August 2023 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 vital.

Ann Phillipson

Friday Lunches

At St Barnabas' Café 12:30. There are five ladies who take it in turns to cook a two-course homemade lunch with tea/coffee afterwards for the sum of £7.

Because we do not want to waste food or not have enough, it is helpful if you book by telling whoever is on duty that Friday for next week, contacting 0300 111 8150, or call into the café and have your name added to the list.

The Ladies who Cook



FRIDAY
LUNCHES

St Barnabas' Cafe, Pound Hill, RH10 7DY

Main course
Dessert
Tea /
Coffee

EVERY FRIDAY 12.30PM

Tickets £7
available from 0300 111 8150 or the Cafe

On Fri 26 Jan, Halyna, Sue & Max's Ukrainian 'granny' cooked for 28 hungry people. They certainly weren't hungry when they left! On the menu was pork patties with creamy mashed potatoes and salad with a yoghurt dressing. This was followed by a Ukrainian version of apple pie with custard and topped off with chocolate brownies.

PCC Meeting St Barnabas' Church,

PCC Meeting held 18 January 2023

After Prayers and formal business, the previous Minutes were approved.

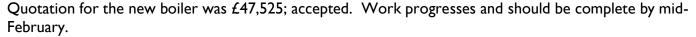
No date has yet been set for Chalice Assistant Training; hopefully in February.

Parish Defibrillator - investigation ongoing.

A Baby Changer unit has been installed in the Disabled toilet at Worth.

Finance:

The new bank online machines are up and running. Parochial and Parish Fees were discussed; note that the £45,090 cash position is strictly for Parish running costs.



Christmas Charity collections totalled £1,001.45 (in 2021 was £444.62).

Energy costs continue to be a concern. A grant of £4,375 has been received from the Diocese.

Aged debts are being chased and recovered.

Parish Share Pledge of £79,925 now submitted. Target increases submitted for next three years.

Gift Aid is being claimed.

Cecil Butcher's nephew has applied to reserve a space in the old churchyard next to his uncle's grave.

Safeguarding:

A new statutory document, 'Reporting of Serious Incidents' is being prepared for the Diocese.

Fabric: St Nicholas'

Excellent work by the Churchyard Team noted.

Lighting down the access path has been improved.

The Archdeacon's Visitation was a success, after much preparation.

Fabric: St Barnabas'

The boiler for the Hall has had to be replaced.

The Hall floor has been inspected and a quote for remediation is expected.

The Archdeacon's Visitation was a success.

Other Matters:

Agreed to dispose of the plaster Nativity Set stored at St Barnabas'.

A continuation beyond the Pilgrim's Course was agreed, and other social events to promote the Church community discussed.

It was agreed to petition the diocese for the Parish's legal name to be changed to 'The Parish of Worth, Pound Hill, Maidenbower and Forge Wood'; also for the Incumbent to be 'Rector' rather than 'Vicar'.

Greta and Seb introduced a proposal to explore joining the Inclusive Church network.

Plans for the Coronation of King Charles III discussed. St Barnabas' Day (11 June) to be celebrated in some way.

Funds from the Thompson Investment Trust to be requested from the Diocese; Flower Account to be

The Meeting closed with prayer. Next meeting 8 March 2023.



A Parish of Prayer, Parties and Partridges

Christmas at Worth is a musical time. In the 24 hours starting at 14:30 on Christmas Eve 2022, there were a total of 31 different pieces of music played, sung and conducted across the various services. However, the most surprising for many people was the use of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' as the closing voluntary at the end of the Midnight Mass. And the reasoning for that goes back to October 2017 when Fr. Michael joined us as Rector. At the end of that service, he promised our Bishop that the parish would become one of "Prayer and Parties."

And so it was, at least until the pandemic paused the parties. A theme for the last few months has been one of "back to normal" and, to this end, we wanted to restore a lot of the music to Christmas Midnight Mass that had been taken out when the service was much more constrained. Part of that was the reintroduction of 30 minutes singing in the choir before the service. But another part of that was the reintroduction of a 'Christmas Song' as the close of the service.

