

For the Lord is gracious;
his steadfast love is everlasting,
and his faithfulness endures
from generation to generation.



PSALM 100, VERSE 4

WORTH PARISH magazine

£1.00 July, August and September 2025

ST BARNABAS', POUND HILL
ST NICHOLAS', WORTH

Reg. Charity No. 1131090

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BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND GENERAL ENQUIRIES



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SOCIAL MEDIA



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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

What a good job we decided to change to a three month edition last time! It certainly would not have been easy to produce a mag without the use of both hands a month ago! I have been told many a time to slow down, but in the news this week it has suggested that fast walkers slow down their cognitive ageing and increase their functional capacity – so I feel at least a little vindicated that I am what I am – it is not in my psyche to do things slowly. However, I am going to try and

watch where I put my feet, especially in wet weather!

What a lot has been going on in the Parish in the last three months – hence a bumper edition of the Mag. The next three months are not going to be short of interest either so read on see what you have missed (there may be a chance to catch up on some next year) to see what's not to be over-looked. I hope everyone enjoys the summer whether it is speed walking in the fine weather or putting your feet up with the mag in the shade.

Sue

VOCALS FROM THE VICAR

Divided Feelings

This time of year appears so full of life and opportunities, plants and flowers seem to burst into life with bright, beautiful colours and variety. The sun warms our skin and there are more hours in the day when we can spend time outside, hopefully in our gardens or getting alongside nature nearby.

We start making plans for the summer months, although never being totally sure which weather forecast to believe or trust! We can look upon all the things we are thankful for, in relation to our Parish, for the families who have recently joined our congregation, for the Baptisms, Weddings and the recent Confirmation in May which included three families from both churches. At Pentecost it was wonderful to visit the Open Gardens of members of St Nicholas', which raised a generous amount for the Organ Fund.

However, as well as all the beauty of the season and all that we are blessed with, there is also the troubled world situation which looms threateningly in the background, the sickening tragedy of war and hostility, of conflict and relationship breakdown among leaders at all levels.

We may also be suffering with our own acute personal sorrow; battling with grief, disappointment or frustration at the ambivalence in matters of truth, mercy and justice for humanity and creation.

What am I to say? How are we to respond? Life is like this ... there is so much to be thankful for, yet so much pain and sorrow. This surely is what it is to be human.

What I challenge anyone to disagree with is, that what we need is Hope!

Hope came to me recently in spoken words of kindness. Also, a stranger gave me a scripture from the Bible in an acute time of decision-making and personal anguish.

What I realised was that, although in a world where there is so much suffering, pain and tragedy, I had the feeling of being held in a Love where I was being guided with an otherworldly wisdom. Maybe you believe that your troubles are not important in relation to the rest of the world; you may feel overwhelmed. I implore you to take heart, be encouraged. You are noticed, you are loved, help will be provided.

Peace be with you,



Revd Sarah

PARISH ROUNDUP

ST BARNABAS'

It has been a busy time since the last magazine was published.

On the 16 April, it was great to be able to attend Chrism Mass at Chichester Cathedral and support Sarah and Greta as they reaffirmed their Ordination Commitment, along with clergy from across the Diocese, followed by the Blessing of Oils for the Sick, for Baptism, and of Chrism (used at ordinations and confirmations).



Easter followed with many services allowing time for reflection and celebration. On Maundy Thursday we held our service, starting with a simple meal, followed by foot washing, the Eucharist and concluding with the Watch. We joined with churches across Crawley for the Unity Service on Good Friday, held in Queen's Square in glorious sunshine – a service of music and readings – a service full of energy. Stations of the Cross was led by Deborah, a quiet time for reflection. Easter Day began with the Sunrise Service at Gratton's Lake, a service held with the URC; a lovely peaceful service where we

were joined in the singing by the geese and ducks! This was followed by breakfast in the Café (thank you Phyl) and then our main service celebrating the risen Lord.



In May we held our Plant Sale. The weather was kind so we were able to make full use of the patio area. Scheduled to open at 10:00, passers-by came to look at what was happening as the plants were being put out on the tables from about 9:00 and by 10:30 almost everything had been sold! We

could have done with twice as many plants – well done to Phyl for organising, and for all those who supplied the plants.

On the 10 May all those who had been studying various Authorised Lay Ministry courses attended a service at Chichester Cathedral where they were Commissioned by Bishop Will.

I completed the “Youth” course which covered insights into young people, skills for youth work and developing character to strengthen faith as a foundation for our work with the youth of the Parish. The group came from across the Diocese and was made up of people with different backgrounds and experiences which led to good discussion and development of ideas for engaging with, and looking after, our young people. Lots of information and resources to help us engage with, and grow the faith of our young people. Thanks to those who supported me as I took on the course, and particularly those who supported me at the service: Sarah, Don, Nicky and Janet (in spirit, as couldn’t travel on the day).

Louise Ryrie completed the “Mission Enabler” course which is for beginning, sustaining and growing a fresh expression of church. This is something Louise has been doing with us, particularly with the “Space for You” services and we look forward to this growing in the future.



You will, I hope, have seen a dramatic improvement in the Jubilee Garden! Stephen was able to arrange for his employer to allow him to spend a day helping to transform the garden, as

part of their Community Support programme. It was a warm day, but huge amounts were achieved – supported by Sarah, Denyse, and myself. Thank you Stephen; all your hard work is very much appreciated and will help us all keep that part of the garden under control. We also relocated the bench outside the Café to the grass on the other side of the path, thanks to Sarah, Tim, Rhiannon and James. We did this because the birds made it unusable in its previous position.

There is still more to do – so if you would like to help, let me know!

David Anderson, Churchwarden





On the 18 May, we were very pleased to host a Deanery Confirmation service; from our Parish we had three families being confirmed – congratulations to them all. At the start of the service Bishop Ruth blessed our new church entrance. Bishop Ruth used the following prayer:

God, our Father, you have placed the earth and its fruits under our care, so that by our labour we will endeavour to ensure that all share in the benefits of your creation.

