

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and soft grey clouds. In the foreground, the dark silhouettes of several people are visible, standing and looking towards the horizon. Bare tree branches hang down from the top of the frame, also in silhouette.

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom
every family in heaven and on earth takes its name.

EPHESIANS 3:14-15

WORTH PARISH magazine

£1.00 July – September 2024

ST BARNABAS', POUND HILL
ST NICHOLAS', WORTH

Reg. Charity No. 1131090

CONTACTS AND REGULAR SERVICES

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND GENERAL ENQUIRIES



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facebook.com/worthparish



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ST NICHOLAS' SERVICES



Sundays
8:15am
Holy Communion (BCP, 1662)
10am Sung Eucharist

Thursdays
10:30am
Eucharist

ST BARNABAS' SERVICES



Sundays
10am 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays
Eucharist
10am 4th Sundays
Child Friendly Eucharist

Tuesdays
10:30am
Eucharist

CAFE



Wednesdays
10 - 13:00
Coffee Shop

Thursdays
14-16:00
Knit and Natter

Fridays
10 - 12:30
Coffee Shop
12:30-14:00
Friday Lunches

Saturdays
10 - 13:00
Coffee Shop

NOTE FROM THE ED



'God moves in a mysterious way' is a quote often wrongly attributed to the Bible. It is, in fact, a hymn written by William Cowper in 1773 and is a thought as true now as it was then. A broken hip was not quite the break I had been anticipating when I chose to walk the dogs instead of packing to go to Sri Lanka. However, since then I have met so many people due to have a new hip and have been able to encourage them as a result of my experience – and we will get to Sri Lanka one day. With a very quiet May, followed by a hugely busy June it made sense to give myself more time to get my life back on track, as well as to give our readers a more interesting mag to read, by delaying the mag by a month. The Bishop and Chichester feature quite a bit too – giving you something to think about on warm, balmy summer nights. The parish Fair raised £1180 for parish funds and our recent Quiz held at St Nic's raised £305 towards the organ fund. It is especially good to see our non-churchgoing parishioners at these events and using our premises. God gives us the opportunities to sow seeds in so many places and in so many ways, but many of these require volunteers – not a few people giving hours and hours of time, but many people giving one or two hours. So across the summer please think about how you can help our Parish grow, whether it is a couple of hours preparing crafts for Messy Church, baking a cake for the café or moving furniture for events / Toddlers – sometimes time is worth even more than money!

Sue x

VOICE OF THE VICAR

How well do you look after yourself? There is much in the media about wellbeing and it is so important to take care of ourselves, body, mind and spirit. All these elements are inextricably linked. In our Deanery we have a Deanery Healing Network, a group of five people who have an interest in the Christian healing ministry. In June, we had an Away Day at Storrington Priory where the Chemin Neuf Community reside. It was such an 'oasis' where we had time to immerse ourselves in an encouraging passage from the New Testament. Listen to this; *For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name.*



I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

We used the 'technique' known as Lectio Divina. It is a way of really concentrating on the scripture by reading it out loud or silently several times. Then you make a note of what word or phrase has captured your attention, then meditate on the scripture using your imagination maybe, perhaps to become one of the characters, then lastly you ask God to open up the scriptures to reveal the truth to you. In our group there was opportunity to share individual insights, God reveals his truth through others quite remarkably. We are now in the Church calendar year where we are in so-called Ordinary Time where we have time to tend our faith. I commend Lectio Divina to you, perhaps take things down a notch to a slower pace and immerse yourself in scripture. The results are gentle and amazing when you dedicate time for God. Do let me know how you get on. The passage above is Ephesians chapter 3 verses 14 to 21.

I pray that we will be filled with the fullness of God in mind, body and spirit which will surpass our imagination! Peace be with you.

Revd Sarah

PARISH ROUNDUP

ST BARNABAS'



It was wonderful to be part of the Unity service on Good Friday, held in Queen's Square such a moving service of readings, reflections and music telling the Easter story. The weather was kind to us and the fountains were switched off! The square was full and it was great to be able to spread the Good News. The service was organised by Love Your Neighbour and Churches Together across Crawley.



On Easter Day, we started out with our service at the lake at Milton Mount, which was a joint service with the United Reformed Church. A lovely, simple service at the lakeside as the sun rose accompanied by the dawn chorus of the ducks. Followed by breakfast at the United Reformed Church. This was followed by the 10am service and Easter Egg hunt for the children (of all ages!).



On Easter Day it was great to celebrate the Baptism of Thora ahead of her Confirmation in May and on Saturday 15 June we celebrated the Baptism of Hayden, a lovely family service to welcome Hayden into the family of God.



