



23 July
2023

Trinity 7



Welcome to
St Barnabas' in Pound Hill and
St Nicholas' in Worth

This sheet details the readings in today's services as well as notices for everyone.

SERVICES TODAY

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

08:15 Said Eucharist (BCP) St Nicholas'
Celebrant & Preacher Revd Gordon Parry

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

10:00 Sung Eucharist
and Baptism St Nicholas'
Celebrant & Preacher Revd Greta

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



Payments to the Parish

If you possibly can, please transfer the money by electronic payment to: Worth PCC, sort code 40-18-22, account 61223372.

If you need help, call the Office.

A parable about judging others?

When someone does something wrong or commits a crime, do we judge? Yes. We judge, in my experience sooner rather than later.

Like the slaves of the householder in this parable we want to condemn all that is bad, we think we know best. But the answer in the parable is no, you must wait. The wheat will be harmed if the weeds are gathered.

I suggest that it would be wise not to take this parable too literally in thinking that the wheat and the weeds are people, either totally good or totally bad. That's because there is good and bad in everyone, to quote Stevie Wonder and Paul McCartney!

You may think that it's not fair. Why do some people get away with being selfish or mean, and even seem to prosper at other people's expense?

Well, here are my thoughts.

When a tiny human is born and loved, nurtured, guided and disciplined the outcome hopefully is a well-rounded person who enjoys life and seeks the good of others.

When a tiny human is born but not wanted, neglected and insulted every day of their life. It is not surprising that this person doesn't grow up seeking the good of others, perhaps never having experienced love.

I believe every person has the potential and the capacity for good. It is the enemy who sabotages this. Someone who hurts is 'hurting' themselves, it's never simple and it's immensely complicated, that is why we need to leave the judging to God.

In the parable we are told to wait.

At the right time, God will collect all causes of sin and the doers of evil. Then evil will be gone. Meanwhile we strive for good in ourselves and with others.

Peace be with you,

Revd Sarah

Collect

Generous God, you give us gifts and make them grow: though our faith is small as mustard seed, make it grow to your glory and the flourishing of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Reading *Wisdom of Solomon 12.13,16-19*

For neither is there any god besides you, whose care is for all people, to whom you should prove that you have not judged unjustly;



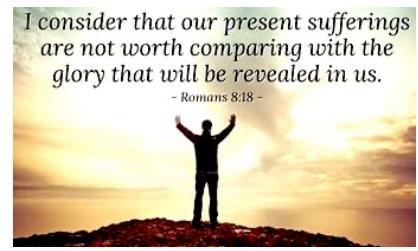
For your strength is the source of righteousness, and your sovereignty over all causes you to spare all. For you show your strength when people doubt the completeness of your power, and you rebuke any insolence among those who know it. Although you are sovereign in strength, you judge with mildness, and with great forbearance you govern us; for you have power to act whenever you choose. Through such works you have taught your people that the righteous must be kind, and you have filled your children with good hope, because you give repentance for sins.

Reading *Romans 8.12-25*

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh - for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ - if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation

waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the



creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Gospel *Matthew 13.24-30,36-43*

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;

BUT WHILE MEN SLEPT, HIS ENEMY CAME AND SOWED TALES AMONG THE WHEAT, AND WENT HIS WAY.

but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of

the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?" He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn."

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him,

saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.' He answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!'

Post Communion

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen

Festivals this week	
Tues 25 July	James the Apostle (F)
Wed 26 July	Anne and Joachim, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary (LF)
Thur 27 July	Brooke Foss Westcott, Bishop of Durham, Teacher 1901 (C)
Sat 29 July	Mary, Martha and Lazarus, Companions of our Lord (LF)

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

Toddlers Group
now taking the Summer break

The Hangout
Youth Club at St Barnabas'
now taking the Summer break

SERVICES THIS WEEK		
Tues 25 July	10:30 Said Eucharist	St Barnabas'
Thur 27 July	10:30 Said Eucharist	St Nicholas'
Sat 29 July	14:00 Wedding	St Nicholas'
Sun 30 July	8:15 Eucharist (BCP) 10:00 Sung Eucharist 10:00 Sung Eucharist 11:45 Baptism	St Nicholas' St Barnabas' St Nicholas' St Nicholas'
Sunday 30 July 2023 Trinity 8 I Kings 3.5-12 Romans 8.26-39 Matthew 13.31-33,44-52		

DIARY NOTES & NOTICES

Worth Festival Choir Vivaldi Gloria in September

Rehearsals for the Festival Choir's performance of the Vivaldi Gloria continue **this Sunday, at 16:00** in St. Nicholas'.

Parish Prayer Group

will meet at **14:30 at St Nicholas' on Wed 26 July**. Please join us at St Nicholas' as we pray for our Parish, its clergy and its outreach.

Scrabble and Cake

Wed 26 July, 14:30-16:30, at St Barnabas'. Come and enjoy games, refreshments and company. £3.50 per person, all welcome.

Mothers' Union

Wed 26 July 15:00 at Blackwater Lodge (or St Barnabas' Café, if wet.) Mothers' Union are hosting an Afternoon Tea with Raffle (£1) and second-hand book sale, in aid of our Summer of Hope Appeal. Tickets are currently available from either Joan Tick or Mary Fry, **cost £10 per person**. Families everywhere need our support and prayers during this Summer of Hope.

Friday Lunches

Friday lunch on **28 July** in The Café at 12:30. Two courses and a drink £7.00. To help with catering please book your place at the Café (café open Wed and Sat) or via the Parish Office, by **Wed 26 July**. All welcome.

Youth Courses

Youth Alpha on Fridays **18:00** at St Barnabas' Café. Contact Revd Sarah with any questions.

Recycling

We recycle **milk bottle tops**.

Containers are now available in the Narthex at St Barnabas' and on Sue's door-step. Please deliver **by the end of July**.

We also collect used postage **stamps** (for the Hospice) and used **printer cartridges** (for McIndoe); please deliver to the Narthex.

Crawley Open House: Harvest Appeal

Around 75% of everything we give to others was once given to us – we simply couldn't do what we do without the kindness and generosity of the community around us.

The most useful items are tins or packets of the following: sugar, UHT milk, meat and fish, vegetables, fruit, beans, bottles of squash, soup, cereals, rice, cooking sauces, desserts, tea/coffee and biscuits but, of course, all donations are welcome.

CONTACTS

The Rector

Fr Michael Boag 01293 882229
rector@worthparish.org (Tues-Sun)

Vicar at St Barnabas'

Revd Sarah Upchurch 01293 524804
vicarstb@worthparish.org (Tues-Sun)

Assistant Priest

Revd Gordon Parry 07802 432398
gordonmwparry@btinternet.com

Assistant Priest

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

Assistant Curate

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

Churchwardens

David Anderson (St B) 01293 409914
stbwarden@worthparish.org

Vacant (St N) 0300 111 8150

Colin Smith (Acting, St N) 01293 889894

Worth Parish Office

Sue Perry 0300 111 8150
office@worthparish.org



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I FEEL BAD FOR ALL
THOSE PEOPLE THAT
JESUS IS CALLING
"WEEDS."

I THINK IT'S
INTERESTING THAT
YOU ASSUME THAT
"THEY" ARE
OTHER PEOPLE.



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LORD HAVE
MERCY!



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MATTHEW 13:24-30, 36-43