We give you thanks and praise for this new entrance, and for all whose gifts made its construction possible.

May your blessing be upon all who enter in: may the hungry be fed, the lost find home, the lonely know friendship, the sinner discover forgiveness. And as your people go from this place, out into the world you love, may they witness to your everlasting glory.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen





Our Spring Fair was held on 24 May and after some dodgy weather forecasts, the day was bright and dry! Stalls were set up in the Church with plants and the BBQ outside at the front of the Café. There was a steady flow of people and a great community atmosphere. Over £1,200 was raised for Parish funds – well done to Jane for leading the organisation and everyone who helped.



At the beginning of June it was wonderful to have the Baptisms of Jack & Felicity in our Sunday Eucharist and to be able to formally welcome them into the family of God.



Following the completion of all of the work to provide level access to all of our buildings and outside space we have started to look at replanting the Bible Garden, which was originally planted in the mid-1990s. Mary Fry agreed to take on the task of planning the garden, and along with suggestions from other members of the congregation, put together a plan identifying appropriate plants along with the Bible references – thank you, Mary. The ground has been prepared and the first plants (roses and lupin) have been planted. Others have been purchased/ordered/pledges – thanks to the generosity of church members and will be planted at the appropriate time of the year.



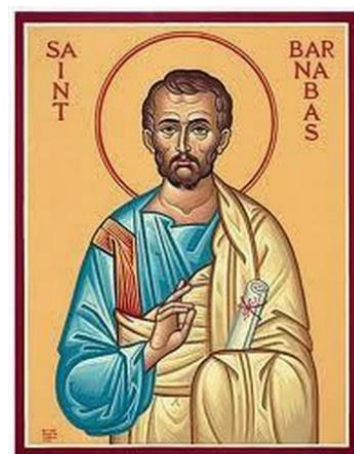
Once all the plants are in, we will provide a detailed write-up of what has been planted, by whom and the Bible references.

There are still plants to be bought, if you would like to help take a look at the booklet at St Barnabas' and talk to Mary.

June 11 was St Barnabas' Day, this year falling on a Wednesday. So that he wasn't forgotten we remembered him at the Tuesday service that week.

Whilst he is not named

among the twelve apostles he emerges in the Acts of the Apostles as one of the most significant of their number. He went to Antioch, to guide the Christians there in their relations with non-Jewish converts, promoting the concept of all being one in Christ. It was here that the disciples were first called "Christians". He is known for his generosity, kindness, compassion and encouragement – very apt for our church community here in Crawley. Finally, "lost property"; it is amazing what gets left behind by those using our buildings, from dance shoes, gloves, coats, water bottles and a range of other items!



If you've misplaced something it is worth having a look, before we put it out for the bi-annual jumble sales.

The café at St Barnabas' remains open on Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 10:00, why not pop in for a drink, a piece of cake and a chat? Also, if anyone is interested in volunteering (or making the occasional cake), please do let us know!

David Anderson

ST NICHOLAS'

St Nicholas' church celebrates 1,050 years of continuous worship with the 'Entwined in Harmony' August Bank Holiday weekend festival of flowers and music. We will no doubt be visited by many families and friends for this joyous occasion so it will be important to present our wonderful Grade 1 Listed Building in the best possible light. The flowers in church always look magnificent, but during this holiday weekend they will be spectacular.

The presentation of the churchyard will be in the capable hands of our Sexton, Jason and his group of volunteers. They really work hard to cover as much of the churchyard as possible, but we do need a few more volunteers to help keep on top of the groundwork. Our gardeners do an amazing job and their efforts are regularly rewarded with thanks and appreciation from our many visitors.

In the last issue I spoke about the water damage to our Lychgate which requires repair. I have yet to receive the estimate for the work from our preferred building contractor and carpenter and will chase this up if I don't hear soon.

However, another problem has arisen which will once again cost us money. The 'Sussex Fence' which defines our boundary with the Bishops Lodge driveway, is collapsing. The fence comprises about twenty uprights with double chestnut rails. Sadly, fourteen of these posts have rotted at their base and the fence is leaning precariously along its whole length. The cost of repair is just short of £1,000.00 which is a surprisingly competitive quotation. By the time you read this article I hope to have PCC approval to go ahead with the work. I would very much like this work to be completed by the August Bank Holiday weekend as a broken and dilapidated fence is not a good look, especially in such a prominent position.



And now to another problem that we are determined to resolve: The St Nicholas' Organ. Mark reported to your PCC that the St Nicholas' Organ requires some serious repair work, but we didn't know to what extent at that stage. We commissioned a full and extensive survey from arguably the best organ builders in the country. They have a magnificent pedigree going back well over 150 years. The report, by Mander – Organ Builders, Canterbury, is now with us and is being studied in detail. Mark, our Director of Music, has written an amazing article (see P12). He describes how a pipe organ works; it is a fascinating read. In the next issue, Mark will describe in detail how and why the St Nicholas' Organ needs to be repaired and revoiced. The work will cost £34,000 + VAT and our Organ Repair Fund will need every support to achieve this sum. Together with Mark and our acting-Treasurer, David, I shall be looking into whether we may be eligible for a VAT exemption under the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme (LPWS), which provides grants to cover VAT paid on repairs to listed places of worship, including organs. And just to round it off, the work will take 3 months!

That's all for now, have a great summer in this, our 1,050 anniversary year.

Colin Smith, Churchwarden

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Worth & Pound Hill Branch Update April – June 2025

“Join us! Join In!”

Wow! What happened to the last three months? I remember Easter was in there somewhere, then Mothers' Union seemed to take off all on its own. Well, with a lot of help from the members, of course. Have you noticed our theme for this year?

“Join us, Join in”, why don't you, come along and give us a try?

At the March Branch Meeting we had a speaker from the Recycling Centre, giving us a lot of interesting information about what we can and can't recycle. There is so much more that we can do now and why we should make more use of the recycling centres. If we can't get to them, we can call for assistance to take away some of the recycling, and who we can trust to dispose of our items safely, legally and responsibly.

