

The human mind plans the way,  
but the Lord directs the steps.



PROVERBS 16:9



# WORTH PARISH magazine

£1.00 June - September 2023

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

# CLERGY SERVING THE PARISH

<b>Rector</b>	Fr Michael Boag	rector@worthparish.org	01293 882229
<b>Associate Vicar</b>	Revd Sarah Upchurch	vicarstb@worthparish.org	01293 524804
<b>Assistant Priest</b>	Revd Gordon Parry	gordonmwparry@btinternet.com	07802 432398
<b>Assistant Priest</b>	Fr Francis Pole	francis.pole@virgin.net	07764 752608
<b>Curate</b>	Revd Greta	curate@worthparish.org	

## REGULAR SERVICES

Our regular services are shown below.

	<b>St Nicholas', Worth</b>	<b>St Barnabas', Pound Hill</b>
Sundays	<b>08.15</b> Holy Communion (BCP, 1662) <b>10.00</b> Sung Eucharist	<b>10.00</b> 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays - Eucharist <b>10.00</b> 4th Sundays Child-Friendly Eucharist
Tuesdays		<b>10.30</b> Eucharist
Thursdays	<b>10.30</b> Eucharist	

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

<b>St Barnabas' Café RH10 7DY</b>		
Wednesdays	<b>10.00 - 13.00</b>	<b>Coffee Shop</b>
Thursdays	<b>14.00 - 16.00</b>	<b>Knit 'n Natter</b>
Fridays	<b>10.30 - 12.30</b>	<b>Coffee Shop</b>
	<b>12.30 - 14.00</b>	<b>Friday Lunch Club (Please book – see P18)</b>
Saturdays	<b>10.00 - 13.00ish</b>	<b>Coffee Shop</b>

## CONTACT US



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



[office@worthparish.org](mailto:office@worthparish.org)



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



**0300 111 8150**



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### Clergy

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

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

### Churchwardens

David Anderson [stbwarden@worthparish.org](mailto:stbwarden@worthparish.org)  
Rose Wells [stnwarden@worthparish.org](mailto:stnwarden@worthparish.org)

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To effectively communicate, we must realize that we are all different in the way we perceive the world and use this understanding as a guide to our communication with others.

Tony Robbins



# Note from your Ed

Communication is an interesting subject. It is what our magazine is all about really and makes an interesting google! I have found that to be effective one should consider the 5 'c's; it must be clear, correct, complete, concise, and compassionate. With it you can be propelled towards what you want out of life, avoid misunderstandings, develop strong relationships, cultivate growth, and build trust. With all this in mind I hope you find our Magazine informative and thought-provoking as well as encouraging and motivating. Our Parish round-up brings you up to date with anything you have missed, our articles bring to light some things you might never have thought about and our Church ads and calendar show you what to look forward to. Read on .....



Sue x

We are always grateful to our volunteers and there is no question that many hands make light work. If you are able to do anything anywhere within our church community however small, please write into the office and I (Sue, with my work hat on) will direct your offer to the right people.

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# The Rector's Report

It's hard to describe what the Worth Parish pilgrims to Walsingham (Sue, Kay, Liz, Fr Michael, Revd Sarah, Graham, seen here in front of the Shrine Church with Fr Francis behind the camera)) felt during the three days we spent in late May, at the Shrine of our Lady of Walsingham. Elated and profoundly peaceful, energised and exhausted. All of the above!

A pilgrimage, by its very nature, is a journey from home to a holy place. As part of our travelling, we took in the beautiful parish church in Thaxted, North West Essex, and admired the Chancel banners and other decorative features...



We were delighted to find Coronation enthusiasm in Walsingham, as well as a real, functioning (and therefore rare) telephone box...

Our stay in the Shrine was richly blessed and for two of us, who hadn't been before, came with open hearts and minds, the mixture of services and socialising proved to be a real and joyful eye-opener.



We saw angels in North and South Creak Church...

And even took time out for a quick visit to Wells-next-the-Sea...

Coming back there was time to stop in Lavenham, Suffolk for yet another church (and pub).

It is hard to describe what we experienced. At times overwhelmed, always enfolded; we came away refreshed, inspired and looking forward to returning to Walsingham next year. Come with us!

To find out more, check out <https://www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk/>

*Fr Michael*





# PARISH ROUNDUP



**mothers union**  
Christian care for families worldwide

## March to June 2023

I can't believe that I am starting this update of our activities with March! Can it really be that long since I wished you all a Happy and Blessed Easter?

Our Branch Meeting in March was blessed with an interesting, and sometimes humorous, talk given by Fr Francis about his life as a Chaplain; it had certainly not been plain sailing for him, or even a straight track! His talks are always honest and spellbinding; we thank him greatly.



The month of April was a little busier with not only the Branch Meeting but a fundraising coffee morning. The Branch Meeting was billed as a "Royal Evening". Our treasurer, Simon, had produced a Royal Quiz, Marilyn told us about receiving the Maundy Money from the, then, Prince Charles at Windsor Castle, and brought the money to show everyone, together with the Order of Service and official photographs. Marilyn had also knitted a Crown - just needed a head inside it! We had some 'royal cakes' with our refreshments and ended with the Crown Competition prize-giving for the best... Nicky Anderson, with Mary Fry and Carol

Musselwhite close runners-up. Well done everyone else who took part. We also welcomed Revd Canon Penny Foreman to our Branch from Rochester, Kent; it is lovely to have her with us. Follow that, you might say... well we did!



On Saturday 29 April we held our Fundraising Coffee Morning with a sale of second-hand books, quality Bric-a-Brac, MU home-made cakes and a raffle. The sun shone, people came, it was a wonderful, joyful morning - raising over £192 to be divided between AFIA caravan holidays and our Branch expenses. Thank you to everyone who made that such a worthwhile happy event.

In May at our Branch Meeting, we will welcome our Diocesan President, Karen Hill, who will be giving a talk about Domestic Abuse. A subject none of us can ignore because it could be happening next door to us or, sadly, even in our own homes, not necessarily one of us being the abuser or abused but a member of our family being abused outside the home, it is still a form of 'domestic' abuse and we must

be aware, in order to stop it. The Committee and I hope that some non-members will come to hear Karen on 25 May.

A speaker from the RNLI will be our guest in June, to this and all our Meetings, non-members are welcome. I think we will deserve a welcome summer break after our busy half-year so we will be having an Afternoon Tea in July, watch for the poster for details.

We wish each and every one of you a happy, sunny summer holiday and we will catch up again in the autumn.

*Joan Tick and the Committee.*



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## Easter at St Nicholas' 2023

There were a few more people processing from the Rectory to church on Palm Sunday this year, helping us feel even more "back to normal" than we did in 2022, when we began to move on from the Covid restrictions.

On Tuesday in Holy Week, Fr Michael, Revd Greta and I went to St Mary's church in Horsham, meeting up with Revd Sarah and David Anderson for the Chrism Eucharist. The Holy Oils, for Baptism, the Sick and Ordination/Confirmation, are blessed by the Bishop. A wonderful uplifting service, when the clergy also renew their vows.