The thinking is as follows - that the service itself is a turning point in the Christian year. The point at which we move from a period of expectation to a period of celebration. So, the anthem during Communion itself needs to reflect the Incarnation and be numinous in nature... but after the service has been closed, and the people formally dismissed, it's time to let our collective hair down with a 'Christmas song.' Looking at the piece, 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' is about as Christmassy as the first Die Hard Movie - set at Christmas, but about a party that crossed the social lines between the nobility and the peasantry.

The earliest version of the lyrics dates from about 1780, and includes a couple of words that had fallen out



of use by the early 20th century (let alone the 21st) These words are "goldspinks" and "perdrix." A Goldspink is just another name for a goldfinch. The original lyric had five of them, nestled between the other birds (the seven swans, six geese, five goldspinks, four colley birds, three french hens, two turtle doves and the eponymous partridge). Indeed, the original tune didn't have the special melody for "five gold things", but was just the same as the other verses. As the word goldspink dropped out of common use over the next 150 years, people started thinking that the lyric was "gold rings" rather than "goldspinks". After all, until the mid-20th Century, most

people learnt words by hearing them, not by actually being taught how to read. The fancy tune came later still, in the early 20th Century, when Novello (the music publisher) realised that they couldn't copyright a traditional folksong unless they added a distinctive musical twist, and the "five go-old rings" tune was commissioned. It's worth noting that, by the middle of the 20th Century, American usage had been to take the two notes on go-old and assume there had to be two syllables, and therefore sing "golden rings."

The perdrix is the Norman French for Partridge. It's common in modern English to use different words for the meat vs the live animal. Typically, we have the live animal using an Anglo-Saxon name like "cow" or "pig", because Anglo-Saxon was the language of the rural labouring class. The upper class, who got to eat the animal, used the French names - beef, pork and so on. We have the same for the partridge. In French it's "perdrix", which is spoken "pear dree." The same thing happened as to "goldspinks" - people tried to convert what they were hearing into English words that they understood, so the pear tree got sort of imagined into the song in the 18th Century.

And the other verses? The Lords and Ladies are the guests. The drummers, pipers, and maids are all working-class - the entertainers and the caterers to use the terms we'd use today. But it's nice to think of everyone celebrating together, because that's a legitimate thing to do at Christmastide, especially in a parish of prayer, parties, and, as we've established partridges.

One post-script - Fr. Michael had approved the music choice in advance, but Revd Greta and Fr Jamie hadn't been told. So that moment when the altar party were processing out when the shock appeared on their faces was real... and both decided they wanted to come back in to listen, and ultimately, with the whole congregation, join in.

I've been involved in the choir for about 20 years, but never known a whole congregation to join in with a choir anthem before. Have we established a tradition?

Mark Harrison

To Be, or Not to Be?

Just now and again, Church Mouse feels compelled to write about a topic (I hope it's the Holy Spirit, but one can never be sure!).

This topic, Assisted Dying (AD) or Assisted Suicide, is one of these. I am aware that some people find the topic distressing and, if that's you, stop reading now.

Church Mouse is aware that there are strongly held views on both sides of this debate and, while he has a personal view, there are people who he respects who hold the opposing view. It will not





surprise you that the Church of England is entirely divided on the topic.

We are often told that with modern end-of-life care no-one needs to die in pain or distress. This is largely true although there are some forms of pain, such as neurogenic pain, which can be difficult to alleviate. Chronic disease may be found intolerable. The distress is commonly given as a reason for permitting AD.

I once had a boss who was quite frequently asked by new admissions to our facility to assist them to die. He would evade the question, but determine the sources of distress which led to the request. This distress quite often comes not from the primary disease, but from 'side effects', often from medication. Examples might be dry mouth, breathlessness, incontinence, impaired mobility, or loss of social contact. My boss would set the clinical team onto dealing with these issues and, when the patient was in a better state, return rather dramatically with a large syringe and offer to carry out the request. He was invariably told to "get lost" in no uncertain terms!