We were fortunate enough to secure the new MU Diocesan President, Michele White, as our Speaker in April. Michele had only been commissioned by Bishop Martin at the beginning of March, the service that Mary and Joan had attended. Michele is a good speaker and told us about where she grew up, how she became a Member of Mothers' Union, who inspired her and how she ended up our President.

May was manic but it kept us on our toes and off the streets, as the saying goes. We seemed to be making cakes for England during that month. Early in the month Revd Greta, Mary, Jacky and Joan attended the Mothers' Union Spring Gathering and AGM at St John the Evangelist in Preston Park; very informative and followed by an uplifting Eucharist service. The following week we held a Quiet Afternoon, at St Barnabas', led by Deborah Matthews from East Grinstead branch. She is also one of our Trustees. Yes, we made cakes for that, and the Coffee Morning that was held 3 days later to raise money for A.F.I.A (£186) Thank you to everyone who supported that morning, in any way. Our Branch Meeting, at the end of the month, gave us an opportunity to get to know Revd Emma Ham-Riche, who had been enrolled as our Diocesan Chaplain. Another lovely afternoon and speaker. Then it was all hands to the pump, or mixing bowl, to make cakes for the Parish Spring Fair; Mary, Jacky and Joan looked after the cake stall, what else would you expect?

At our June meeting we will be welcoming another speaker, but this time from M.A.F. (Mission Aviation Fellowship) I will let you know all about that in the next magazine.

WORTH & POUND HILL
Mothers' Union
Invite you to an
Afternoon Cream Tea
and Raffle.
To raise funds for A.F.I.A.
St. Barnabas' Café
Wednesday July 23rd 2025
3.00pm – 4.30pm
Keep the date free, & buy tickets
by July 13th
Tickets £15.
Contact for more details:
Joan Tick or Mary Fry
01293 884695 / 01293 410383

Please also look out for our annual **Afternoon Cream Tea on Wed 23 July** at 15:00 held in St Barnabas' Café. Tickets will be on sale by the time this magazine is published so please ask Mary Fry or Joan Tick if you would like to buy one. Tickets will cost £15 this year, due to the increase in the cost of food but we can promise good value for money, fun and.... a **Raffle!** The money raised will go towards the 'Away From It All' holidays.

Posters are in both churches to give you more details.

*Joan Tick
& the Committee*



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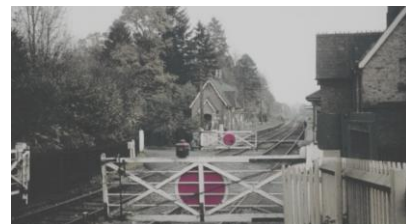




THE CIRCLE

On 2 April, Fr Gordon presented a talk on the Railways of Southern England. Perhaps surprisingly, knowing the fondness of the clergy for heritage steam railways, this was not a talk about locomotives, but rather about the history of the development of the rail network. There was hardly a steam engine in sight!

Although Gordon did address Southern Britain, the talk concentrated on railways in Sussex and Gordon reminded us of the tile map of the Southern Railway which you can still see in the eastern entrance portal to Victoria Station. Central to the talk was the London to Brighton line, and the Ouse Valley Viaduct together with the various tunnels. However, it was interesting to be reminded how extensive was the associated network of branch lines including, of course, the line from Three Bridges to East Grinstead via Rowfant (right) and Grange Road, Crawley Down (now, without its track, the Worth Way); most, sadly, now lost.



I am sure we all learned something; on my part, that Rowfant had an associated shelter for the coachman from Rowfant House while he waited for the train; and the complicated rail working at East Grinstead with its multiple stations on different levels. This was an informative and well-illustrated talk which was much enjoyed by all. (contributed GB)

At the beginning of June we were taken on a fascinating tour through time looking at the triggers for freedom throughout English history. Hopefully, without oversimplifying, these appear to be tax, suppression, religion, competition between the rich and populist movements.

Uprisings came from Boudica against the Romans as a result of the Romans mistreating her daughters. From the 1480's to the outbreak of the civil war the enclosure of land and fencing as well as draining led to riots and demands for the freedom to graze livestock. Even in the 1930s the Ramblers Association organised mass trespass at Kinder Scout which was a pivotal event in the fight for accessible footpaths and public access rights which ultimately contributed to the Rights of Way Act.

The Magna Carta was enforced by the rich against the King. Had the agreement not been made, the only poor to have been affected would have been those seconded into the respective armies.

Much of the 15th to 18th Centuries were dominated by freedom of religion (or lack of). Some would say that this has continued even longer arguing that the Church of England should no longer be part of the establishment and today we still argue over the freedom of reproductive rights.

Tax featured through many of the uprisings. The Peasants Revolt was in reaction to a Poll Tax. The same Poll Tax brought down Margaret Thatcher in the late 1980s, someone so greatly respected for much of the decade. Often the revolt was not just the tax, but the perceived use of the money raised.

Today the success of the Brexit vote still remains too sensitive to give a historical perspective, but was seen by many to gain freedom.

Looking forward our freedoms are not guaranteed and we can see from some of the events in America how they are being taken away. The danger of both the manipulation of Social Media and the extreme and widening gap between rich and poor may threaten the pendulum that has brought us back to democracy and freedom whenever tyranny or anarchy has threatened. Many see us drifting towards George Orwell's 1984 and of course, in an increasingly unstable world, the threat of war tends to suppress freedom as was shown in the First and Second World Wars.

As this mag comes into our churches we will be having our annual 'round up' with Cheese, Wine and Strawberries with an opportunity to talk about what we would like to include next year. For anyone reading this who was unable to join us, it is not too late to give us your ideas for next year – email the parish office. We will also continue to support the Crawley Community Cinema at St Peter's in West Green, who are in the process of finalising their Autumn Programme, but a little bird told me that Conclave is first on the list on 10 September starting at 19.00.

