



**31 December
2023**

Christmas I



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 Gordon Parry
11:45 Baptism	St Nicholas'

Please try our QR code
to donate to Worth
Parish. Scan this code
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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.

The shepherds, summoned by an angel, have visited the baby in the manger. They return home, praising God for what they have seen and heard. Then comes the focus of celebration. "When eight days were fulfilled for the circumcision of the child," we hear from the gospel, "he was given the name of Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived."

The name that Jesus receives is heavy with significance. It is the same as that of Joshua, the Old Testament hero who leads Israel into the land of freedom. The name means literally "The Lord is salvation." This is the name that Gabriel, at the Annunciation, told Mary to name her child. It is a name that comes from God. The name of the Saviour, Jesus himself, the salvation he brings, all come from God.

Sadly, all too many people nowadays use the name as an expletive, even as a swear word.... As Christians, as believers in the Christ child, we must never do that! Whatever your circumstances, the Holy Name of Jesus can be your prayer. You will find in this great name enough courage and joy to last you a lifetime, whatever may come your way in the future. I have actually been at the bedside of a person dying in hospital using the name of Jesus, followed by 'Dear Lord'.

A new year lies before us; and we don't know what it will bring. Whatever your personal circumstances, may 2024 be for each of us a year when we pray our Saviour's name with faith and a year when we discover that this world can become a very different place through the power of Jesus.

Every blessing,

Fr Francis

Collect

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen

Reading *Isaiah 61.10-62.3*

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.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reading *Galatians 4.4-7*

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Now you are
**NO LONGER
A SLAVE**
*but God's
own child*

Gospel *Luke 2.15-21*

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed, it was time to



circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the

name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Post Communion

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Festivals this week

Mon 1 Jan	The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus (F)
Tues 2 Jan	Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishops, Teachers 379 and 389 (LF) Seraphim, Monk of Sarov, Spiritual Guide 1833 (C) Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah, Bishop in South India, Evangelist 1945 (C)
(F) Festival; (LF) Lesser Festival; (C) Commemoration	

SERVICES THIS WEEK		
Tues 2 Jan	10:30 Healing Eucharist	St Barnabas'
Wed 3 Jan	11:15 Funeral	St Nicholas'
Thur 4 Jan	10:30 Said Eucharist	St Nicholas'
Sun 7 Jan	8:15 Eucharist (BCP) 10:00 Sung Eucharist 10:00 Sung Eucharist* 11:45 Baptism <i>*Crowns will be worn</i>	St Nicholas' St Barnabas' St Nicholas' St Nicholas'
Sunday 7 January 2024 The Epiphany 1 John 5.5-13 Psalm 147.13-20 Mark 1.7-11		

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.

Meetings resume on 9 January

Friday Lunches

Friday lunch on **5 Jan** 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 3 Jan**. Profits for Parish funds. 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 5 Jan 19:00-20:30
 For Year Groups 7-11. Entry free.
 Weekly during term time.

St Barnabas' Julian Group

meets on **Mon 8 Jan at 14:00** in St Barnabas'.

St Nicholas' Julian Group

Meets on **Wed 10 Jan at 12:30** for half an hour of silent prayer. Please feel free to join us - everyone welcome!

St Nicholas' Circle

The Circle meets on **Wed 10 Jan at 19:30 for 20:00** in the Café, when there will be wine and cheese and, maybe, some left-over mince pies.

Come and see, a song and a prayer, followed by pizza and lollies.

In January Messy Church

will be a on **Sat 13 Jan 15:00-16:30**

(note new time) and on **Wed 17 Jan**

15:00-16:30 at St Barnabas'. Everyone welcome - mums, dads, grandparents, carers - come and have fun!





MESSY CHURCH

13 AND 17 JANUARY EPIPHANY
Turn a Christmas card into a gift box

21 AND 24 FEBRUARY HOW TO PRAY
Does holding something help?

16 AND 20 MARCH SYMBOLS OF EASTER
Cross Crafts and Eggs

10 APRIL EASTER CELEBRATION



Wednesdays and Saturdays

Pizza and Ice Lollies 15.00 - 16.30

ST BARNABAS' WORTH ROAD POUND HILL RH10 7DY
worthparish.org

CONTACTS

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