



**10 December
2023**

Advent 2



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 Sung Eucharist St Barnabas'
Celebrant Revd Sarah Upchurch
Preacher Revd Canon Penny Foreman

10:00 Sung Eucharist St Nicholas'
Celebrant & Preacher Fr Michael Boag

16:00 Carols for All St Barnabas'

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.

In today's Gospel reading, the introduction to St Mark's Gospel, we are reminded firstly of Isaiah's prophecy about John the Baptist. Then we read of John's activity itself, his attempts to prepare people for the coming of Christ and the response of the crowds, coming forward for baptism and confession. It is interesting to speculate on whether the crowds were responding to John as a phenomenon or whether they really did see this rather strange-looking 'alternative' preacher as the 'warm-up' for the ministry of Christ himself. John's message was an uncompromising one: sinfulness needed to be acknowledged, forgiveness sought and so that the reception of the Holy Spirit and Christ himself could be met by people of integrity and openness who understood the absolute nature of truth.

Our own Christian journey is necessarily punctuated by acts of confession and pleas for divine forgiveness. We crave revelations of divine truth at a time when truth has been subverted by selfishness and relativism - 'my truth', 'your truth' – practised daily by very influential politicians and others across the world. Openness to absolute truth is difficult: it cost John the Baptist his life and has generated prejudice and conflict all over the world, not least in our own country. John the Baptist prepared many for the coming of Christ. It seems that his words have just as difficult a reception today. As we approach the anniversary of Christ's birth will we be ready for the uncompromising but wonderful impact of his ministry on earth?

Gordon

Collect

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. **Amen**

Reading *Isaiah 40.1-11*

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and

his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them

in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reading *2 Peter 3.8-15a*

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as

some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Gospel *Mark 1.1-8*

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who



*Prepare
Ye The Way
Of The
Lord*

will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. John the

baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop



down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

Post Communion

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

DIARY NOTES & NOTICES

St Barnabas' - CAROLS FOR ALL

TODAY at 16:00 All singers and players of any instrument are cordially invited to join the Music Group at St Barnabas' in playing and singing for this joyful inclusive carol service. We will be getting together in the church at 15:00 to prepare for the service which starts at 16:00.

To find out more about the service please email John Palmer at music.stb@worthparish.org

Please bring your own music stand and a stand light if you have one. Thank you.

SERVICES THIS WEEK		
Tues 12 Dec	10:30 Said Eucharist	St Barnabas'
Thur 14 Dec	10:30 Said Eucharist	St Nicholas'
Sun 17 Dec	8:15 Eucharist (BCP) 10:00 Sung Eucharist 10:00 Sung Eucharist 16.00 Nine Lessons and Carols	St Nicholas' St Barnabas' St Nicholas' St Nicholas'
Sunday 17 December 2023 Advent 3; Gaudete Sunday Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11 I Thessalonians 5.16-24 John 1.6-8,19-28		

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

St Nicholas' Julian Group

Meets on **Wed 13 Dec at 12:30** for half an hour of silent prayer. Please feel free to join us - everyone welcome!

Scrabble and Cake

Wed 13 Dec, 14:30-16:30, in St Barnabas' Café. Come and enjoy Scrabble (or other board games or a jigsaw), refreshments and company. £3.50. In aid of St Barnabas' Refurbishment.

Friday Lunches

Friday lunch on **15 Dec** 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 13 Dec** Profits for Parish funds. The lunches are not exclusively for the elderly, why not bring a friend and give us a try. All welcome.

Festivals this week	
Wed 13 Dec	Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse 304 (LF) Samuel Johnson, Moralist 1784 (C)
Thur 14 Dec	John of the Cross, Poet, Teacher 1591 (LF)
(F) Festival; (LF) Lesser Festival; (C) Commemoration	

The Hangout
 Youth Club at St Barnabas' on
Fri 15 December 19:00-20:30
 For Year Groups 7-11. Entry free.
 Weekly during term time.

Love Christmas 2023

is now officially launched!

Our heart is to promote kindness and connection across our community and to reach those who are struggling or alone so they can experience the joy and hope that Christmas promises.

Please share this

Any **donations** towards Love Christmas would be gratefully received, all of which will be match funded. This can also be done via the link:

[Love Christmas 2023](#) If anyone would like to join the team to help us pull this off please also point them to the above link, everything is there!

Phyllis Edwards

We are sorry to report that Phyllis Edwards died peacefully on Mon 20 November.

Funeral 11:00 Fri 15 Dec at the Crematorium, Memorial Chapel.
Rest in Peace, Rise in Glory

Pam Hiscock

We are sorry to report that Pam Hiscock died peacefully on Mon 20 November.

Funeral 12:00 Fri 22 Dec St Nicholas'
Rest in Peace, Rise in Glory

Parish Prayer Group

will NOT meet in December.

CONTACTS

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Vicar at St Barnabas'

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Assistant Priest

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Associate Vicar

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ABOUT JOHN'S
WARDROBE AND
DIET...



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

HE'S IN THE WILDERNESS, ON THE
EDGE OF SURVIVAL, ANTICIPATING
THE COMING OF SALVATION.



AND SHOPPING
LOCAL!



MARK 1:1-8

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