David Anderson, Churchwarden

ST NICHOLAS'

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) was held at St Barnabas' on Sunday 21 April this year and was well attended. There is a huge volume of work involved in preparation for this meeting. The Trustees Annual Report (TAR) and the Financial Report, legal requirements of a charity, are at its heart. So, to all who contributed in any way whatsoever, congratulations on a job well done and hopefully much appreciated by our parishioners. At the meeting the following members were elected to the PCC:

Churchwardens: David Anderson and Colin Smith

Members: Donald Hewerdine, Seb Pelissier, Jane Stanford, Anita Wilkinson

Deanery Synod: David Fry and Ann Lane

However, your PCC still needs the services of a Treasurer and PCC Secretary. This work is currently undertaken by your Wardens and our bookkeeper, Jerry Taylor. If you can offer your services to one of these roles, or if you know of someone who may be a likely candidate, please get in touch.

The preparations for our next major projects at St Nicholas' are under way. These are the lighting, the sound system and accessible path from the Lychgate to the West Entrance. I can't yet tell you when we will progress to a start date for each project, but let me assure you that they will happen. We just have to make good decisions and watch our finances carefully.

Another project, not major but a significant change, is the relocation of our ringing chamber from its current location on the second floor of the belltower to the former choir robing room on the first floor. You can see this space from the chancel through the open arch above the vestry. Our bellringing chamber was originally in this space before making the unwelcomed move some forty years ago. The return to the original ringing chamber is long-awaited.

I can't complete this article without mentioning the event we, at St Nicholas', hosted on Friday 14 June. The third visit to our church by the International Folklore DEW Festival. The festival is held each year in Crawley comprising two days of Eastern European folk music with guest artists, including artists and poets from the UK. The artists provide a flavour of their festival before the two day main event. This year the 'warm up' was attended by our newly elected Mayor, Councillor Sharmila Sivarajah, resplendent in her



chain of office and Councillor Peter Lamb, the selected parliamentary Labour candidate for Crawley in the General Election. It was a pleasure to offer them our hospitality with generously donated drinks and nibbles at the reception and during the evening.

Finally, May I ask you to keep an eye on the forthcoming events section as we have a lot to look forward to. Let's hope for fine weather.

Colin Smith, Churchwarden

The **Worth Festival Choir** is an occasional choir, formed of you – enthusiastic singers!

The choir will rehearse for an hour every Sunday in July and August (from 7 July 2024) at 4pm, and this year will be learning Haydn's "The Heavens are Telling" and the Faure "Requiem".

There is no need to audition or to attend every rehearsal, nor is there any charge although donations welcome to music hire/heating costs.

This is not just about performing in a concert - which will be 1 September 2024 at 4pm, with audience tickets £5 - it is about singing together for the joy of it over the summer.

So, you are also welcome to the rehearsals even if you can't come on the day of the concert.

If you would like take part, turn up at St Nicholas' Church, RH10 7DY whenever you are able to attend.

It would be helpful but not necessary, if you can bring a pencil, a drink of water, and the Novello edition of the Faure "Requiem" and any copy of Haydn's "The Creation" for "The Heavens are Telling".

Under 16s should be accompanied by an adult.

Mark Harrison, Director of Music

THE CHURCHYARD – AN UPDATE

First of all, I would like to thank my Volunteers, who are essential to the continued upkeep and maintenance of the Churchyard and the Garden of Remembrance.

Recently, we were gifted 3 tonnes of woodchip from County Tree Surgeons for a temporary path between the Church and the Garden of Remembrance. This is a temporary measure until a resin path can be laid from the Garden of Remembrance up to the Lychgate and will make the wet and windy seasons less treacherous under foot; many thanks to Ben and his team. Also, thanks to M. Cain and Son for collecting two redundant petrol mowers that had spent at least six years in the shed collecting dust.

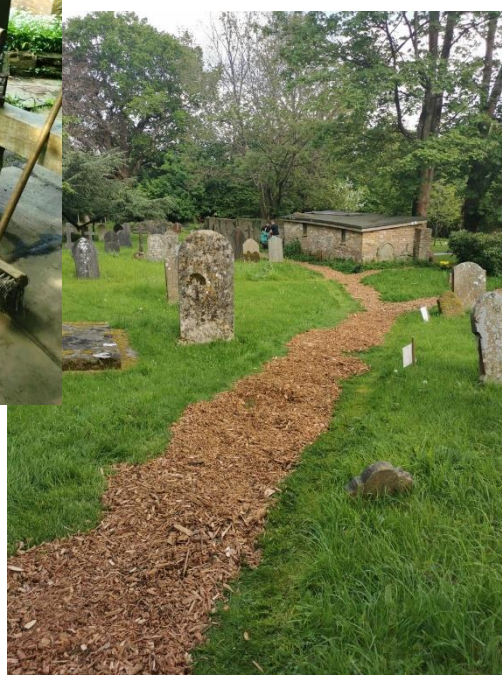
Since taking up the role of Sexton, I have noticed many visitors to the Church looking for particular graves of loved ones, War graves and people from historical events. It has been much easier to locate these graves since the volunteers and I have carried out many tasks both in the main Churchyard and the Garden of Remembrance including mowing, strimming, leaf collecting, planting, weeding around memorial stones, making pathways, raising the crown of low hanging boughs and taking out dead branches.

If you feel you are able to volunteer your time, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact the Parish Office or email me: sexton@worthparish.org

I look forward to hearing from you.