A fundamental requirement of AD (where it is legal) is that the patient give full, free and informed consent. There is a problem here. One symptom of severe depression is the wish to end life. However, a diagnosis of depression means that the person does not have the mental capacity, perhaps temporarily, to give consent. Simply requesting AD may indicate that the person cannot consent to it. In my professional life I have never satisfactorily resolved this dilemma.

A major concern raised by those opposed to AD is that subtle, even unconscious, pressure may be put on the frail and elderly, or those with a handicap, to select AD. It is true that in some, often nomadic, societies those who feel worthless simply go out into the desert and end their life. In our society the burden of care, or the prospect of benefitting from a will, may be sufficient for AD to be encouraged. There are plenty of murders with no stronger motive.

Misdiagnosis is also a concern and is known to be common in cases of permanent vegetative state. For some years the High Court has given permission for the withdrawal of artificial feeding, but on a case-by case basis. In the first case, that of Tony Bland severely injured at Hillsborough, this seemed a good decision. But there have since been cases which have been a 'near miss'. I know one man who for three years was regarded as unaware and only given basic care. Transferred to our facility, misdiagnosis was recognised and within three weeks, with appropriate technology, he was writing letters to his wife. I call that a good outcome!

Melanie Phillips recently wrote: 'The legal barrier against euthanasia and assisted suicide is there for a purpose. It is a line in the sand that prevents us slipping into a culture of death-dealing. Crossing it would not produce a culture of compassion. It would brutalise an entire society.'

Church Mouse feels that to permit AD, even on a very restricted basis, would be to step onto a very slippery slope, and should be avoided. One sign of a civilised and compassionate society is to care for its

aged, those who have handicaps, and who may be terminally ill. It is a responsibility we should not shirk.

Church Mouse

Chapel Talks by Michael Boag

What does inclusion look and feel like? At the recent PCC meeting, Greta & Seb introduced us to Inclusive Church (www.inclusivechurch.org), an ecumenical 'network of churches, groups and individuals uniting together around a shared vision.' What is this share vision? I guess the answer lies in the name; churches aspiring to be for everyone and anyone. But we are already, aren't we? Yes, we are. So why do this? To make it easy for those looking for a church to find one in which they can feel comfortable.



Let me give you an example. Today we are all used to seeing menus with 'VE' or 'VG' or 'GF' so if you're looking for vegetarian or vegan or gluten-free food, you don't have to ask before ordering. But it wasn't always so. Many years ago, I went with a group of friends to a wedding in Switzerland, where we stayed in a charming alpine village, in a German-speaking canton. One night we went out for dinner and climbed the stairs into a very delightful, if somewhat cramped, dining room (no wheelchairs in sight). The menu was written in Swiss German but there was a helpful standard German translation (which some, but not all, of the party found useful). We didn't recognise many of the dishes on offer, so chose ones where we could identify the main ingredient such as pork, chicken, fish. One of the party, Felix, a vegetarian, struggled but eventually found a dish with aubergine listed as the main ingredient. However, did it also have meat, like Moussaka? The waiter, who wasn't hugely welcoming or helpful, eventually did confirm, that there was no meat in that dish. When the food arrived, every dish (remember we were in Switzerland) was covered in bubbling melted cheese. Thank goodness, I thought, Felix is a vegetarian not a vegan! Then my ears went pink with embarrassment when I noticed that every dish, including the vegetarian one, had bacon lardons sprinkled on top as a garnish.

Food for thought!

A Very Happy Bell-Ringer

I recently found that my parents' house needed a complete re-wire. As they are in their late 80's, living a simple life-routine and very proud of their welldecorated home, I realised that this disruption was likely to be quite traumatic for them.I went to Worth Church to ring the bells for service and found from the December issue of the Worth Church Parish Magazine that Jordan Green of Greenwire Electrical (and a Worth Church parishioner) was available in the New Year to do electrical work.

He visited my parents' home in December to quote for the work and was so polite and kind to Mum & Dad, patiently explaining things to them, that they felt perfectly comfortable for him to do the work.