Rapidly we moved on to Maundy Thursday and two services that day at St Nicholas', one at 10:30 and another with ceremonial feet washing and vigil at the Alter of Repose at 20:00.

On Good Friday morning four of us hung the Easter Banner and erected the wooden cross on its 'green hill'; followed during the afternoon with the Good Friday Liturgy service and at 19:00 Revd Greta and I led the Stations of the Cross at St Barnabas'.



On Holy Saturday morning Mark and his family helped me to set up the Easter Garden ready for planting during the afternoon (thank you all). The afternoon arrived but sadly, once again, we were short of children to help. However, we were very pleased to welcome Lucy and Richard Laing and their two children, Toby and Erin to help with the planting and setting the scene for Easter. Thank you!

It was time for our Easter Bunny to hop around the churchyard on Easter Morning. After the Easter Day service the



children were invited to go on an Egg Hunt around the churchyard and surprisingly, as if by magic, they found some!

Perhaps it was that Bunny again! The parents enjoyed the hunt too.



We also had some Easter Lilies on display to remember our dear departed.

All in all, a memorable Easter time at St Nicholas'.

Joan Tick



\*\*\*\*\*



## St Nicholas' Circle

The next meeting of The Circle will be on Wed 7 June; doors will open at 19:30 for a 20:00 start. Spring has Sprung - an eclectic

mix of readings and music. On 28 June we will rapidly from Spring to Summer with Cheese, Wine and Strawberries and we will round up for the summer with Revd Greta who will give us an illustrated talk on her Motorcycle tour in the USA on 19 July. On 6 Sept and 11 Oct we have talks planned on Polar Exploration (Revd Gordon) and the 7 churches of the Revelation (Sue & Max) then follows our break for the winter. Looking forward to seeing you all again soon.

Max Perry [max.perry@datamax.co.uk](mailto:max.perry@datamax.co.uk) 07435 788127





## St Barnabas' Churchwarden Update

On the 4 April, it was wonderful to be able to attend the Chrism Eucharist at St Mary's church in Horsham, a service led by Martin, the Bishop of Chichester. At the service the priests attending, including Fr Michael, Revd Sarah and Revd Greta, reaffirmed their Ordination commitment. The oil for the anointing of the sick, the oil for the signing of the cross at Baptism and the oil of chrism for anointing at Confirmation and Ordination were all blessed and after the service the oils were collected for use in our parish.

On Good Friday, a number of us joined Revd Sarah at the Love Your Neighbour service in Queen's Square. It was a very uplifting and moving service with music and reflections from different churches and organisations across Crawley. It was great to see Queen's Square full of people praising God.

We also had all our regular Easter Services, including the Maundy Thursday meal with Eucharist and foot washing and the Easter Day Sunrise Service at the lake in Worth Park, a service led by Revd Sarah where we were joined by the United Reformed Church; all being very well attended.



As always, we've had some wonderful visual services. In April Revd Sarah explained the Gospel reading by re-enacting the journey along the road to Emmaus involving the young people, moving around St Barnabas' and pausing to listen to the questions that were asked.

After a special Coronation Celebration Eucharist held at both St Barnabas' and St Nicholas' to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III we had a Parish BBQ and Bring-and-Share lunch. It was a wonderful occasion, enjoyed by both congregations. The BBQ was ably manned by Ryan, David and Jason from St Nicholas' supplemented by a wide range of food brought by those attending. It was fantastic to see the church, the café and the garden so full.





Later in May we held a Plant Sale, the weather was kind to us and the number of plants donated was amazing. We raised £582 on the day for the St Barnabas' Refurbishment Fund. Thank you to all provided plants, who helped on the day and of course the customers!



In the weeks leading up to Easter three children attended a Young Communicants course run by Rev'ds Greta and Sarah. This enabled them to take their first Holy Communion on Easter Day which was very special! The course is running again in September and this is for those who are aged 7ys or older, we usually plump for Thursdays after school about 4.30pm and start with a drink and a biscuit. or two. The course takes about six weeks and lasts for about an hour each session.



The Youth Alpha course, run by Revd Sarah, along with other helpers, has continued on Friday evenings. Alpha Youth Series is designed to engage young people in conversations about life, faith and Jesus. Discussion time is interspersed throughout the short talks to make it simpler for them to share their thoughts and questions. Each session begins with food, followed by a short video. Throughout the videos questions are asked, with responses from some of the people involved in the video – this provides a prompt for the group discussion which follows each section of the video. As the course has progressed it has gone deeper into our relationship with

Jesus exploring why and how we pray, who the Holy Spirit is and what it's like to be filled with the Holy Spirit. As the course draws to a close watch this space to see what follows.

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.

The Saturday Markets continue 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!

*David Anderson*

## KNIT AND NATTER

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## St Nicholas' Churchwarden Update

We are soon to return to 'Ordinary Time' in the Liturgical Year when everything inside and outside the Church is green and for a while there will be more Holidays than High Days. I am looking forward to it. The Easter and Coronation celebrations at St Nicholas' were joyous with the Choir and the Flower Team performing brilliantly, and our Church providing a warm welcome to all those friends who we see only 'Occasionally'.

A little extra time has allowed me to recall a story from the beginning of the year that I had promised to write up for the Parish magazine but failed to deliver. It started, as many interesting ideas in the Parish tend to, with an email forwarded to me from Sue Perry in the Parish Office. A short, sad little message which immediately rang a bell from my old professional life.

I am looking to give away my late husband's Yamaha baby grand piano to a passionate instrument lover, so please let me know if you will take it or have someone who will care for it I'm moving to a new home with less space..... It was last tuned sometime last year before he passed. She's about 2 years old and in impeccable condition.

Charlotte Hughes

There were lovely pictures of the piano and it appeared that the only cost to the lucky new owner would be the price of the delivery. Happy Days. I set about contacting the 'Passionate' musicians of the Parish to see whether they had space or ideas? It was really affirming to receive their enthusiastic, generous and creative ideas to provide this young widow with a Good Answer to her problem.

Pretty quickly we established that no-one with the talent had the space to re-home The Piano. Sue wanted to keep in touch with Charlotte (everyone who contacts the Parish through the Office cannot fail to be impressed by her personalised caring approach) so she sent an update advising that we were continuing our enquiries and we broadened the parameters of our search, considering and contacting other churches in Crawley and schools where we had contacts.

And then a surprising reply from Lancing College to an email sent by Mark Harrison.

Many thanks for your message. Please may I ask whether you know Mrs Hughes personally? I only ask because this type of message seems to be a very common scam at the moment: The Baby Grand Piano Scam - Ludwig Van Daily (ludwig-van.com)

Our marketing team received a very similar message just a couple of days ago, albeit from a different email address Unless you can see it in person, and go via a reputable removable company with independently verifiable references, I would be tempted to stay well clear....!