Any donations for the continuing maintenance of the old Churchyard and new Garden of Remembrance would be most welcome: Sort code: 40-18-22 Account number: 61223372 Reference: Churchyard

Jason - Sexton



FROM THE ORGAN LOFT

Elegant Serenades

Saturday 8 June saw the first concert of the Worth 2024 Music Festival. 'Elegant Serenades' we were promised, and what we certainly received in a concert by Emilie Rowley at St Nicholas'.

Emilie is a young soloist, who performed just over an hour of music. She plays, among an impressive range of other instruments, the recorder and she performed on her treble and descant instruments, accompanied by her mentor Charles Thompson. Charles will be recognised by many of our congregation having had a past association with St Nicholas', back to the 1970s, when he was a regular organist. However, this year he brought a spinet and a digital piano, moving between the two as the repertoire required. Emilie also sings, particularly musical theatre, and plays the saxophone, but we felt that the recorder was probably the best fit for the acoustic environment of St Nicholas'.

The selection of music was from the Baroque and the 20th century and I have to admit that apart from works by Tellemann (Sonata in C) and Handel (Sonata in F, Op 1 No 11), and the modern music by Thomas Pitfield, were new to me and quite a revelation.

Many of us had a bad experience with recorders at primary school and it is only in recent years, with the growth of interest in early music, that the instrument has been taken more seriously and become popular.

Emilie is without doubt a talented young performer. To give some dynamic and colour to music from a recorder which does not easily offer these is a considerable achievement. We were more than surprised to learn that Emilie has only just completed her A levels, and that this was her first ever solo concert!

We also learned the difference between a spinet and a harpsichord. A spinet is small harpsichord, with the keyboard rotated so you can play it from the side when it's set against a wall. It's exactly the same relationship that an upright piano bears to a grand piano.



Well done indeed, Emilie, to entertain us so skilfully; my tip – a name to look out for. The concert raised just over £150 for the Organ Fund.

We have also had a full choral evensong on Sunday 23 June. The date was picked to be just after the University holidays had started, so our current undergrad singers (Eliza and Peter) could join us and Charles Thompson played the organ.

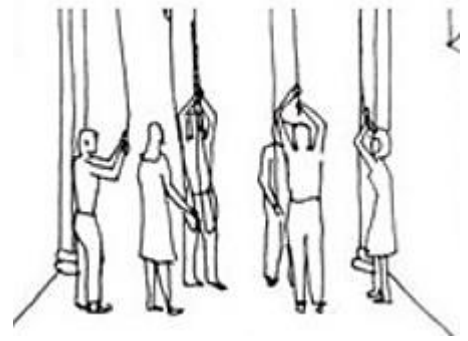
Future Event: The Festival Choir will be rehearsing at 16:00 every Sunday in July and August, for a concert on Sunday 1 September, including Faure's Requiem and Hayden's "The Heavens Are Telling." (see P5)

Mark Harrison, Director of Music with insights from the Church Mouse



FROM THE BELL TOWER

You may have noticed that recently the bells ringing out for Sunday service have not sounded “quite right”, but without being quite sure why. Let me assure you that there is nothing wrong with the bells; it’s just that we have been short of ringers. If we don’t have at least six ringers we have to resort to ringing just 4 or 5 bells. If we ring the “front five” of the six, this means that we are ringing in a minor key, which is an altogether different sound. But it doesn’t stop us ringing on Sundays if we can possibly avoid it.



We have had to cancel the occasional Thursday night practice because we didn’t have enough people available, however some of our ringers take the opportunity to join Rusper’s practice when this happens.

Why the lack of ringers? Normally we have at least nine or ten ringers available, but not everyone can come every time because of holidays and work shift patterns. This doesn’t usually cause a shortage, but in recent weeks we have had additional issues! Sue has had a hip replacement so has had to take an enforced break, Lucy has been ordered to rest her injured wrist, so can’t ring at the moment and Chris, our newest recruit, isn’t quite ready to ring for Sunday service.

Hopefully, we will soon be back up to full strength!

Neil Dobson

THE CIRCLE

Over the last year, in months where we have had no speaker or shared cheese and wine we have started to go abroad to the Community Cinema at St Peter’s Church in West Green. Their ‘season’ runs from Sept through to the end of May. Although they show many 21 century films this season finished with the classic “My Fair Lady” with Rex Harrison and Audrey Hepburn. With delicious cakes to start off the evening, it is a great place to visit.

In June Olly Taylor & “friends” came along and he talked about his life and career with puppets. The talk was fascinating describing how he became involved with puppets as a child, developed his skills and training (partly through his work with the Church) and how puppeteering faces challenges from the industries move away from mentoring. Olly’s friends were King Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth (brought back since her death as Queen Victoria).



Finally, Olly revealed one of his latest projects which has just been released on Netflix. While the voice of Eric is played by Benedict Cumberbatch; Eric is played by Olly. When we told friends who have avidly watched the recently released series (1.1 billion hours of worldwide viewing in its first week) they wished they had come to watch and see. Which just goes to show you have to be “hip” to be in the Circle!