At the beginning of January, Jordan spent two weeks re-wiring their house and I whole-heartedly



recommend him to anyone who has electrical work that needs doing. The quality of

his work is excellent.

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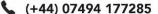
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Vesture [2]

Following on from the article in the last Magazine, and before we leave the Eucharist, it is worth noting the vestments worn by the other personnel in the Sanctuary. Once again, there is considerable variety in what is worn by the Server, Crucifer and Acolytes (candle carriers), apart from those involved in the management of incense.

The simplest, and most common, is a cassock (usually, but not necessarily black) over which is worn a short cut surplice. The next variation, which you will see at St Nicholas', is to wear an alb [see previous article] and a girdle, maybe hooded or with an amice. Finally, and this is very High Church, a square cut **cotta** may be worn [see right] which is essentially a short surplice with decoration or more or less elaborate lace around the bottom and sleeves.

Before moving on to the vestments for other services, a description may be appropriate for the **altar linen**. To prepare the altar the priest takes, or is presented with, a **ciborium** – a sort of lidded cup with a stem - which holds





the wafers to be consecrated. There is also an assemblage over the chalice. First, there is the **purificator** which is used for wiping the chalice between communicants and after the ablutions (cleaning up). Above that comes the **paten** which is the shallow dish on which is placed the large wafer for consecration. Next is the **pall**, a more solid square. Last comes the **corporal**, a cloth folded into three horizontally and vertically, which the priest opens out in order to place the communion vessels upon it. After communion it is again folded and may be placed in a **burse** – a sort of square envelope for holding the corporal.

In some churches, although not here, the communion vessels may be covered by a **veil**, or a **chalice pall**. Lastly, when the priest ceremonially washes her

or his hands before and after the communion, a **lavabo towel** is used.

The vestments for other services become even more complicated. Besides the Eucharist there are six other Sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Penance and Reconciliation (Confession), Anointing the Sick (or Extreme Unction), Holy Matrimony and Ordination. Note that some Evangelicals and the Thirty Nine Articles only recognise Baptism and the Eucharist. Some priests will wear the vestments they wear for the Eucharist to perform other sacraments, but there is wide variation. The typical dress for Matrimony is (as at right) just a long surplice and stole. For taking communion to the sick, at home or in hospital, the priest may simply wear a stole; the stole is (almost) the only item which is always worn at sacraments and often at other services. There is



wide variation: cassock, cotta and stole, or cassock, surplice and stole or alb and stole for any of the occasional offices.

When we move to other services, to Morning and Evening Prayer (Mattins and Evensong), to Compline and all the less formal services, the variety of dress becomes even more bewildering, and very much a matter of clerical taste. However, one combination commonly seen is **clerical choir dress** which consists of a cassock, a long surplice and a **scarf** (rather than a stole) to which may be added an academic hood and **preaching bands**; the two white tabs which descend from the front of the collar.



In a final article we will consider some of the more exotic forms of clerical dress, as well as clerical hats.

Church Mouse

Do you remember?

Submitted by Linda Richardson, it was taken in 1969. Can you name any of the others?

The one in the front row on the left (as you look at the photo) is Linda's brother, Martin Richardson aged 8 (also a 4th Worth cub/scout). She thinks one of the others will be Nicholas Turner whose family lived at 'Welcomes' on the Turner's Hill Road.





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St Nicholas' Crib & Nativity Service 2022

2022 will go down in St Nicholas' Christmas history as the year our prayers were answered when we decided to hold the Christmas Eve Crib service with Nativity, – *live*!

Our first one since 2019, the Crib services of 2020 and 2021 had been filmed and restricted to parents of the children taking part, clergy, organist, 'film crew' and myself with two or three helpers. 2022 saw us being brave enough to open the church again and wait and see how many people would come back; although I admit my first thought was "Where do we get the children from?"

I e-mailed those who had taken part previously; spoke to a couple of families, prayed long and hard and watched my blood pressure rise! Low and behold, the Lord heard and provided. By our second rehearsal the night before Christmas Eve we had just enough children to cover all the main characters; by Christmas Eve we even had another angel and two extra shepherds.