So it was a Scam! There had never been a Baby Grand looking for a new home, recently tuned and in impeccable condition. Charlotte didn't exist and of the many other people and organisations who received this same email any who parted with money to have the piano delivered were ultimately disappointed and left out of pocket.

What a pity. I was truly sad that this was the end of the story and that through my own innocence and qualification this email had wasted precious time and energy for Good People in the Parish. These criminal scams are everywhere on line and raise illegal millions for their perpetrators. At least on this occasion the damage done was only to our Pride and not to our bank balance or reputation.

Please Friends, be Careful and remember this little story finally written down in Ordinary Time for these tricky Modern Times.

Rose Wells Churchwarden and Colin Smith Deputy Churchwarden.



*Internet/Social Media promises are not Bible promises - if something sound too good to be true it probably is!*



## APCM + PCC St Barnabas' Church,

Our APCM was held on 19 April 2023. During the course of the meeting the Trustees Annual Report, including the audited financial reports for the calendar year of 2022, were reviewed. These confirmed a busy and active year for the Parish and that our post-pandemic recovery was underway. Although the financial picture for the Parish is improved significantly on 2021 there is serious concern about how we will meet the increased costs for energy in the Parish in 2023.



The Churchwardens and Deputy Churchwarden were re-elected to their positions. The position of Parish Treasurer remains vacant (covered by David Anderson) and the role of PCC Secretary is also vacant with Liz Gallagher stepping down from these responsibilities.

The latest meeting of the PCC was held on 24 April 2023. The following items were covered.:

**Community Defibrillators** - following a successful crowd funding campaign by the Worth Way Runners and the Parish making this a project for Coronation year, we have moved into the planning and procurement phase of this important community project.

**Youth Alpha and First Communion Courses** – after expressions of interest and need, a Youth Alpha course has been set up in the Parish and is now in its 10<sup>th</sup> week with a strong core attendance. Before Easter three children attended the first Communion course at St Barnabas' and took their first Communion on Easter Day.

**Finance** – work on the installation of the new boiler at St Nicholas' has been completed and funded from the Restricted Fund of St Nicholas' Tower and Fabric. The final phase, making good the necessary alterations to the cabinetry in the Vestry will be underway shortly.

The three charities benefitting from our Christmas collections : Tariro, Home Start Crawley and Worth PCC have all received £ 330. The Charities receiving our Christmas Collections need to be reviewed every 3 years. The PCC will be discussing this later in the year and would welcome ideas and comment on our Charities for Christmas 2023.

David Fry is now officially appointed with HMRC to manage our Gift Aid claims for the Parish.

**Fabric and Function of our Churches** – a large oak tree blew over on the western border of the churchyard. A neighbouring conifer also needed felling due to destabilisation of its roots.

A further application to fell three of the trees on the Approach to St Nicholas' is in preparation. Access to the church for those with mobility issues is difficult. Another incident and minor injury has occurred.

The churchyard team have asked that we look into proper signage for our war graves.

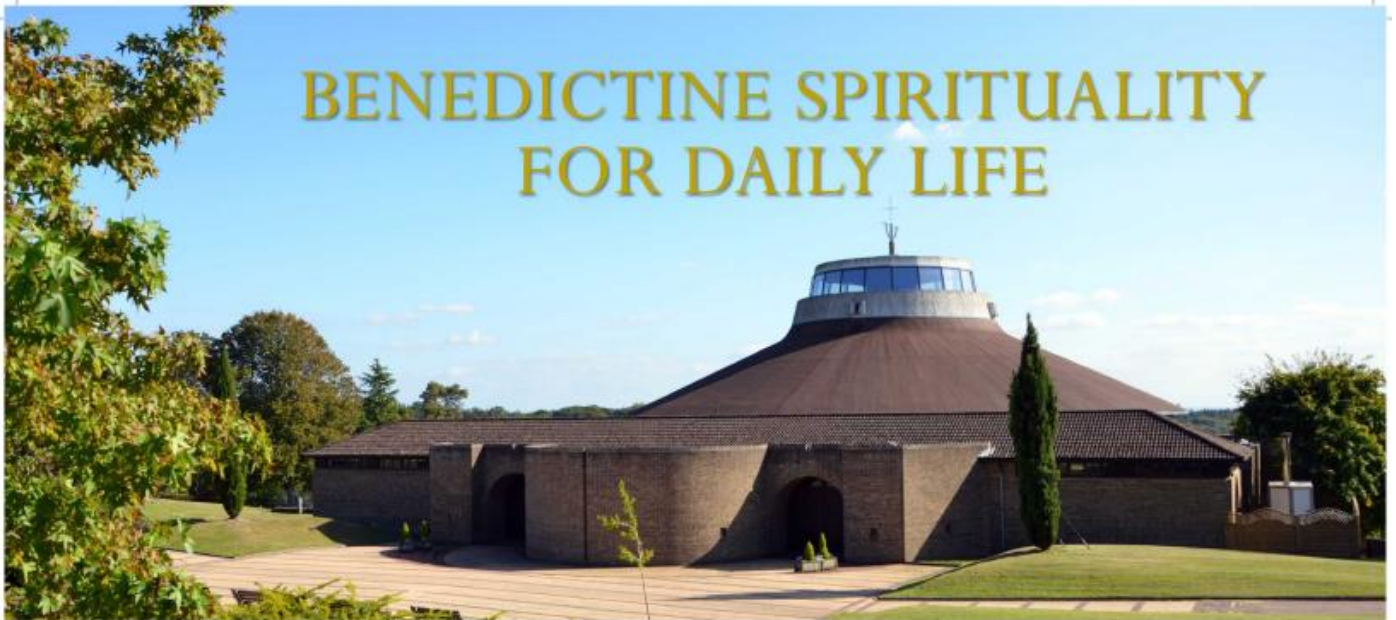
Five-year electrical safety checks have been undertaken at both churches during the Spring, highlighting the need for some costly but necessary remedial work at St Barnabas'. Happy Coronation celebrations were held at both churches with Flowers, Feasting and Wonderful Music.

The recent Plant Sale at St Barnabas' raised in excess of £500. St Barnabas' are awaiting a second tender from a local building company for Phase 2 of the Refurbishment Project. The next meeting of the PCC will be on 25 September 2023.



Rose Wells

# BENEDICTINE SPIRITUALITY FOR DAILY LIFE



Please join us for an afternoon of events exploring the richness of Benedictine spirituality  
Saturday June 24th 2023, 1-4pm.

The afternoon will commence with Midday Prayer at 1pm in the Abbey Church, followed by a welcome talk from Abbot Mark Barrett, and will conclude with sung Benediction at 3:30pm.

There will be a number of sessions for people to participate in throughout the afternoon including: accompanied walks to the Quiet Garden, Silent Prayer, Lectio Divina and Talks by Lay People on how the rule of St Benedict inspires their lives.