Looking ahead. On 10th July we will enjoy Cheese, Wine and Strawberries in the Cafe or possibly even in the garden if weather permits!

On 11 September Gordon Parry will be talking about the music associated with hymns – the source of some may surprise you. I am sure it will be a delightful musical interlude.

Max Perry

Worth & Pound Hill Branch Update. April – June

The Branch meeting in March proved somewhat different from that we had planned, as our visiting speaker did not arrive. 😞 However, we had a lovely chatty afternoon catching up on each other's news and discussing the latest project being championed by Mothers' Union: "Rise Up" Against Domestic Abuse. Have you seen our poster in each church?

The speaker from Waste Prevention will now be giving her talk in September. Why not come along and pick up some good tips?



Our speaker in April gave a very informative talk about AGE UK and the help that is in Crawley, and surrounding places, for anyone suffering difficulties and needing support, company or wanting to join various clubs. There is a Dementia Day Break group at Tilgate once a week. There are even places, in addition to our St Barnabas' Café, that provide meals and people to talk to. If you need advice or even help filling in a Form, please let one of the Mothers' Union Members know and we will pass on contact details to you. We were given a shopping bag containing various goodies, including a room thermometer, leaflets, an Activity Timetable, a booklet and a small packet of biscuits!

Please don't suffer alone, ask us and we will give you the details we have to help you.

We held a very successful Coffee Morning at the end of April, to raise money for the A.F.I.A (Away From It All) caravan holiday project, run by Mothers' Union in Winchelsea and Selsey for those in need of a break, for various reasons; either families, couples or people on their own. Thank you to everyone who came along to support us or who helped in any way. There are leaflets in both churches if you would like to know more about it, or ask one of us, especially if you know someone who would benefit by a week beside the sea 🏖️.

The May Branch meeting was a fun-time Quiz of confectionary 🍬 and music 🎵🎶, what more could we ask? Unfortunately, Mary could not join us as she was unwell, and we send her love and prayers for a speedy and full recovery.

At the beginning of June some of us M.U. folk looked after the Cake Stall at the Parish Summer Fair, and a wonderful selection of cakes we had, thank you. Other members were covering other stalls; we do get around!



The June meeting was a film, entitled "There are no Ordinary People" by Jeff Lucas, everyone was welcome to join us and discover - What we can learn from the life of Barnabas? We hope that you came and enjoyed the film and refreshments. More about this in the next Magazine.

Our half-year excitement will culminate in a Fund-Raising Afternoon Tea on 24 July in the Café at St Barnabas', when once again our aim will be raising more money to help maintain the A.F.I.A caravans and pay towards the rental of the two sites. Tickets are on sale now!

We wish you all a safe, healthy and glorious summer.

Joan Tick on behalf of the Committee



Mothers' Union
Invite you to an
Afternoon Tea
and Raffle.
To raise funds for A.F.I.A.
St. Barnabas' Café
Wednesday July 24th 2024
3.00pm – 4.30pm
Keep the date free, & buy tickets
by July 14th
Tickets £12.50
Contact for more details:
Joan Tick
01293 884695

BAPTISMS, CONFIRMATIONS AND WEDDINGS



Photos are always welcome for inclusion in this mag. Here we can see the joyous occasions of the baptisms of Mason Michael Bonner and Jon, Annie and Iris Stringer



It was fantastic to be able to celebrate with our three Confirmation candidates at the service at Worth Abbey on 12 May. It was a wonderful and moving service with The Rt Revd Martin Warner, Bishop of Chichester. Hearty Congrats to Thora, Luke and Matthew.



In April, we celebrated the 50th wedding anniversary of Bob and Carol, with the renewal of their wedding vows. They met at the church youth club and were married here 50 years ago – congratulations to them both!



Meet Mr & Mrs Warmington!

PARISH SUMMER FAIR ON 1 JUNE

The weather was kind to us and we were able to use the newly levelled patio area for the first time! We had a steady flow of visitors, who all enjoyed their time with us. There were all the usual stalls and activities with the raffle and barbeque being very popular. We were also fortunate to have a dance performance from some of Louise Ryrrie's dancers. It also raised much needed funds for the Parish – thanks to all who helped, particularly Jane and her team, as well as all those who supported the day.



I would like to thank all those who helped in any way to making our summer fair the success it was, raising £1180 for parish funds. It is only possible with the help of all our wonderful volunteers giving time and effort both on the day and in the weeks leading up to it. Team work, as they say, makes the dream work and what a great team we all make.

Jane Stanford

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN



In May 1994 the first women were ordained as priests. In our Diocese of Chichester this took place on 15th May at St Swithun's in East Grinstead. To mark the occasion Chichester Cathedral hosted a celebration Eucharist on 13th May, along with a self-curated photographic exhibition of some of the women who serve/have served the diocese, with a booklet containing short reflections. In the preface to the booklet The Reverend Canon Vanessa Baron who was one of the first women to be ordained priest in 1994 writes.