The two narrators did very well and our temporary organist/choirmaster successfully survived his Christmas Eve baptism of fire; thank you Mark.

Our Curate, Revd Greta, after several discussions about how the children move from "a" to "b" during the Nativity story, swallowed hard and led her first Crib service, very successfully. We had over 250 people in the congregation and it was very much like "old times", everyone appreciated the service, and also that life seemed more or less back to normal.



St Nicholas' Nativity Tableau





Singing 'Silent Night'



Jenson & Abi our narrators

Well done everyone it was wonderful to retell the Christmas Story to so many, we could not have done it without **YOU**.

Joan Tick.

Pound Hill Toddlers



Toddlers returned on the week beginning 9 January; we welcomed 14 Parents and Carers on Tuesday and 33 on Thursday (meaning around 50 under threes) that week. We have invested in some new equipment and the necessary consumables including tea, coffee, paper, paint and biscuits!

Revd Sarah, Jenny Dobson & the team

Sunday School

Sunday School, run by Nicky, and helped by other members of the congregation, provides a fun learning environment to get to know Jesus. There are always activities linked to the readings of the day and it is fabulous to see and hear what the children have been doing – and to hear the prayer that they have written – when they come back into church towards the end of the service. On the fourth Sunday they stay and take part in the service.



David & Nicky Anderson

Child friendly services

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11 AND 15 MARCH THE LOST COIN What will we find?

12 APRIL WHAT'S THE EUCHARIST?









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Hunt the Mag



What colour are the robes worn by the choristers?

Which shape is a pall?

When is Ash Wednesday this year?

Where was Fr Michael when his ears went pink?

Who or what is a perdrix?

Why did Shadow have an emergency visit to the vet?

Shadow's Blog

I don't know about you but I don't like the cold weather unless, of course, there is snow. Snow is much more fun than ice. I mean who tries to form a snowman or snowball out of ice? Unless of course you're one of my humans who waited soooo long to go on their snow walk (just before Christmas) that all of the snow had frozen into ice crystals. I will admit that I kept out of the way and watched from afar whilst my humans had their fun. They returned home to hot chocolate and mince pies, so I thought I'd join in! How was I to know that dogs can't eat mince pies as well as chocolate?



I can't say that the emergency trip to the vet that followed was much fun... So, I have decided that my New Year's resolution is to stop eating food that is dangerous to dogs. My humans try to help by keeping things out of reach, but they don't realise just how high I can jump!

Must go....my warm cosy bed needs company.

Shadow

the hangout



A group for school years 7 to 11, the Hangout, meets every Friday in term time from 19:00 to 20:30. Whilst having a strong core membership we're always on the lookout for new members.

Dungeons & Dragons, a fantasy tabletop role-playing game continues to be very popular, and for those playing it has shown considerable teamwork in developing their characters and in playing the game.

As with previous years, the Hangout has been involved in supporting the Christmas Fair, this year mainly in staffing stalls, their support is greatly appreciated.

If you're in school years 7 to 11, or know somebody who is, why not come along? For more information email youth@worthparish.org

David Anderson



Messy Church



Please think of us as you prepare your gardens and greenhouses in the next few weeks – and consider planting a few extra seeds.



We will be pleased to receive all plants for our plant sale on 20th May. Thank you.

