



**12 January
2025**

The Baptism of Christ



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 Revd Gordon Parry

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

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

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: Parish of Worth
Poundhill & Maidenbower, sort code 40-18-22,
account 61223372.
If you need help, call the Office.

Our Gospel reading today is taken up with a description of the baptising context of John the Baptist and what he said about its significance in relation to the future ministry of Christ. Christ, John announced, had an awesome, divine power, including the key baptising power of the Holy Spirit. He would make a clear distinction between good and evil. John saw himself as preparing people for this so that they would understand and acknowledge Christ's actions. Here was this highly 'alternative' individual announcing the coming of one so much more significant than himself and suggesting that they anticipate this by being baptised in the Jordan.

The culmination of all this was the baptism of Christ himself by John. As this happened, the symbol of the opening of heaven is used by Luke to indicate the closeness of this event to God himself and the relationship of God to his Son. This is reinforced by the voice from heaven proclaiming how 'pleased' was God the Father with his Son. Luke uses the image of a dove to suggest peace, the proximity of the Holy Spirit and the good news of the start of Christ's earthly ministry.

These are all vital signs that Christ's influence on affairs, local and global, is about to break forth upon the world. John's baptism of Christ showed that Christ himself would be finding his place in human affairs and would be generous in his empathy towards, and his working within, the human condition.

Every Christian baptism reminds us of Christ's baptism. Christian baptism includes a ritual cleansing with water, an invocation of God the Trinity and an undertaking that, as a part of God's church, those baptised will try to be faithful disciples of Christ.

Gordon

Collect

Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognize him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

Reading *Isaiah 43.1-7*

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

**WHEN YOU
GO THROUGH
DEEP
WATERS
I WILL BE
WITH YOU**

For I am the Lord your God the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight,

and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, 'Give them up', and to the south, 'Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth - everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.'

Reading *Acts 8.14-17*

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might



receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Gospel *Luke 3.15-17,21-22*

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with



unquenchable fire.'

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like

a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Post Communion

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

SERVICES THIS WEEK

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Tues 14 Jan | 10:30 Said Eucharist 19:00 Deanery Service | St Barnabas' All Saints Crawley Down |
| Thur 16 Jan | 10:30 Healing Eucharist | St Nicholas' |
| Sun 19 Jan | 8:15 Eucharist (BCP) 10:00 Sung Eucharist 10:00 Sung Eucharist | St Nicholas' St Barnabas' St Nicholas' |
| Sunday 19 January 2025 Epiphany 2 Psalm 36.5-10 I Corinthians 12.1-11 John 2.1-11 | | |

Festivals this week

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mon 13 Jan | Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, Teacher 367 (LF) Kentigern (Mungo), Missionary Bishop in Strathclyde and Cumbria 603 (C) George Fox, Founder of the Society of Friends (the Quakers) 1691 (C) |
| Fri 17 Jan | Antony of Egypt, Hermit, Abbot 356 (LF) Charles Gore, Bishop, Founder of the Community of the Resurrection 1932 (C) |
| Sat 18 Jan | Amy Carmichael, Founder of the Dohnavur Fellowship, Spiritual Writer 1951 (C) |
| (F) Festival; (LF) Lesser Festival; (C) Commemoration | |

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

St Barnabas' Julian Group

meets on **Mon 13 January** at **14:00** in St Barnabas'. Old and new friends very welcome

Friday Lunches

Friday lunch on **17 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 15 Jan**. Profits for Parish funds. The lunches are for everyone, why not bring a friend and give us a try. All welcome!

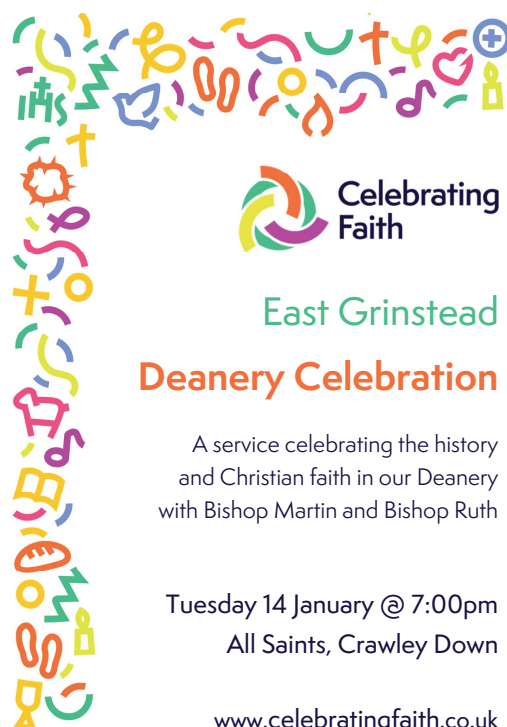
The Hangout

Youth Club at St Barnabas' meets
Every **Friday** at 19:00
For Year Groups 7-11. Entry free.
Weekly during term time.

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

In January Messy Church will be on **Sat 18 Jan** and **Wed 22 Jan**; both 15:00-16:30, at St Barnabas'.

This month: The Wedding at Cana; come and make wine pots and wedding cakes. Everyone welcome - mums, dads, grandparents, carers - come and have fun!



East Grinstead

Deanery Celebration

A service celebrating the history and Christian faith in our Deanery with Bishop Martin and Bishop Ruth

Tuesday 14 January @ 7:00pm
All Saints, Crawley Down

www.celebratingfaith.co.uk

Saturday Market

on **25 Jan**, in St Barnabas' Café 10:00-11:30. In aid of St Barnabas' Refurbishment. Come and find a New Year bargain!

St Barnabas' Church Pound Hill Crawley RH10 7DY

sunday 26 january
4:30-5:30PM

A calm, uplifting hour by candlelight
with relaxing Christian music, prayers, readings
and meditative thought.

Make space to make sure you are OK!



space for
YOU

worthparish.org

Registered Charity no. 1131090

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