Max Perry maxperry@datamax.co.uk

FROM THE ORGAN LOFT

How the St Nicholas' Pipe Organ Works

As most readers of the magazine know, we're raising money to carry out some extensive refurbishment on the organ at St Nicholas'. While a future article is going to talk about that, I thought it would be helpful to write a primer about how pipe organs actually work, since the majority of the organ is stuff we never actually see.

Sound is about making the air vibrate. This is true whether you have a speaker in your TV that pushes and pulls the air in your room ... or have a string that vibrates pushing the air out of the way and pulling it back as it does so (like a piano, or a violin), or a tube that gets the air in it to vibrate (like a flute, clarinet, trumpet or pipe organ.)

The general physical principle is that the longer the tube, the deeper a note will be produced ... the tone of the note depends on the internal shape of the pipe, in addition to what it's made from (wood vs metal.) So, getting a note out of an organ is a question of getting the air in one of the pipes to vibrate (+ getting the right note out of it, is about getting the air in only the chosen pipes to vibrate.)

From an organist's perspective, two things need to be controlled:

- Which keys we're pressing down on a keyboard;
- Which "stops" are turned on.



The keyboard

The St Nicholas' organ has three keyboards ... two (called the Swell and the Great) which I play with my hands, and one (called the Pedal) which I play with my feet. These follow the same pattern as notes on a piano, or a harpsichord, or for that matter an accordion: a mix of black and white keys.

If I take the back off the organ, I can see that the back end of each key pushes a mechanical switch ... like a tiny light switch, and out of the back of each switch are a couple of wires: A feed wire, and a signal wire. Like a light switch, when the switch is on, the electricity can flow from the feed wire through to the signal. Unlike a light switch, though, the switch is set to turn back to "off" the moment the key isn't pressed any more (there are springs to move the key back into position.)

So, inside the organ console (the box at which I sit), there are a few hundred of these wires, which all go in a big bundle into a big circuit board on the back of the console. When I say big, it's about 4 feet by 6 feet. There, they meet the wires from the stops.

The stops

The stops are a bunch of other switches. They each have names like "Open Diapason 8'" and "Harmonic Flute 4'". Each of those turns on or off a particular group of pipes, which I'll come to later. The stops are just switches - but this time the sort that stay on. A wire goes from the back of each into the big circuit board on the back. In order to send a signal to an individual pipe relay (see below), both the key on the keyboard and the stop need to be turned on. The circuit board is

basically combining those signals and only sending out electricity to the pipe if both are on.

The pipes

I talked above about the groups of pipes having names and numbers on the stops. The name is a sort of description of the sound. The number is a size, and that size is a dimension - in feet - and refers to the length of the biggest pipe (lowest note) in that group. So, the Open Diapason 8' group of pipes has a biggest pipe roughly eight feet long.



Each doubling in length takes you down one octave – so:

- The lowest pipes on our organ (available to the Pedal board) are a 32' bass;
- One octave above them, we have some 16' stops – one on the Pedal, one on the Swell (the upper keyboard), and one shared between the Pedal and the Great (the lower keyboard);
- One octave higher still we have the 8' stops – there are nine of them, each making different tones / sounds;
- Then a few 4';
- And, finally, a pair of 2' stops, one on each of the keyboards I play with my fingers.

Each pipe has a little electrical relay that either allows air to pass through, or not. When it gets the signal (from the circuit board, because of the combination of stops and keys pressed), that air flows, the pipe resonates, and air gets pushed and pulled to create vibrations in the Church that our ears hear as sound. So, where does that air come from? There are three parts to that.

The blower

In the cupboard at the back of the Church, there's a wooden box on the floor, slightly wider, but slightly shorter than a washing machine. Inside that box is an air pump, the sort you might find in an aquarium ... if you had an aquarium the size of Battersea Power Station. It makes a big racket which is why, firstly, it's in a cupboard and, secondly, you'll hear me turn it off at the start of the sermon so the choir, and those sitting under the gallery, find it easier to hear the preacher. The blower is also energy-usage heavy. It relies on more than a conventional 230V mains supply, which is why, by law, there has to be an accessible emergency red "cutoff button" that I can hit. When the cupboard gets full and I can't reach that button, it becomes illegal for the organ to be turned on! (Which is why I check access to that button weekly, particularly if Charlotte or Ollie are going to be playing.) And the wall contains various shelves with various 1960s power supplies to power all this.

The humidifier

The blower blows high-pressure air into a big plastic pot with some water pipes which contains a humidifier. The bellows need slightly moist air, so we can't just take the dry air from the blower.

The bellows

You may have noticed that the choir stand at a higher level than the organist sits, and the back row of the choir sit slightly higher than the cross benches. This is because the floor across the entire space between the organ console, and the wall, from the two wooden cases you see with pipes on the front, conceals a massive bellows. That's to say a leather bag with a big piece of wood on the top, and a bunch of big weights. The blower inflates the bag, the wood and the weights act against that, and the combination keeps the air pressure in the bellows roughly constant. When I turn on the blower, that bag starts inflating, and rises about a foot.

Incidentally, spider webs are your friend. Air coming out of any leaks in the bellows blows webs away ... so a good collection of spider webs above the bellows is a sign we don't have leaks.

Finally, air goes from the bellows through a series of tubes, into those pipe relays ... So, we need all of the blower, bellows, keys, stops, circuit board, and relays to work to get a sound.

If the humidifier isn't working, the organ would sound fine until the day that the leather dried out in use, and the bellows ripped apart. That's why we have the humidifier and bellows serviced once a year quite separately from the pipes being tuned.

The case

The cases on either side are there to contain the pipes and relays. The pipes on the front of them are fake, and just for decoration ... But there are 1,126 real ones inside (not all of which, sadly, work). But the case on the right (as you look from the altar) contains a set of shutters that I can open/close with a foot pedal like a car accelerator. It's like shutting a window – when the shutters are closed, the pipes inside sound quieter. The pipes inside this case are the ones connected to the "Swell" keyboard, and the name comes from the fact that the sound can be made to swell by opening them.