'Our hope is that this exhibition will celebrate the energy, imagination and faith that women priests have demonstrated. It also gives us an opportunity to thank those who have supported us down the years. It acknowledges that not everyone accepts the legitimacy of the ordination of women, but stands for a commitment to respect, understand and care for one another. This is a vital Christian witness in an age of conflict'.

The booklet contained reflections from 30 priests in the diocese including Sarah, Greta and Penny from our parish. These are their entries in the booklet.

Please tell us why you wanted to be ordained?

Penny.. I am not sure that I did want to be Ordained at first. However, the call on my life became persistent and stronger and I realized that I might offer for selection. By that time it was what I wanted more than anything.

Sarah.. I had a supernatural experience and sensed a calling during a recorded talk about 'Being Called'.

Greta.. I felt that I was being called to be who I was really meant to be.

What was the most important moment in your ministry?

Penny.. There has been no one important moment in my ministry, just so many opportunities and humbling experiences for which I am truly grateful.

Sarah.. There has been no one moment but one of my fondest memories us seeing a little girl who was three' pretending to be Sarah' on the dais in front of the altar.

Greta.. Pastoral care at the end of life.

What advice do you have for women aspiring to be ordained or pursuing roles within Churches today?

Penny.. In the words of CS Lewis, knowing that 'You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream'. So now, even though I am old and grey, I rest in the knowledge that God has not forsaken me, nor will He. That enables me to dream a new dream.

Sarah.. Family comes first.

Greta.. Make sure you have a good support network.

Rev Sarah and Rev Greta also attended the celebratory Eucharist in the cathedral. See if you can spot them in the photographs (official photographs courtesy of Russell Sachs).



'Happiness is a choice, not a result. Nothing will make you happy until you choose to be happy. No person will make you happy unless you decide to be happy. Your happiness will not come to you. It can only come from you.' *Ralph Marston*

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL FLOWER FESTIVAL



Adela's version at St N



On Wednesday 5 June the St Barnabas & St Nicholas flower arrangers attended Chichester cathedral for their annual flower festival. We had an enjoyable lunch, whether a picnic or in the Cloisters Kitchen Cafe before making our way into the Cathedral to view the stunning floral displays. The arrangements responded to the theme of "Creation". Special floral arrangements were set up in the cathedral's three military chapels, commemorating the 80th anniversary of D-Day, a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by so many to ensure our freedom.

Following the displays around the cathedral was a wonderful experience - the 60 floral arrangements were developed by florists, enthusiasts and community groups from across Sussex. The range of flowers on display were abundant, the colours dramatic and eye catching, the arrangements elegant and often enchanting, providing a fabulous feast for the senses. The cathedral provided the perfect backdrop for the festival.

We had lots to discuss on the way home and all agreed it had been a delightful day. We look forward to attending next year-maybe even having our very own display- who knows! - watch this space.

Jane Stanford

PS It was truly inspiring to see all the arrangements and without the use of any floral foam. I am sure I was not the only one peering round the back of several displays and poking my fingers into containers to see how they did it. Many thanks to

the day for us.



BONUS FROM THE BISHOP

Next year, the diocese will mark the 950th anniversary of the move from Selsey to Chichester. This gives us an opportunity to say something about who we are, as the inheritors in the 21st century of this great momentum of Christian witness and faith.

Bishop Martin asks us respond to these four sets of questions about what our faith means, in whatever way we wish.

The deadline for responses is 30 September 2024. <https://www.chichester.anglican.org/FaithQuestionnaire/>

1. What is the diocese of Chichester? A company of people, a household of faith, in the Church of England who hold and practise what it means to be a Christian in the 21st century. What would you add to this?

2. We say in the creed we believe in One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church: what does this mean? How would you describe what is holy, transforming and comforting in your experience of church life in this diocese?

3. What does belief in God mean to you? How would you explain this to someone else? What difference does it make to how you understand life?

4. Who do you say that Jesus is? How does belonging to the Church deepen your knowledge and love of Jesus? In what ways do the words of Jesus address issues in your life today?

This will be a record of what our Church is like today: we hope and pray that it will also encourage us to look to the future with hope and confidence in the abiding purposes of God's plan for salvation and glory for his children.

+Martin



BOOK CLUB

Our Book Club has been in existence since 2017. We meet monthly, usually at one or other of our homes – although the café at St B is available to us should our numbers grow.

To keep costs to a minimum, Liz orders and collects a set of books from library - usually, titles that have been recommended or have been on best seller lists. There is a very small yearly fee to the library for this service. Each member returns their own book to library and pay any fines they may have incurred.

Due to very busy lives and other factors, there is not usually a set date each month. We decide the next one when we meet.

In the past we have attended a book signing at a Sussex library, been to the cinema to see the film of book we have enjoyed reading and recently we had our very own Jane Austin fest! We hope in the future to do more literary events.

If you would like to come along, please contact Liz on 07779 166464

Liz Gallagher



THE DEW FESTIVAL

International Folklore Festival at St Nicholas', 14 June 2024

The DEW Festival has visited St Nicholas' twice before, as a dress rehearsal before going on to the Hawth. We have been pleased to accommodate them and have built up some warm relationships.