• Families welcome • Complimentary Refreshments • Children's activities available

To secure a place, please register at <https://worthconnecting.org.uk/event/stbenedict>  
or for more details, please email [pilgrims@worth.org.uk](mailto:pilgrims@worth.org.uk)

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## Ringling for the King [2]

It's been a busy few weeks for the ringers at St Nicholas'. On 19 April, six of us met for a couple of hours on a Wednesday morning so that BBC South East could film us ringing for a piece about Gerald Sandwell who rang a full peal for the Coronation in 1953 and would be ringing for the Coronation of King Charles III (more of which later). Interviews were carried out in the church with Gerald, Carolyn (one of his three daughters) and Ross, his grandson. The end result was a short item on the BBC regional news the day after (we hope you managed to see it!). Not only has Gerald rung for two Coronations, but he also rang for each of Queen Elizabeth's Jubilees (Silver, Golden, Diamond and Platinum).



On Coronation Day, fourteen of us met to ring Worth's bells prior to the service at Westminster, in celebration of the event. Later in the day, six of us (including Gerald) met to ring a quarter peal (40 minutes continuous ringing) to mark the occasion. Jenny and I then went to Crawley to assist the Crawley band in ringing their celebratory quarter peal! A further quarter peal was rung at Worth the following day to allow other ringers to take part.

Then on 20 May, we met again to ring another quarter peal (it's what ringers do when there's a significant event worth marking). This one was to celebrate the fact that Gerald has been a ringer

for 75 years, which is no mean feat! The band on this occasion was a family affair comprised of Gerald, his three daughters (Alison, Carolyn and Marion) and his grandson (Ross). I was privileged to make up the band having first rung with Gerald in 1979.

You may also have heard the bells ringing on 4 February. This was a visiting band ringing a full peal taking 2 hours 35 minutes. This is only the 80 peal on the bells since the first in 1887. This perhaps puts into context the significance of ringing quarter peals.



*I Neil Dobson, Marilyn Sandwell, Carolyn Sandwell, Ross Sandwell and Allison Sandwell*

Neil Dobson



Wind -  
an  
invisible  
enemy

# Singing for Kings, Priests and Sacrifice

The title of my article is, as I hope you'll recognise, a tip of the hat to "We Three Kings of Orient Are".

Apart from just being a fun thing to sing, and an opportunity to wear fancy hats in January, the song is a serious reflection on the way that the gifts of the Magi each represent a different aspect of God.

And as I hope you'll see, we've reflected all three aspects in our choice of music at St. Nicholas' over the past 8 months (since I moved to the organ stool.)



The obvious relevance of the word King is, of course, the Coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla. There was more than a little murmur of surprise in the congregation when the choir launched into a second communion anthem.

We'd just sung "I Was Glad" - Parry's 1902 anthem for the Coronation of Edward VII, but slightly rewritten for each subsequent coronation. The 1911 coronation of George V saw the now-familiar introduction added, which is a great opportunity to show off the trumpet stops on the St Nicholas' organ.

Normally, when choirs sing this, they omit the middle section - the Vivats - which have been rewritten for each named Sovereign (and, where appropriate, their Queen.) However, we'd got permission to sing a version for the Coronation weekend. The 2023 version sung at Westminster Abbey had been kept strictly under wraps until the day, so there clearly wasn't going to be time to learn it. As such, the version we sang was a mix of the 1953 and 1911 versions that I put together, with the Latin names of Camilla (whose name, in keeping with tradition, was sung first) and Charles added. Andrew helped sort out the mistake I'd made in my Latin grammar and made the point that the Latin better translates as "May the Queen Live" than as an instruction to the Queen that she ought to live.

The "May the Queen Live" is then reflected in "May the King Live", which leads us neatly into the other Coronation anthem - "Zadok the Priest."

Zadok the Priest, in a variety of different music settings, has been sung at every English coronation since that of King Edgar in 973AD. So not even St. Nicholas', Worth, was around for that. [Ed: maybe, maybe not] Along the way, some of the settings have been lost - every single copy of Morley's setting for the Coronation of Charles I was ordered destroyed by Cromwell. But for the Coronation of George II in 1727, Handel was commissioned to write a setting, and that's been used at every coronation since.

At St. Nicholas', it had the benefit of a very long (over 100 second) organ introduction, giving the choir plenty of time to catch their breath after the post-communion stair climb to the gallery.

After Zadok, our second Priest is Revd Greta, who sang as Cantor for her first Evensong two weeks after Easter. Greta had very strongly asked me to push her out of her comfort zone and get her to the position where she would sing in front of a congregation. She did very well and will doubtless be asked to sing for us again.

So, with due reference to Kings and Priests, time to move to Sacrifice. Specifically, the music for Holy Week.

It's tempting to think of Holy Week at St. Nicholas' being made up of 5 services - Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Saturday Vigil, and Easter Morning.

Fr Michael and I took a different view when planning the music. We wanted to think of it as a single service made up of what you might think of as "Five Acts." From the triumphal entry on Palm Sunday, with the congregation, choir and clergy processing from the Rectory singing "All Glory Laud and Honour", and the anthem being Burton's "It is a thing most wonderful", we have an opening of triumph...

... which turns much darker in tone part way through the Maundy Thursday service, starting with the last Gloria until Easter, becoming more contemplative with Duruflé's 6-part setting of "Ubi Caritas" - a text that dates from 976AD, and became commonly used during the service of foot-washing, albeit in our case as the Communion anthem, before the lights dim, and the choir gets quieter, leaving nothing but a plainsong duet of Psalm 22 during the stripping of the altar.



The choir shrinks further still for Good Friday, with the Worth Choir having the afternoon off (though several sat downstairs), and Ann Phillipson accepting my invite to take to the gallery to lead the hymns, and a solo unaccompanied version of "The Reproaches" sung by me.

Saturday is when the theme turns upwards - opening with the Exsultet (sung by a Priest - this year a visiting Fr Jamie), joined by the choir for a few lines, before the break of light - the introduction to the Gloria (the congregational setting by the late Anthony Stidolph, former Rector of the Parish) is meant to musically represent the cracking of the stone before Jesus' tomb - this is not a quiet event.

And finally Easter morning saw a congregational Gloria - by Gregory Murray - but with the organ introduction swapped out in favour of the choir singing Rose's "Easter Flourish", the Lord is Risen - He Is Risen Indeed Alleluia - carefully chosen because the last chord of the final Alleluia is the same chord with which the Gloria starts. From there, it's into "This Glorious Eastertide" as the anthem.

So, the intention was firmly that the music should represent the Easter Story, as a single service in five Acts.

I want to say a huge thank you, not only to the guest singers named above, but also to Mike (with whom I first sang in 1989), Jonathan (with whom I first sang in 1981), Graham (Director of Music at Slaugham and Staplefield), Simon (Organist at St John's), Elizabeth (Worth alto "on sabbatical"), Matthew (former tenor here about 10 years ago), and Bob (former tenor here about 50 years ago), all of whom joined us for some of the services.