FROM THE BELL TOWER

We are slowly becoming adjusted to our new home and coping with the extra length of the rope. It's nice not to have to climb the steep ladder to reach the ringing room! There is still a bit of work to do. We still have to move some of our peel boards to the new ringing room, fit a lock for security and there is some snagging to do, but we're getting there. We can now see what's happening in the chancel which will be useful when we ring for our first wedding of the year.

We have requested a visit from a firm of bellhangers to check that everything is operating correctly as the holes in the two ceilings between us and the bells do not align, but this doesn't seem to be causing a major issue.

Martin has made us some new pieces of equipment (pictured). I will leave it as an exercise to the reader to tell us what they are for. Answers next time! Do you like our new carpet?



Neil Dobson, June 2025

AUGUST 16, 2025 | 3PM
ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, CRAWLEY
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ANGLO-SAXON VOICES

A short collection of readings from Anglo-Saxon literature, read in modern English translation

Refreshments available
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Main course
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GOODBYE, GRETA

Farewell, Dear Friends

It's hard to believe it's been five years since I was first licensed to Worth Parish – initially as a Lay Minister, due to Covid delays to ordination, then as a Deacon, Priest, and eventually as Associate Vicar.

Curacy during Covid was certainly challenging. Getting to know you through masks, hand gel, and livestreams to empty churches wasn't ideal! Even when we opened, there were still restrictions and precautions. I still smile at the margin note I scribbled in a service booklet when I presided at my first Eucharist;



"Microphone off, mask on, gel hands, distribute host, gel hands, mask off, microphone on". All that to remember—on top of the liturgy! Once masks came off, I then had to start recognising everyone properly – thank you for your patience (and forgiveness!) when I got it wrong.

My curacy often had an 'in at the deep end' feel, beginning with Deaconing for the Bishop of

Chichester only 7 days after becoming a Deacon, when he came to consecrate the new Remembrance Garden. It was a time of many "firsts" – first Easter, first Christmas, first weddings and funerals, and yes, my first (and daunting) Choral Evensong. That took a lot of encouragement and coaching from Mark, even my work colleagues came to see what the fuss was about.

There has been so much joy – the joy of baptisms and the joy of walking alongside people preparing for marriage (including the great privilege of officiating at my brother's wedding!), and also deep sorrow, walking alongside the bereaved, including the profound experience of laying my husband to rest in the Remembrance Garden.

There has been plenty of laughter too – pet services, school visits, parish fayres, and of course, writing 'Shadow's Blog' (and no, I'm not getting another dog ... but I might still write the odd piece for the magazine!).



There's also been quiet relief as forms were finally completed, essays submitted, and my degree awarded.

I won't list names – you know who you are, and there simply isn't space – but I am deeply grateful to each and every one of you for your unwavering support, encouragement, and prayers. You have nurtured and sustained me through formation and curacy, enabling me to grow and prepare for the next stage: leading a parish of my own.

It's not a goodbye forever – I'm still in Crawley, so I'm sure we will find opportunities to minister together.

So, thank you, from the bottom of my heart. Bye for now... but I will be back!

Revd Greta



HOW MANY KINDS OF SWEET FLOWERS GROW.....'



Back in March, I suggested to Rose that we hold a gardens open day for the Organ fund, modelled on the one that they do at Pulborough church. Rose managed to wrangle some volunteers, but the whole event was planned in 17 days from agreeing a date between the five of us.

Thanks to all who stepped in to help with tickets, plant sales, garden preparation, coffee, cakes, and all the other things I've forgotten.

Mark Harrison (in excess of £1000 raised -Ed)



Name the Garden and the Rose. Email your answers & favourite rose featured to office@worthparish.org

Names will go into a hat for a cutting of your favourite.



Rose 1



Rose 2



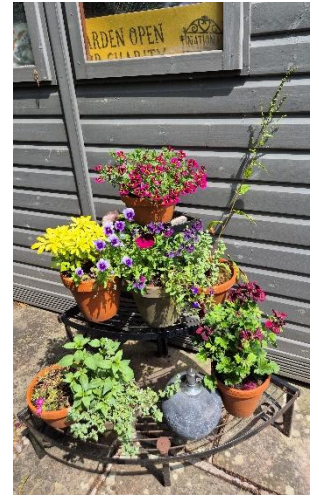
Rose 3



Rose 4



Rose 5



From one of our visitors:

What an interesting day!

At the Rector's garden I learned which leaves to pick from my bay tree to get the best flavour and that I need to use 5 leaves compared with one from a pot of dried bay leaves.

The Prof's garden reminded me that I would like a summer house, and I quite fancy growing a walnut tree - I thought they would need a warmer climate than we have.

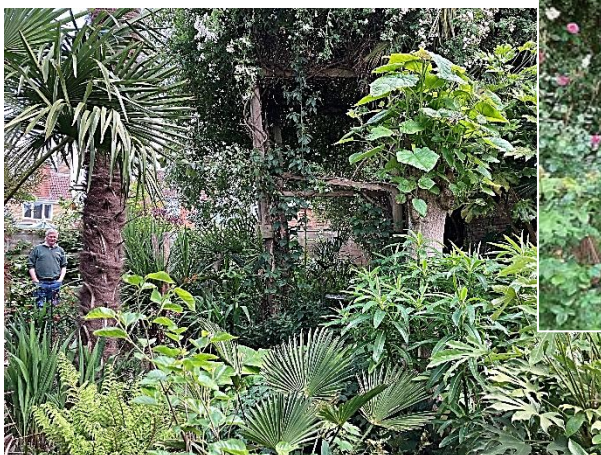
I thought the little buttonholes that the Doctor was giving visitors was a lovely idea, and some other ladies and I enjoyed reading the Ladybird book on sheds!

The Crucifer's garden was a little difficult to locate. Google Maps seemed to show it in a different place! The bear in the Bear Hunt was a little easier to find! Joan was very welcoming and we all loved her bonsai oak tree.

The Organist's garden showed how gardens don't always need grass and a lesson in how to avoid weeding!

They all seemed well planned out so that there are sun and shade areas throughout the day.