This year it was the 'real thing' and the Festival, which is part of the European Association of Folklore Festivals, was entirely at St Nicholas'. As in previous years, the organiser and MC was Valerijus Vilcinskas who introduced a broad variety of performers. A talk by Kieran McAlea (the 2017 Strictly Come Piping Champion), was followed by English poet Charles Anthony; Sukhrob Bobiev provided songs and music from Tajikistan, and Parveen Khan Kashmiri poetry.

We were then treated to Lithuanian Dance, Sofia Radchenko from Ukraine and some Russian folk songs. Proceedings were rounded off (in a welcome way for someone so ignorant about folk cultures) by a Yorkshire performer singing the best-known songs of George Formby with, of course, a ukulele.

The Mayor of Crawley, Cllr Sharmila Sivarajah, who had graciously attended then presented certificates before the refreshments were finally devoured.

This concert may not be to everyone's taste, and I am not ashamed to admit my own ignorance, but it was an evening of good humour, free of politics, and it is a shame that not more of the local congregation attended.

Church Mouse



When you are lost
Follow the path of feathers
For they fall in the footprints
of angels

Charles Antony

A ZOOM WITH A VIEW

Somebody said to me recently that they enjoyed Lent Groups and the discussions they engendered but were chary of joining a home group because they didn't want to commit themselves regularly and just study the Bible.

Perhaps my last article was too heavy on the latter as we were re-reading Mark's Gospel at the time but since then (September-November) we haven't touched the Good Book except in passing!

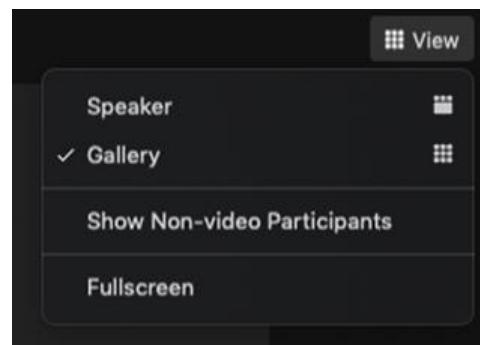
In Advent we looked at various seasonal articles/stories which had appeared in the Church Times via the book: "News of Great Joy: The Church Times Christmas Collection" such as the intriguing account of a jaded cleric's encounter with a pregnant African nun, one Sister Immaculate, on a flight to Johannesburg.

In the New Year, we looked at the women Jesus met, during his ministry, with the help of extracts from another excellent book: Kenneth Bailey's "Jesus through Middle Eastern Eyes".

We revisited familiar encounters in the Bible such as that with the woman at the well and the woman caught in adultery but, with the customs and culture of the time and place explored and explained, shedding more light on Christ's extraordinary, and at times, shocking behaviour and inclusive, far-reaching mission.

In a similar vein, in the run-up to Easter, we followed Paula Gooder's re-imagined telling of the events of Holy Week through the eyes of eight women who were, or could have been, in Christ's company in those critical days from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, finishing on Ascension Day with the view of his mother Mary on all that had taken place. ("Women of Holy Week: An Easter Journey in Nine Stories")

We finished our 'women based' studies with a splendid afternoon tea interval provided by Mary Pollatos - not via Zoom but in glorious home-made-scones-and-cakes 3D reality in her home!



Currently, with all that is happening in our conflicted world, we are belatedly following the Lent Course from Embrace the Middle East "Healing and Hope" with appropriate Bible passages, commentaries from those involved in Middle Eastern mission and tales 'on the ground' of, indeed, healing and hope with prayers and action we might take.

So, I hope you can see that we use many varied materials to reflect on familiar Christian themes and beliefs from very different angles encouraging us to discuss and explore our own understanding and faith.

As to commitment, our group meets, from the comfort of our own homes via Zoom, only once a fortnight for about an hour and a half on a Tuesday night at 19:30.

If, however, you would prefer to meet in the daytime, or chat in person over a cup of tea, Joan's group meets during the day roughly every fortnight on a mutually agreed date.

There are vacancies in both groups as some of our members have moved away or are sadly no longer with us. We'd love to welcome you!

Linda Eells

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ROGATION DAYS – DID YOU MISS THEM?



You might be forgiven for missing them or even for being rather vague about what they are! We seem to pay very little attention to them in contemporary liturgy.

The Rogation Days are special days of fasting and prayer in the Western Church, specifically to ask (*rogare*, Latin 'to ask') God for appeasement of his anger and for protection from calamities. Historically, this has been in the context of a primarily agricultural and fishing society – hence the recent decline in its apparent relevance.

There used to be the *Great or Major Rogation* held on 25 April, but this has largely withered away. However, the *Minor Rogation* survives – the three days preceding Ascension Day (this year: 6-8 May), as has *Rogation Sunday* (the Fifth Sunday after Easter [BCP], or the Sixth Sunday of Easter [CW], this year both on 5 May).