But most of all to the regular choir - who worked incredibly hard not only in the service, but a whole bunch of rehearsals to allow this "single service" to happen.

*Mark Harrison, Director of Music*

## Card Reader

Last year we applied to take part in the Diocese of Chichester Digital Giving Rollout. This is part of a national research project to understand whether easier and more obvious opportunities for cashless donations would encourage higher levels of giving.

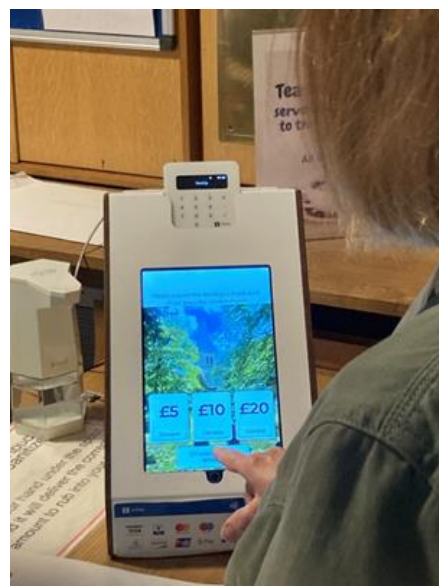
This was not our first experience of using a card reader but our previous device was often overlooked or mistaken for a mobile phone or struggled with internet connection through our thick Saxon walls.

Since October 2022 there's been no missing our new Payaz machine which sits on our welcome desk and has internet connectivity through a SIM card. Much better! It is easy to use and all small donations (up to £30) are automatically allowed Gift Aid. You can pay any amount you choose which is helpful if you wish to buy souvenirs / merchandise from our shop. Outside the hours of regular church services, it is certainly the most secure way to leave a donation in Church.

Have our congregations been instantly converted to the card reader? Well, no. Some love it, but many are still using the traditional yellow envelopes during the Offertory Hymn and this feels like a part of their worship experience. Most Sundays we will see between £30-£60 donated on the machine. Last Sunday we had a PB (personal best!) for an ordinary Sunday when we saw £160 arrive after our two regular services and a well-attended Baptism.

I do hope that, as our 'summer season' begins with a greater flow of visitors, our weekday takings will increase. We say 'thank you' for each donation with a lovely message and picture of the choir singing at the Platinum Jubilee.

*Rose Wells*

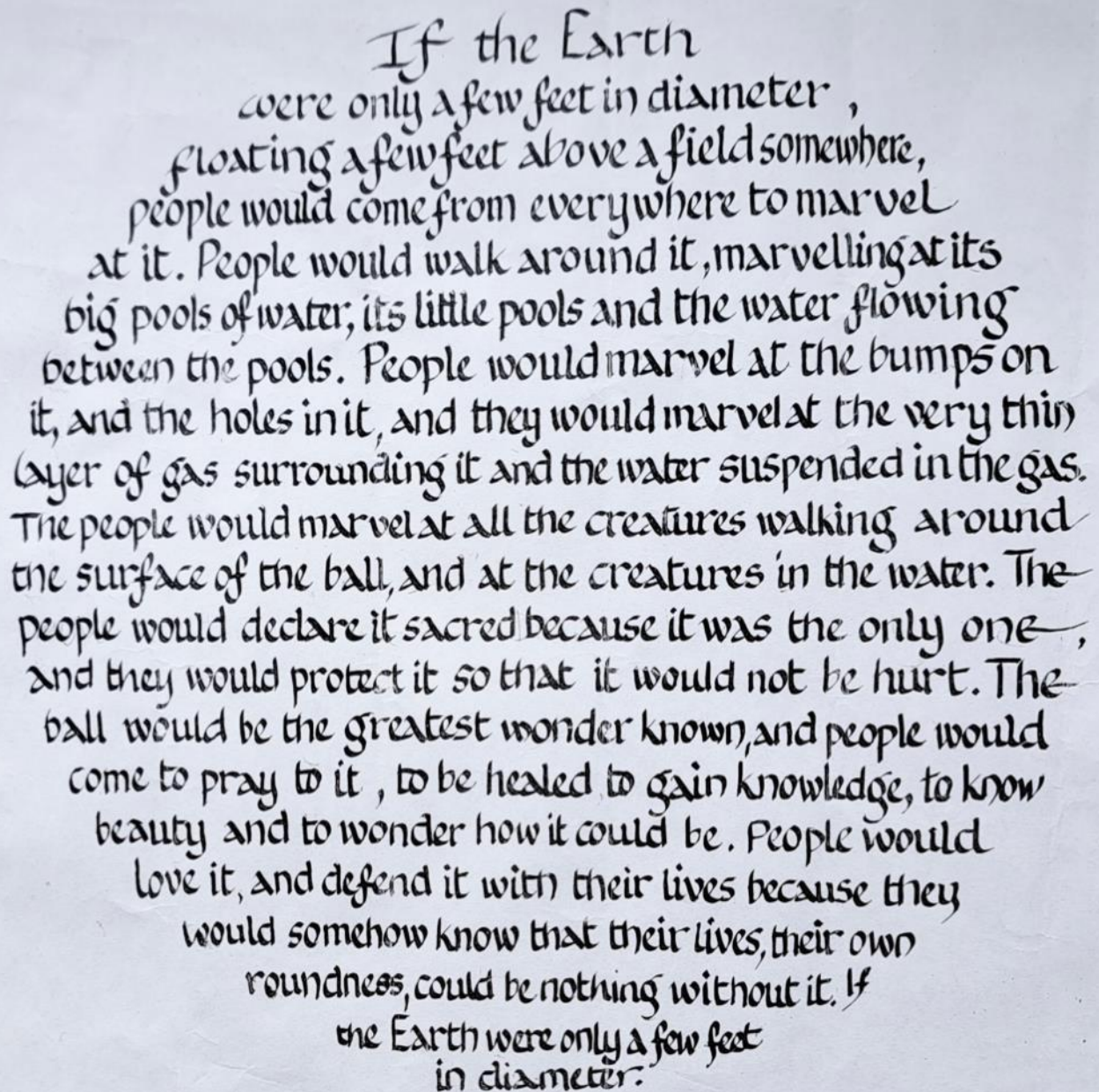


# Our Stewardship of Earth

When tidying through papers the other day, I came across this piece of calligraphy (not mine, I hasten to add) rejected because of spacing issues.

The text was written by Joseph Miller in 1988 but 35 years later is still alarmingly poignant.

Submitted by Linda Eells



If the Earth  
were only a few feet in diameter ,  
floating a few feet above a field somewhere,  
people would come from everywhere to marvel  
at it. People would walk around it, marvelling at its  
big pools of water, its little pools and the water flowing  
between the pools. People would marvel at the bumps on  
it, and the holes in it, and they would marvel at the very thin  
layer of gas surrounding it and the water suspended in the gas.  
The people would marvel at all the creatures walking around  
the surface of the ball, and at the creatures in the water. The  
people would declare it sacred because it was the only one,  
and they would protect it so that it would not be hurt. The  
ball would be the greatest wonder known, and people would  
come to pray to it , to be healed to gain knowledge, to know  
beauty and to wonder how it could be. People would  
love it, and defend it with their lives because they  
would somehow know that their lives, their own  
roundness, could be nothing without it. If  
the Earth were only a few feet  
in diameter.

