



**17 December  
2023**

## **Advent 3 Gaudete Sunday**



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

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

### **SERVICES TODAY**

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

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

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

10:00 Sung Eucharist      St Nicholas'  
Celebrant & Preacher      Revd Dr Greta Sawyer

16:00 Nine Lessons & Carols      St Nicholas'

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.

Today we light the third candle on our Advent wreath, and you will notice that the candle is a different colour from those that are lit on the other Sundays in Advent. Today we change from a sombre purple colour, the colour of penance and expectation, to rose-pink, the liturgical colour for joy.

The use of the colour pink reminds us that even in the midst of waiting we have cause for rejoicing. The pink candle serves as a beacon of joy.

However, joy isn't always easy to find, especially in a world filled with turmoil, uncertainty, and pain. We need to seek that deep, abiding joy that stems from our relationship with God, a joy that goes beyond our day-to-day struggles.

John the Baptist was sent from God to prepare the way for the Lord. In our lives, we encounter messengers of joy, people who, like John the Baptist, remind us of the imminent arrival of Christ's presence. People who are able to prepare our hearts to receive the joy that comes with the Christ child.

These people are all around us. You could even be sitting near to one when you read this. For you could be one of 'these' people. Someone who is able to share the joy that our faith brings, who can reach out in love and support, and so share in God's work of bringing joy into the lives of others, as we await the birth of our Saviour.

*Revd Greta*

## Collect

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

**Amen**

## Reading *Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11*

**the Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me**

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent

me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; - to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion - to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

## Reading *1 Thessalonians 5.16-24*

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to

what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of

our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

## Gospel *John 1.6-8,19-28*

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the



prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his

sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

### Post Communion

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

SERVICES THIS WEEK		
Tues 19 Dec	10:30 Said Eucharist	St Barnabas'
Wed 20 Dec	18:00 Blue Christmas	St Barnabas'
Thur 21 Dec	10:30 Healing Eucharist	St Nicholas'
Fri 22 Dec	12:00 Funeral: Pamela Hiscock	St Nicholas'
Sun 24 Dec	8:15 Eucharist (BCP) 10:00 Child Friendly Eucharist 10:00 Sung Eucharist 14.00 Crib Service 16:00 Crib Service with Nativity 23:30 Midnight Mass	St Nicholas' St Barnabas' St Nicholas' St Barnabas' St Nicholas' Both Churches
Mon 25 Dec	8:15 Eucharist (BCP) 10:00 Sung Eucharist 10:00 Sung Eucharist	St Nicholas' St Barnabas' St Nicholas'
<b>Sunday 24 December 2023</b> <b>Advent 4</b> 2 Samuel 7.1-11,16   Romans 16.25-27 Luke 1.26-38		

Festivals this week	
	No Festivals this week
(F) Festival; (LF) Lesser Festival; (C) Commemoration	

### DIARY NOTES & NOTICES

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

No meetings until 9 January

### Friday Lunches

**NO** Friday lunch on **22 or 29 Dec** in The Café at 12:30. **Lunches resume on 5 Jan.**

The lunches are not exclusively for the elderly, why not bring a friend and give us a try. All welcome.

### The Hangout

Youth Club at St Barnabas' on

**Fri 19:00-20:30**

For Year Groups 7-11. Entry free.

Weekly during term time.

Next meeting 5 January

### 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](https://www.lovechristmas2023.co.uk) 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!

### Parish Prayer Group

will NOT meet in December.

### Nativity Play

Rehearsals: Thur 21 Dec 16:00; Fri 22 Dec 16:00; Full Dress Rehearsal Sat 23 Dec 9:30 – all at St Nicholas'.

## Church Mouse's Christmas

will be performed at about 11:15 on **Thurs 21 Dec** at St Nicholas'. A selection of readings and music to entertain you, followed by a bring-and-share lunch. Please bring a contribution!



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## CONTACTS

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### Worth Parish Office

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