Rogationtide events are celebrated as part of the *Litany of the Saints* but in Common Worship they are treated as *Special Occasions*. On p.104 you will find a prayer For Those who Work on Land or Sea, and also For Those Engaged in Commerce or Industry. The Companion to Common Worship vol. I provides recycled and newly composed Collects (p.222) and the Lectionary also provides appropriate Bible passages.

For liturgical nerds (like Church Mouse) the liturgical colour for Rogation Sunday is specifically violet.

But what else happens in Rogationtide? Besides the special prayers and readings, there should be processions. The aim if these is partly blessing and protection of the crops, but also 'Beating the Bounds' of the Parish. The procession, preferably including the whole Parish, which included both a dragon and a lion and *lots* of candles, would take a route around prominent land-markers (sometimes altars) which defined the extent of the Parish so that no-one was in any doubt. In some areas the landmarks were literally beaten with wands to emphasise their significance. I wonder when the bounds of Worth Parish were last beaten? Even with the modern, reduced, extent of the Parish, it would be a long walk.

As with so much in early Church history we find the origins in the Roman feast of Robigalia, at which a dog was sacrificed to protect crops from wheat rust. It crept its way into Christian practice between the 6th and 9th centuries, and survived the Reformation. Henry VIII saw it as a canny way to assess crop yields. Banned under Edward VI, Rogationtide was restored by Elizabeth I.



In Northern England they may still be referred to as *gang days* or *gan week* (*gang* = *going*). The Rogation processions were not always entirely sober and spiritual occasions, and various bishops at various times tried to suppress them. Clearly in significant decline, it would be a shame to lose such a colourful part of our social and church history.

Church Mouse

Weddings

18 April

Christopher Anthony
Warmington & Silke Yvone
Kälberer

18 May

Gregory Peter Burlat &
Samantha Louise Mettrop

Baptisms in May & June

12 May Phoebe Patricia Hellier

19 May Michael Mason Bonner

26 May Luca Paul Belli

26 May Pippa Marie Richman

26 May Isabella Lily Richman

9 June Darcey Elizabeth Marten

15 June Hayden Caleb Louis Bontemps

21 June Luna Kaillie Andrea Francis

30 June Edward William Horgan

30 June Elliott Nicholas Freddie Carter

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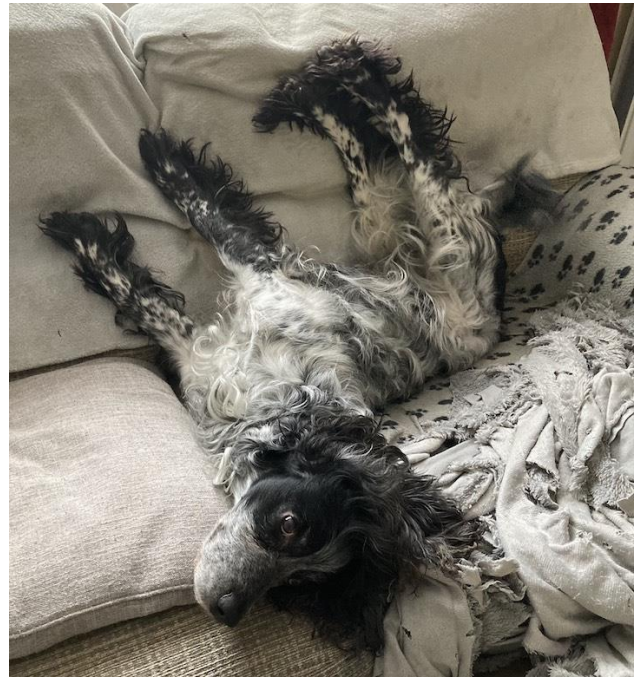
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KIDS AND YOUTH

SHADOW'S BLOG

Does the world sometimes seem topsy turvy to you? It does to me sometimes, so much so, that I'm not sure what is up and what is down. My solution is to lie on the couch upside down and watch the world go by from that position. I must say that the little humans in the telly look odd from that angle but it does give me a good view of the ceiling. Perhaps I should have tried it earlier this month when my humans went out into the garden at midnight. Midnight, I tell you! What were they thinking? They woke me up with a lot of fuss about amazing lights in the sky. I tried to show enthusiasm and joined them briefly to look up at the 'Northern Lights' but it was past my bedtime so I left them to it. However, if I had already perfected my upside-down viewing position I would have been much more comfortable and could have lasted longer! Maybe I should teach it to my humans for next time, although they would probably end up on the floor!



Must go...my humans are making a fuss, I wonder if it's more amazing lights in the night sky!

Shadow



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School, run by Nicky and with new helper Emily (as well as help by other members of the congregation); it 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.

TODDLERS

Toddlers continues to thrive, every Tuesday (13:00 to 15:00) and Thursday (09:00 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!

THE HANGOUT

The Hangout is a group for school years 7 to 11, and meets every Friday in term time from 19:00 to 20:30. The group continues to grow as the new year 7 students settle into their new schools. All are welcome, why not come along Whilst having a strong core membership we're always on the lookout for new members. If you would like more information please get in touch, email youth@worthparish.org





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April: Revd Sarah's Transformation Station surprised us all by turning an egg into a real, live chicken!