*'I only feel angry when I see waste. When I see people throwing away things we could use' – Mother Teresa*

*'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has' - Margaret Mead*



# ‘What Would Jesus Say?’

Above the bed of the teenage Church Mouse, there was a very tattered beaded-embroidered text – retrieved from a junk shop - which read: ‘What Would Jesus Say?’

Well, the New Testament gives us a pretty good guide to the *content* of what Jesus might have said, but what has recently been intriguing Church Mouse is the language in which He might have said it. Digging into the Christology presents a complex and rather confusing picture.

It is generally accepted that Jesus’ ‘native’ language in which, for example, He spoke to His disciples, was Aramaic in the Galilean dialect (distinct from that spoken in Jerusalem). By the time of Jesus, Aramaic was taking over from Greek (Koine Greek) as the *lingua franca* of the Middle East, mainly as a result of the Assyrian and Neo-Assyrian conquests. However, as a Jewish boy He will have been required to learn the Torah (at least) in Hebrew and He read fluently from the scroll in the synagogue. No doubt His discussions with the Rabbi in the Temple would have involved Hebrew. In addition, when visited by a group of Greeks there is no mention of the need for a translator; in His interview with Pilate, Pilate will have spoken in Latin, hence the declaration ‘Ecce Homo’ and the title affixed to the Cross: ‘Rex Judaeorum’.



So, we may conclude that Jesus spoke, at least, Aramaic, Biblical Hebrew, Greek and Latin. This accords with the earliest Christian literature as found in the Dead Sea Scrolls, written in the first three of these languages together with a little Nabataean. The Gospels were mostly (probably) written in Greek, although some scholars think parts were first in Aramaic, then rapidly translated. Paul wrote in Greek.

It is difficult for us living in a largely monolingual society to appreciate a multilingual culture. We think, arrogantly, that everyone should speak English and we struggle with menus in the foreign lands we visit. But to take a contemporary example, there are 1,599 languages spoken in India. Of these, 122 are ‘major’ languages and 23 official languages. Ten percent of the population speak English. So, the moderately educated Indian will speak the local language of his or her village, one or more regional languages, and a major language such as Hindi, Bengali, Maratha, Telugu, Tamil, Gujarati, Urdu and so on.

So far, fairly straightforward, but there some puzzling uses of Aramaic in sayings attributed to Jesus. The one which troubles Church Mouse the most is in the words from the Cross, given in slightly different versions in Matthew 27.46 and Mark 15.34: “Eli (Eloi), Eli lema (lama) sabachthani”. Both versions appear to be Aramaic as the Hebrew verb is not used. For those who like to think Jesus was quoting Psalm 22, He was apparently not voicing the canonical Hebrew version, but a version which came from an Aramaic targum.

Jesus consistently refers to the Father as “Abba” which is an Aramaic word borrowed from the Greek Old Testament. The Mishnaic (and modern) Hebrew would be ‘Abijah’.

In the healing of the deaf-mute (Mark 7.34) Jesus speaks “ephphatha”. The Aramaic word is given with the transliteration, only this time, the word to be transliterated is more complicated. In Greek, this comes from the Aramaic ‘ethpthah’, the passive imperative of the verb ‘pthah’, ‘to open’, since the ‘th’ could assimilate in western Aramaic. The pharyngeal ‘h’ was often omitted in Greek transcriptions in the Greek Old Testament and was also softened in Galilean speech.

At the Resurrection, Mary uses the term ‘rabbuni’ (Aramaic) rather than the Hebrew ‘rabbi’.



However, before we get carried away with the linguistic skills of Jesus and those around Him, remember the speaking in tongues at Pentecost. To general amazement, those present spoke in a myriad of tongues and yet were universally understood. Perhaps the first appearance of the Babel Fish (ref: *Hitchhikers’ Guide to the Galaxy*).

I guess we should be grateful that, when we pray, God understands English and also speaks to us in our own language.

Church Mouse



# Is Our Parish Worth Praying For?

Surely the answer to this is a resounding “YES!” and we hope that you would like to join us once a month for 45-60 minutes to do so.

We have so much to be grateful for and to thank God: devoted and caring clergy; two wonderful church buildings; volunteers who run so many activities, groups and events; volunteers who run the Pastoral Centre; volunteers who upkeep our buildings and lettings; all who use our premises; our many church services, bellringers, choir and music makers; our churchwardens and PCC – and that’s only the tip of the iceberg of our blessings!

Then there are those things that are on hearts and minds that we need help with: difficult relationships; outreach to our new communities; outreach to young people and young families; care and support of those who are in difficulty; wisdom and guidance in future decisions; the growth of love, faith and true fellowship throughout our ever-widening Parish ...

Of course, we can, and do, pray for such matters during our weekly intercessions in both churches and in our own private prayer at home, but this dedicated time to pray together, specifically for our Parish, is very precious too.

We usually meet on the last Wednesday of the month, starting each session by talking over the joys and concerns we have encountered, or have had brought to our attention, since we last met so that we can focus our thanks and petitions upon those matters uppermost in the Parish’s life. Our prayers then follow, spoken quietly and informally but with the silent support of others, and we finish by sharing the grace.

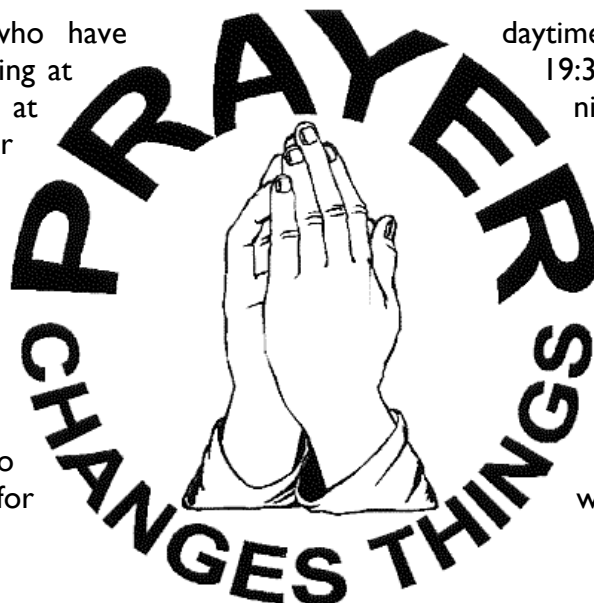
We would love more people to join us as, clearly, each person brings a unique perspective and knowledge about the current activities and concerns of the Parish and, the better informed we are, the more pertinent our prayers. We know that God knows our needs before we ask but, as well as helping us to discern His will, it is also right to give Him thanks and praise!