To do the whole thing on foot was about a three-hour event. It is difficult to choose a favourite flower, but the Rambling Rector rose is fantastic to look at and to smell - and I have a mind to make a sweet-smelling haven in which to read a book in my own garden.



MISSION FOCUS AT ST BARNABAS'

You might have seen me playing the piano at St Barnabas' recently for some of their services. I was the pianist at St Elizabeth's in Northgate for a decade – about 30 years ago – which started my journey of outreach work.

One of the components of the Mission Enabler pathway on the ALM (Authorised Lay Ministry) course that I took this year, was to look at unique ways in our ever-changing world, to reach people with forms of 'church' where they are at. Reaching people has always been a passion of mine, especially during the twenty years I ran a performing arts children and young people's church at St Elizabeth's in Northgate.

I loved using the performing arts to engage and enable young people to discover the Bible and God. I also took them on many visits – to other churches and to theatres – to present their work and reach into the world with their message. I also developed Prayerful Pilates where we care for our created bodies and pray at the same time. I taught this at St Elizabeth's and at New Wine Summer Conferences and have written about it in Premier Woman Alive magazine.



So much evidence became visible from those years to prove that as leaders and congregations we need to grow with the world to reach, not just young people, but all ages, in ways that are meaningful to them, rather than just expecting them to come to church as we know it. As I continue to teach Ballet and Pilates, I am also developing my writing and speaking work further. One of my talk subjects is on Meditation. Today's world is busy and pressured, and meditation is an effective way to provide stress management and relief. Via controlled breathing, we can reduce anxiety, lift our spirits and energy levels. Meditation can also bring us to a place of focus; spending quality time with God, free from distraction.

A project I lead, that has bubbled into existence at St Barnabas', is Sunday Space. An hour of gentle music, guided meditation, breathing exercises, readings and so on. It's free to attend, anyone can come and you can stay seated in your chair.

Imagine if every person reading this thought of one person, a neighbour or friend, who might enjoy an hour of peace and calm – and invited them! Often people will only try something new if they are encouraged or recommended to by someone they trust. Please be that person! 🙏



Sunday 13 July 18.:30-19:30 is our next meeting at St Barnabas'. And we'd love to see you there!

"Sunday space for me is an important hour of self-reflection and self-care. A time that allows me to feel grounded and to reset when life feels busy."

Review from a regular Sunday Space attendee.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

Are you a creative – artist, musician, writer, dancer, looking to get involved in Sunday Space? I'd love to hear from you. 07721 416323.

Referencing a different emerging project, are you someone who'd like to have a go at Christian dance? No experience necessary. I'd love to hear from you. 07721 416323

Louise Rylie Instagram & Facebook @louiserylie_creativeworld

"O HAPPY BAND OF PILGRIMS" – WALSINGHAM 2025

In mid-May a group of pilgrims set out from the Parish on what has become an annual event, our pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady in Walsingham, North Norfolk.

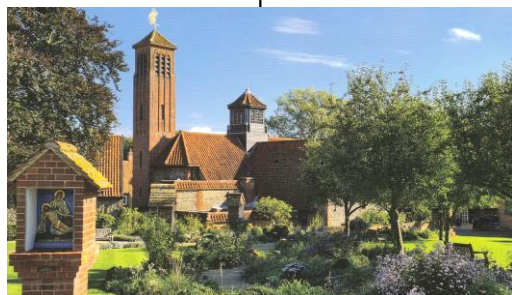
Having been rather cramped in a minibus, a detour and lunchtime break to visit Norwich Cathedral was extremely welcome.

You probably wonder what we do at the Shrine. Apart from services, generally two or three a day, including a Mass, Evening Prayers, and sprinkling with water from the Holy Well, there are processions around the grounds and visits to the Stations of the Cross, arranged around the gardens. With well-conducted liturgy in an Anglo-Catholic style, it is refreshing outside the usual routine. Lots of candles and incense!

Of course, we are not restricted to the Shrine, and Little Walsingham is a pretty Norfolk village with a variety of attractions. This year, the group took the narrow-gauge railway to Wells-next-the-Sea, on the coast about five miles away, where there are excellent fish and chips and ice cream, besides the harbour and salt marshes. With limited mobility, Church Mouse stayed at the Shrine and went to the midday Shrine Mass where he was surprised to find our Bishop Martin (+Chichester) presiding. The Shrine is full of surprises!



The Pilgrims; Church Mouse and Jonathan out of shot.



The Shrine and its gardens (*left*) are a beautiful and peaceful place and it is a joy just to sit in the Shrine Church, or the gardens, and be contemplative. There are also other pilgrimage groups to talk to, and we tend to gather in Norton's Bar for coffee, afternoon tea or a drink in the evening; the Bar serves snacks and a variety of local beverages (and is open to non-residents).

If you are thinking of joining us sometime, be assured that you will be well-catered for. The rooms are equipped to good hotel standard, and for those with a disability there are very good adapted facilities. One hint is that the site is quite hilly and you may need to consider taking a mobility scooter or a power wheelchair. The food in the Refectory is plain but very tasty, and plentiful. So may I encourage you to consider a pilgrimage, or if you are in North Norfolk simply an independent visit; you will be made most welcome.

Our four days concluded with the treat of joining the nuns at the adjacent (Anglican) convent for their daily mass, which was a very special experience. We all came away refreshed, restored and spiritually recharged. I can't wait for our next visit!