May: The Lady at the Well – featuring a lot of 'living water'.



June: Saul becomes Paul – Messy at its messiest!



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- C. 2 free-range [eggs](#)
- D. 160g [courgette](#), coarsely grated
- E. 180g [plain flour](#)
- F. 2 tsp [baking powder](#)
- G. 2 tsp ground [cinnamon](#)
- H. ¼ tsp fine [salt](#)
- I. 2 tbsps [demerara sugar](#), for sprinkling

Method

Preheat the oven to 200C/180C Fan/Gas 6. Grease a 900g/2lb loaf tin and line with a strip of baking paper.

In a bowl, mix A, B and C until smooth. Stir in D

In a separate bowl, mix E,F,G and H. Mix all together and stir until just combined.

Transfer the batter to the prepared loaf tin and sprinkle the top with demerara sugar.

Bake for 45–55 minutes, or until a skewer into the centre of the loaf comes out clean.

Leave to cool in the tin for 20 minutes, then turn out onto a wire rack and leave to cool completely before slicing

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Bookings (Hall, Meeting Rooms, Café, Church)	Revd Sarah	
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Children – Families and Youth	Revd Sarah	
Children – Messy Church	Office	
Children – Toddlers	Jenny Dobson	
Children – Sunday School	Nicky Anderson	
Choirs	Mark Harrison	
Christmas Fair	Diana Baynes	
Church Cleaning (St Barnabas')	Jane Stanford	
Church Cleaning (St Nicholas')	Jill Freeborn	
Electoral Roll Officer	Jane Stanford	
Events	Jane Stanford	
Flower Arranging (St Barnabas')	Jane Stanford	
Flower Arranging (St Nicholas')	Adela Hawley	
Friends of St Nicholas'	Colin Smith	
Giving	David Fry	
Julian Group (St Barnabas')	Don Hewerdine	
Knit and Natter	Val Rudd	
Magazine	Sue Perry	
Mothers' Union	Mary Fry	
PCC Secretary		
PCC Treasurer	Churchwarden	
Prayer Group – Parish / Julian (St Nicholas')	Linda Eells	
Prayer Group – Julian (St Barnabas')	Don Hewerdine	
Social Media / Website	Elizabeth Whyman	
The Circle	Max Perry	

I really like the email signature at the end of Mark's emails – I might pinch it for myself - Ed

Work life balance is important. Your health is more important to me than a quick reply to this email. I regularly work at unusual hours on odd days, so you might get a message from me at pretty much any time. Please feel under no obligation to reply until you are "back in work" and ready to do so.

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2024 CALENDAR

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

When?		What?	Where?
Sat 6 July	10:00	Saturday Market	St Barnabas'
Sat 6 July	15:00	Messy Church	St Barnabas'
Mon 8 July	14:00	Julian Group	St Barnabas'
Wed 10 July	12:30	Julian Group	St Nicholas'
Wed 10 July	15:00	Messy Church	St Barnabas'
Wed 10 July	20:00	The Circle: Wine, Cheese & Strawberries	St Barnabas'
Wed 17 July	14:30	Scrabble & Cake	St Barnabas'
Wed 24 July	15:00	Mothers' Union Afternoon Tea	St Barnabas'
Sun 28 July	10:00	Child Friendly Eucharist	St Barnabas'
Wed 31 July	19:00	Parish Prayer Group	St Barnabas'
Wed 7 Aug	14:30	Scrabble & Cake	St Barnabas'
Thur 8 Aug	10:30	MU Eucharist; Mary Sumner Day	St Nicholas'
Mon 12 Aug	14:00	Julian Group	St Barnabas'
Wed 14 Aug	12:30	Julian Group	St Nicholas'
Sun 25 Aug	10:00	Child Friendly Eucharist	St Barnabas'
Wed 28 Aug	14:30	Parish Prayer Group	St Nicholas'
Sat 31 Aug	10:00	Jumble Sale	St Barnabas'
Sun 1 Sept	16:00	Festival Choir	St Nicholas'
Wed 4 Sept	14:30	Scrabble & Cake	St Barnabas'
Mon 9 Sept	14:00	Julian Group	St Barnabas'
Wed 11 Sept	12:30	Julian Group	St Nicholas'
Wed 11 Sept	20:00	The Circle: Origins of Hymn Tunes	St Barnabas'
Sat 14 Sept	10:00	Open Day	St Nicholas'
Sat 21 Sept	10:00	MU Coffee Morning	St Barnabas'
Sat 21 Sept	15:00	Messy Church	St Barnabas'
Sun 22 Sept	10:00	Child Friendly Eucharist	St Barnabas'
Wed 25 Sept	15:00	Messy Church	St Barnabas'
Wed 25 Sept	19:00	Parish Prayer Group	St Barnabas'
Thur 26 Sept	15:45	Mothers' Union Meeting	St Barnabas'

"Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time."

John Lubbock, The Use Of Life

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