Of course, everyone already has many commitments: to the Parish, to families, neighbours, friends and careers so that it may not be possible to attend every session of the Parish Prayer Group.

Indeed, for those of us who have alternate months in the evening at better access and availability at prefer to meet in the day, or meet alternate months at has better availability during

So... watch out for and church posters for our venues!!

It would be lovely, and a real whenever you can manage to know the Parish concerns for



daytime commitments, we meet 19:30 (at St Barnabas’ which has night) and for those of us who have evening commitments, we 14:30 (at St Nicholas’ which the day).

pewsheets advertisements Wednesday dates and

boost to the Parish, to see you come and, if you can’t, let us which you would like us to pray.

*Linda Eells (on behalf of the Parish Prayer Group)*



# The VCS: Visual Commentary on Scripture

The VCS is a project, instigated by Professor Ben Quash, to provide a visual commentary on the whole of Scripture; already much of the Bible is covered. The principle is that a Commentator is invited to select three images relating to a given passage of Scripture; provide a commentary for each image; and then a final commentary integrating all three.

The VCS is free to access – simply search on **thevcs.org** and you can then search by Bible passage, a theme, a work of art, or the Commentator. The images chosen come from a wide range, including 'Old Masters', but there is a preponderance of recent and contemporary images.

To give you a flavour of the contents, I am using two 'exhibitions' provided by my daughter-in-law, Sheona. This may seem like nepotism, but as I have her permission it avoids some thorny problems of copyright.

## *Leviticus chapters 15-18*



This 'exhibition' [Scaping Sin] has the images [A Tent of Meetings] which is the well-known work by Tracey Emin, 'Everyone I Have Ever Slept With 1963-1995' which was part of the 1995 *Sensations* exhibition at the RA; [An Unclean Concentrate] 'Leviticus, part of Divine Violence' 1963, KJV Bible plus images by Adam Broomberg and Oliver Chanarin; and [A Painful Transference] which is James Tissot's 1886-94 painting 'Agnus Dei: The Scapegoat'. The integrating commentary is entitled [Hingeing on Holiness].

## *The Woman Caught in Adultery: John 7.53-8.11*



Here the 'exhibition' [The Woman Caught in Adultery] begins with a photograph [The Teachers Caught in Hypocrisy] by Duane Michals 'Christ is Beaten Defending a Homosexual' 1982; then [The Woman Who Suffers] Shqiipe Kamberi's mixed media image 'Bride, 2017'; and finally [The Space for Grace], 'Writing in the Dust', 2016 by Roger Wagner. The three images are brought together in [Then Neither Do I Condemn You].

I wish that I had the space available to give you some examples of the commentaries, but while they are erudite, insightful and stimulating, they are too long and complex to summarise here.

However, may I strongly encourage you to dip into the VCS as: an adjunct to prayer; as part of your Bible study; as a theological stimulus; or as a basis for group discussion.

Go on – give **thevcs.org** a try!

Church Mouse





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## Pound Hill Toddlers

Earlier this year, the Toddler group clocked up 40 years since it was started by Crys Kefford and Glynis Tingay. It continues to meet every Tuesday (13:00 to 15:00) and Thursday (9:00 to 11:00) during termtime. Lots of fun had by all with activities to keep all the toddlers (and carers!) entertained. We have a break in the middle for refreshments followed by singing and more fun activities. The Tuesday session is quieter, but growing, and the Thursday session remains as popular as ever! Why not come along!

Further information can be obtained from the Parish Office.

*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.

*Nicky Anderson*



## Child friendly services

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At St Barnabas', Sunday School is every week and the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday every month is especially child-friendly.



**17 AND 21 JUNE** THE LORD'S PRAYER  
learning the prayer Jesus gave us

**15 AND 19 JULY** JONAH & THE WHALE  
making peg whales

**16 AND 20 SEPTEMBER** THE TEN LEPERS  
Turning plasters into works of art

**14 AND 18 OCTOBER** BOOKS OF THE BIBLE  
How is the bible grouped?



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## Hunt the Mag



**What** made Mother Teresa angry?

**Which** song has been sung at every coronation since King Edgar in 973AD?

**When** does the parish Prayer Group usually meet?

**Where** did our pilgrims go in May?

**Who** is speaking about her adventures on a motorcycle?

**Why** did the BBC come to St Nic's in April?

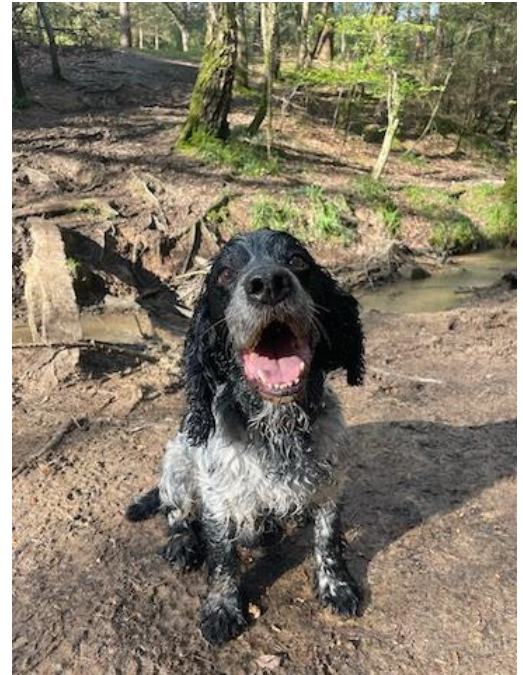
**How** long has the Toddler Group been at St B's?

# Shadow's Blog

I like this time of year as the number of wood walks that I go on increases. Apparently, it's got something to do with 'finding bluebells'. To be honest I'm not that bothered if we find bluebells or not (don't tell my humans that, as they are always disappointed if we don't find any). The thing that matters to me on a wood walk is how much mud there is. I like mud, but I also enjoy the fun to be had when my humans try and give me a warm shower when I get home, and I show my appreciation by trying to get my humans as wet as I am, even if they weren't as muddy!

However, last time I went to the woods, one of my humans tried to get as muddy as me. One moment I was wallowing in the mud and then SPLAT! The next thing I knew, one of my humans was there lying in the mud next to me. Somehow, I doubt it was intentional but it was funny seeing her there. I did of course let her share the shower with me!

Must go... it's time for some more bluebell hunting!



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. As we near the end of the school year, if you know anyone moving into year 7 in September why not ask them to get in touch? email [youth@worthparish.org](mailto:youth@worthparish.org) As we move into Spring activities have tended to move outside into the Jubilee Garden, for football and gardening.