Statue of Our Lady of Walsingham



High Altar, Shrine Church



Church Mouse

ENTWINED IN HARMONY

When you come to St Nicholas' over the Summer Bank Holiday this year, - 23- 25 August, you will find the Church filled with the scent of flowers, many from local flower farms, and the sound of sacred harmonies spanning the centuries since the first stone was laid around 1,050 years ago! *Entwined in Harmony* is a festival celebrating the foundation of St Nicholas' with a quarter peal of bells announcing the start of the festival on Saturday 23 August. In and around the church will be beautiful floral arrangements by members of the St Nicholas' flower team with help from the St Barnabas' team and invited local florists. The arrangements will be inspired by themes in the music to be performed by the Festival Choir on the Sunday; Mark has curated a programme of sacred music - a piece from each century the church has stood, including a new commission for this century! Themes range from Praise, Eternity, Compassion, Joy, Harmony, Love and Renewal with the focal display at the High Altar celebrating Heaven on Earth and linked to a well-known hymn familiar to English Rugby fans and which everyone at Sunday's concert will have a chance to sing! There is no charge for attending festival events but donations over the weekend will be split between the Organ Restoration Fund and St Catherine's Hospice - a cause close to many of our hearts. The Festival Choir is open to everyone with no prior musical experience needed. There is no fee and all music is provided. Rehearsals are on Sunday afternoons in Summer and are informal and fun. Each floral arrangement can be sponsored. To find out more about the Festival Choir or sponsorship options please contact Mark Harrison / Adela Hawley by emailing musicdirector@worthparish.org *Entwined in Harmony* will be open Sat 23, Sun 24 and Mon 25 August 11:00 - 17:00 and the Festival Choir concert will be 16:00 Sun 24 Aug with an open rehearsal in the afternoon.



Adela Hawley





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START THE WEEK – BUT ON WHICH DAY?



Well, does your week start on a Sunday, or on a Monday? Is either 'correct'?

It is easy to see where the week came from. A Lunar Month is very close to 28 days (actually 29.5 days), and during this period the moon goes through four phases: The New Moon becomes the Waxing Crescent up to the First Quarter; then the Waxing Gibbous Moon up to the Full Moon; the Waning Gibbous Moon takes us to the Last Quarter; the Waning Crescent takes us back to a New Moon. Before modern light-polluted times, everyone could clearly see the night sky and was very aware of the Moon's phases. Given (roughly) 28 days and four phases, simple arithmetic indicated about seven days for each phase – hence the week.

DAYS OF THE WEEK	
1	MONDAY
2	TUESDAY
3	WEDNESDAY
4	THURSDAY
5	FRIDAY
6	SATURDAY
7	SUNDAY

The Babylonians are credited with 'inventing' the seven-day week about 600 BCE. This still does not suggest when the week starts. As the lunar cycle is not exactly 28 days, it is impractical to start a new week at, for example, the New Moon. The Romans under Constantine (306–337 CE) made *dies Solis* (the day of the Sun – Sunday) a legal holiday and the first day of the week. That this never gained universal use is easily seen by consulting contemporary calendars and diaries. An entirely unscientific survey suggests that in English both are common, but with a bias in favour of Monday to start the week. However, some publishers, including the folk from whom I purchase my diaries, give you the choice.

Matters seem to have got more complicated since the changes to Sunday Trading and Licensing Laws, with Sunday no longer having a distinct identity. Nevertheless, we still refer to Saturday and Sunday as the 'weekend'; these are the most common days of closure for institutions operating a five-day working week. There is an international standard ISO 8601 which is principally used to reduce ambiguity about dates, particularly on the internet and for data transfer. It is mind-bendingly complex, but with regard to weeks, week 01 is:

- the week with the first business day in the starting year (considering that Saturdays, Sundays and 1 January are non-working days),
- the week with the starting year's first Thursday in it (the formal ISO definition),
- the week with 4 January in it,
- the first week with the majority (four or more) of its days in the starting year, and
- the week starting with the Monday in the period 29 December to 4 January.

The ISO *week-numbering year* starts at the first day (Monday) of week 01 and ends at the Sunday before the new ISO year (hence without overlap or gap). It consists of 52 or 53 full weeks. The first ISO week of a year may have up to three days that are actually in the Gregorian calendar year that is ending; if three, they are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Similarly, the last ISO week of a year may have up to three days that are actually in the Gregorian calendar year that is starting; if three, they are Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. In brief, in ISO terms, weeks start on Monday.

Slavic, Baltic, Uralic and Austronesian take Monday as the first day (as a result of the influence of Christian missionaries) and also Bantu. In modern Chinese Monday is "day 1" – but not in Sinitic languages.

Sunday comes as the first day of the week in the Abrahamic tradition and was adopted in early Christianity. Quakers explicitly use "day 1" – Sunday. Many languages in the Near and Middle East, Europe and Scandinavia use Sunday. The only odd one out is Swahili where the week begins on Saturday.

Church Mouse

(Thank you, dear mouse, for answering my question, but I still prefer my calendar to show the weekend days together!

Fr M says he is with the gospel writers, Matthew 28. 1, Mark 16. 2, Luke 24. 1, John 20. 1, but then perhaps we should join with the Jews and make Saturday our day of rest?? – Ed)

HOW OLD IS ST NICHOLAS'? ANOTHER PIECE OF THE PUZZLE

Church Mouse hopes that you may have enjoyed, found informative or even found persuasive, the three part-articles about the age of St Nicholas' which have appeared in the most recent Magazines.

Of course, research continues into the date and stimulus behind our beloved Church, and a recent piece of information has come to my notice.

I now understand that in 937 AD King Aethelstan (924-939, regarded by many as the first King of All England) passed down a decree that in order for a man to be able to claim the status of a *thegn*, or lord of the manor, his land should have a bell tower.

The present tower at St Nicholas' was not built until 1869, although a rather rustic bell chamber was above the North Porticus, maybe from the seventeenth century. In its early days, St Nicholas' only had a bellcote above the chancel arch, as the grooves worn by a bell rope attest.

The implication is that the Church cannot have been erected by a local

'bigwig', still less as a royal project, as some have argued (but Church Mouse has rejected on the lack of evidence) – but we are still left with the mystery of just who *did* commission such a splendid church.



King Aethelstan

Church Mouse

DEW FESTIVAL

The DEW International Folk Festival was hosted once again at St Nicholas Church on Friday 20th June in the most wonderful setting. This gathering of souls was so full of joy with the participants adorned in traditional costume, performing traditional dance to traditional music. Attended by Councillor Michael Jones, Bewbush and North Broadfield, Leader of the Council and Councillor Atif Nawaz, Deputy Leader of the Council & Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development, they clearly enjoyed the occasion and praised the parish for hosting this international event which promotes peace and goodwill to all Nations.