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Altar Servers (St Nicholas')	Jenny Dobson	
Altai Servers (St Microlas)	Richard Turpie	
Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals	Parish Office	0300 111 8150
Bellringers	Neil Dobson	
Bookings (Hall, Meeting Rooms, Café, Church)	Revd Sarah	
Buildings and Facilities	See Churchwardens	
Children's Society	Ann Lane	
Choirs (Worth Church and Festival)	Vacant	musicdirector@worthparish.org
Church Cleaning (St Barnabas')	Jane Stanford	
Church Cleaning (St Nicholas')	Jill Freeborn	
Churchwardens (St Barnabas')	David Anderson	stbwarden@worthparish.org
Churchwardens (St Nicholas')	Rose Wells Colin Smith	stnwarden@worthparish.org
Co-ordinator (Parish)	Sue Perry	office@worthparish.org
Events	lane Stanford	onice@worenparismorg
Families, Youth and Children's Work	Caroline Formby (lay)	
Flower Arranging (St Barnabas')	lane Stanford	
Flower Arranging (St Nicholas')	Noreen Oxlade	
Friends of St Nicholas'	Colin Smith	
Giving (Donations etc)	David Rice	office@worthparish.org
Julian Group (St Barnabas')	Don Hewerdine	onice@worunparismorg
Julian Group (St Nicholas')	Linda Eells	
Knit and Natter	Val Rudd	
Magazine	Sue Perry	
Messy Church	Sue Walshe	
Mothers' Union	Mary Fry	
Office (Parish) manned and with 24/7 ansag		0300 111 8150
Offices at St Barnabas' (not manned)		
PCC Chair	Michael Boag	
PCC Secretary	Liz Gallagher	
PCC Electoral Roll Officer	lane Stanford	
PCC Treasurer	Churchwardens	treasurer@worthparish.org
Prayer Group	Linda Eells	
Safeguarding Officer	Anita Wilkinson	safeguarding@worthparish.org
Social Media	David Anderson	
Stewardship Officer		
St Nicholas' Circle	Max Perry	
Sunday School	Nicky Anderson	
Toddlers	Jenny Dobson	
Website	Elizabeth Whyman	hello@worthparish.org
Weddings	Parish Office	0300 111 8150
	. ar ion Onice	3333 3730

FEBRUARY - MARCH 23 CALENDAR

Travelling far? - we recommend you check dates/times on our website calendar, or with the Office.

When?		What?	Where?
Wed I Feb	19:00	Pilgrim's Nurture Course concludes	St Barnabas'
Sat 4 Feb	15:30	Messy Church	St Barnabas'
Wed 8 Feb	12:30	St Nicholas' Julian Group	St Nicholas'
Wed 8 Feb	15:00	Messy Church	St Barnabas'
Mon 13 Feb	14:00	St Barnabas' Julian Group	St Barnabas'
Sat 18 Feb	10:00	Jumble Sale	St Barnabas'
Wed 22 Feb	13:00	Ash Wednesday Service	St Barnabas'
	20.00	Ash Wednesday Service	St Nicholas'
Wed 22 Feb	14:30	Scrabble and Cake	St Barnabas'
Thur 23 Feb	14:30	Parish Prayer Group	St Nicholas'
Thur 23 Feb	15:45	Mothers' Union AGM	St Barnabas'
Sat 25 Feb	11.00	Marriage Preparation Day	St Barnabas'
Sat 4 Mar	10:00	Saturday Market	St Barnabas'
Wed 8 Mar	12:30	St Nicholas' Julian Group	St Nicholas'
Sat II Mar	15:30	Messy Church	St Barnabas'
Mon 13 Mar	14:00	St Barnabas' Julian Group	St Barnabas'
Wed 15 Mar	15:00	Messy Church	St Barnabas'
Sun 19 Mar	14:00	Mothering Sunday	Both Churches
Wed 22 Mar	14:30	Scrabble and Cake	St Barnabas'
Wed 22 Mar	19:00	PCC	St Barnabas'
Thur 23 Mar	15:45	Mothers' Union Meeting	St Barnabas'
Wed 29 Mar	19:30	Parish Prayer Group	St Barnabas'
Sat I Apr	10:00	Saturday Market	St Barnabas'

Time is a created thing. To say 'I haven't time' means 'I don't want to'

Lao Tzu

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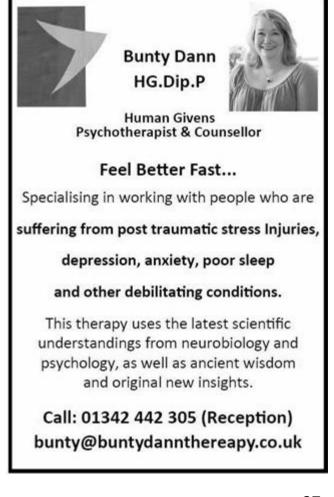
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