David Anderson

## Holy Baptism

|               |                            |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| 8 April 2023  | Joshua Hallard             |
| 9 April 2023  | Ryan Ireland               |
| 16 April 2023 | Louis Albert James Watkins |
| 23 April 2023 | Jack Howard Dyer           |
| 21 May 2023   | Nola Rae Tucker            |







Over the course of our 5 year plan we try to cover the 7 'I am' sayings of Jesus, found in the book of John. This month it was the turn of 'I am the gate'. The children enjoyed acting out sheep in a sheep pen and especially enjoyed having great faith in that they could climb through a gate cut in an A4 piece of paper. If you want to know how to do this – ask me!



Easter + I am the Gate  
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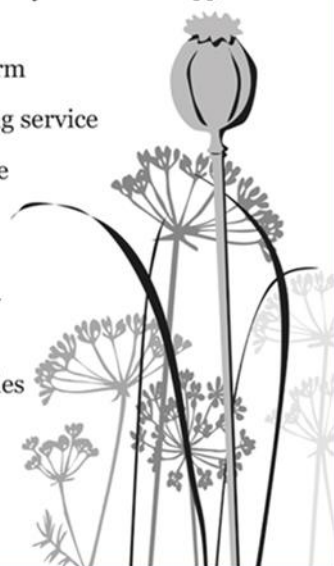
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# USEFUL NUMBERS

|                                                |                                |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Altar Servers (St Barnabas')                   | David Anderson                 |
| Altar Servers (St Nicholas')                   | Jenny Dobson<br>Richard Turpie |
| Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals                | Parish Office                  |
| 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)             | Mark Harrison                  |
| Church Cleaning (St Barnabas')                 | Jane Stanford                  |
| Church Cleaning (St Nicholas')                 | Jill Freeborn                  |
| Churchwardens (St Barnabas')                   | David Anderson                 |
| Churchwardens (St Nicholas')                   | Rose Wells<br>Colin Smith      |
| Co-ordinator (Parish)                          | Sue Perry                      |
| Events                                         | Jane Stanford                  |
| Families, Youth and Children's Work            | Caroline Formby (lay)          |
| Flower Arranging (St Barnabas')                | Jane Stanford                  |
| Flower Arranging (St Nicholas')                | Noreen Oxlade                  |
| Friends of St Nicholas'                        | Colin Smith                    |
| Giving (Donations etc)                         | David Fry                      |
| Julian Group (St Barnabas')                    | Don Hewerdine                  |
| Julian Group (St Nicholas')                    | Linda Eells                    |
| Knit and Natter                                | Val Rudd                       |
| Magazine                                       | Sue Perry                      |
| Messy Church                                   | Office                         |
| Mothers' Union                                 | Mary Fry                       |
| Office (Parish) manned and with 24/7 ansaphone |                                |
| Offices at St Barnabas' (not manned)           |                                |
| PCC Chair                                      | Michael Boag                   |
| PCC Secretary                                  | Liz Gallagher                  |
| PCC Electoral Roll Officer                     | Jane Stanford                  |
| PCC Treasurer                                  | Churchwardens                  |
| Prayer Group                                   | Linda Eells                    |
| Safeguarding Officer                           | Anita Wilkinson                |
| Social Media                                   | David Anderson                 |
| Stewardship Officer                            |                                |
| St Nicholas' Circle                            | Max Perry                      |
| Sunday School                                  | Nicky Anderson                 |
| Toddlers                                       | Jenny Dobson                   |
| Website                                        | Elizabeth Whyman               |
| Weddings                                       | Parish Office                  |

0300

111

8150

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Or email [office@worthparish.org](mailto:office@worthparish.org)

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# June – September 2023 Calendar

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

| <b>When?</b> |                 | <b>What?</b>                               | <b>Where?</b>       |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Wed 7 June   | 19:30 for 20:00 | The Circle: 'Spring is Sprung'             | <i>St Barnabas'</i> |
| Sun 11 June  | 10:00           | Joint Patronal Festival Day                | <i>St Barnabas'</i> |
| Mon 12 June  | 14:00           | Julian Group                               | <i>St Barnabas'</i> |
| Wed 14 June  | 12:30           | Julian Group                               | <i>St Nicholas'</i> |
| Wed 14 June  | 14.30           | Scrabble & Cake                            | <i>St Barnabas'</i> |
| Thur 15 June | 19:00           | Dew Festival                               | <i>St Nicholas'</i> |
| Sat 17 June  | 15:30           | Messy Church                               | <i>St Barnabas'</i> |
| Wed 21 June  | 15:00           | Messy church                               | <i>St Barnabas'</i> |
| Thur 22 June | 15:45           | Mothers' Union Meeting                     | <i>St Barnabas'</i> |
| Sat 24 June  | 10:00           | Saturday Market                            | <i>St Barnabas'</i> |
| Wed 28 June  | 19:00           | Parish Prayer Group                        | <i>St Barnabas'</i> |
| Wed 28 June  | 19:30 for 20:00 | The Circle: Wine, cheese and strawberries  | <i>St Barnabas'</i> |
| Mon 10 July  | 14:00           | Julian Group                               | <i>St Barnabas'</i> |
| Wed 12 July  | 12:30           | Julian Group                               | <i>St Nicholas'</i> |
| Sat 15 July  | 15:30           | Messy Church                               | <i>St Barnabas'</i> |
| Wed 19 July  | 15:00           | Messy Church                               | <i>St Barnabas'</i> |
| Wed 19 July  | 19:30 for 20:00 | The Circle: Greta – Adventures on Route 66 | <i>St Barnabas'</i> |
| Sat 22 July  | 10:00           | Saturday Market                            | <i>St Barnabas'</i> |
| Wed 26 July  | 14:30           | Parish Prayer Group                        | <i>St Nicholas'</i> |
| Wed 26 July  | 14.30           | Scrabble & Cake                            | <i>St Barnabas'</i> |
| Sat 5 Aug    | 10:00           | Saturday Market                            | <i>St Barnabas'</i> |
| Wed 9 Aug    | 12:30           | Julian Group                               | <i>St Nicholas'</i> |
| Mon 14 Aug   | 14:00           | Julian Group                               | <i>St Barnabas'</i> |
| Wed 30 Aug   | 19:00           | Parish Prayer group                        | <i>St Barnabas'</i> |
| Sat 9 Sept   | 10:00           | Saturday Market                            | <i>St Barnabas'</i> |
| Mon 11 Sept  | 14:00           | Julian Group                               | <i>St Barnabas'</i> |
| Wed 13 Sept  | 12:30           | Julian Group                               | <i>St Nicholas'</i> |
| Sat 16 Sept  | 15:30           | Messy Church                               | <i>St Barnabas'</i> |
| Wed 20 Sept  | 15:00           | Messy Church                               | <i>St Barnabas'</i> |
| Wed 27 Sept  | 14:30           | Parish Prayer Group                        | <i>St Nicholas'</i> |
| Wed 27 Sept  | 14.30           | Scrabble & Cake                            | <i>St Barnabas'</i> |
| Thur 28 Sept | 15:45           | Mothers' Union Meeting                     | <i>St Barnabas'</i> |

# Ballard & Shortall

Funeral Directors

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Conversations can give your family important insights to the things that matter the most to you.

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