Colin Smith



EASTER TEAM : CALL TO ACTION!

We are communicating with all of the Churches in Crawley mid-way through 2025 as we continue to see a rise in demand for food parcels from our community. It can come as no surprise that we need more help to serve these people in need of help and hope. I am reminded of Proverbs 31.8-9:

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute, speak up and judge fairly, defend the rights of the poor and those in need.”

We continue to be thankful for all the gifts of money and food that we receive from the Churches and their members and for the help of volunteers who keep the whole operation running.

The Easter Team is urgently in need of more volunteers to help either on a regular or ad hoc basis to ensure that we are fully staffed on a day-to-day basis and to help when we need to cover gaps due to volunteer holidays and so on. Shifts can be anything from an ad hoc to a regular 2 to 4.5 hours on a weekly basis. We are grateful for any help!

Our request is that you communicate this need with your congregation – we need more people of faith to support this work.

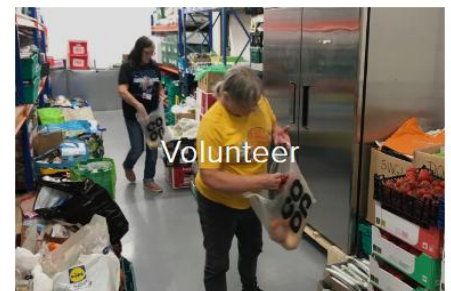
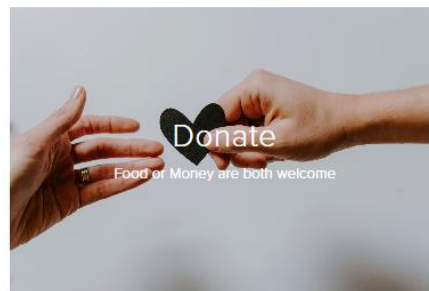
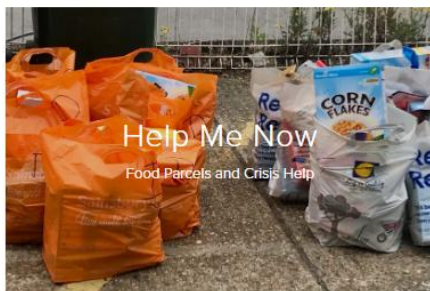
Roles include:

- At the Hub in the town centre (09:45 – 14:15)
- Welcoming clients and giving out food parcels
- Answering the phones and registering new clients
- At the Warehouse on Manor Royal
- Sorting and shelving food donations and making up food parcels
- Drivers to move parcels to the Hub
- Drivers to help with our home deliveries on Fridays.
- Supermarket collections (own car needed)

Monday morning 10:00–11:00 and Tuesday evening 20:00 to 21:15

Please email me on volunteers@theeasterteam.org

Dave Orpin, Volunteer Co-ordinator



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KIDS AND YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is run by Nicky and with new helper Emily (as well as help from 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 (1:00pm to 3:00pm) and Thursday (9:00am to 11:00am) 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! Term time – last session 10 July – back 9 Sept

THE HANGOUT

The Hangout is a group for school years 7 to 11, and meets every Friday in term time from 7:00 to 8:30pm. The group is thriving with a regular group of 15 to 20 young people. All are welcome, why not come along, we're always on the lookout for new members. If you would like more information please get in touch, email youth@worthparish.org

As we near the end of the school year, we invite those in Year 6 to come along and experience the Hangout, so that when they move into Year 7 in September, they are familiar with the group and already know people here. This year the "Taster Sessions" will be on Friday 4 and 11 July.

Last session this term will be 18 July and the first session back in September will be Friday 5 September.

A poster for 'the hangout youth club'. It features a green background with images of a green jump rope and two black video game controllers. The text on the poster includes: 'worthparish.org', 'the hangout youth club', 'Fridays 7-8.30pm', a list of activities (POOL, TUCK SHOP, TABLE TENNIS, COMPUTER GAMES, GROUP ACTIVITIES, OUTSIDE AREA, CRAFTS), 'Year 6 Open Evening 27 June', 'Additional Taster Sessions 4 and 11 July', contact information for questions, and the location 'St Barnabas' Hall Pound Hill RH10 7DY'. It also states 'Free, donations welcome' and 'Running in term times'.

HUNT THE MAG

What is Sunday Space?

When can you have a Cream Tea at St Barnabas?

Where might you find a bear?

Which film starts the new season at Crawley Community Cinema?

Who is regarded by many as the first King of All England?

Why should you visit St Nicholas' on the Bank Holiday weekend in August?

How many keyboards does the organ at St Nic's have?



MESSY EASTER MAY AND JUNE

We have such a good time at Messy Church it is hard to choose which photos to put in the mag, but hopefully this selection shows how our Bible stories entertain and inform all the family!



FUN AT EASTER AT ST NICHOLAS'



What did you do on Good Friday? Colin, Jerry and I hung the Easter Banner and set up the Cross.

We were then all ready for the Good Friday service that afternoon.

On Holy Saturday, we were up early again when Mark, Mary, Pippy and Peter and Jason joined me to set up the Easter Garden. It is never an easy task but always very rewarding in the end.



Later in the afternoon Lucy and Richard brought their two children, Toby and Erin, to help with the planting, and Revd Greta got involved as well, a really good job they did too!

Then I told the Easter story, we had a great time adding the characters, and the three crosses.

When it was all ready, daddy helped with the watering. Hey-presto it was complete.

On Easter Day we had an Egg Hunt after the service, with time for the children to let off steam, and try to find the eggs our Easter Bunny had hidden!

Joan Tick



BAPTISMS, CONFIRMATION, WEDDINGS

Baptisms

27 April Grayson Joseph Waters

25 May Grayson Grant Ashworth

1 June Eliza Joy Down

1 June Jack and Felicity Purchase

8 June Lennox Arthur George Radenhurst

Confirmations on 18 May 2025

Jon & Sarah Stringer

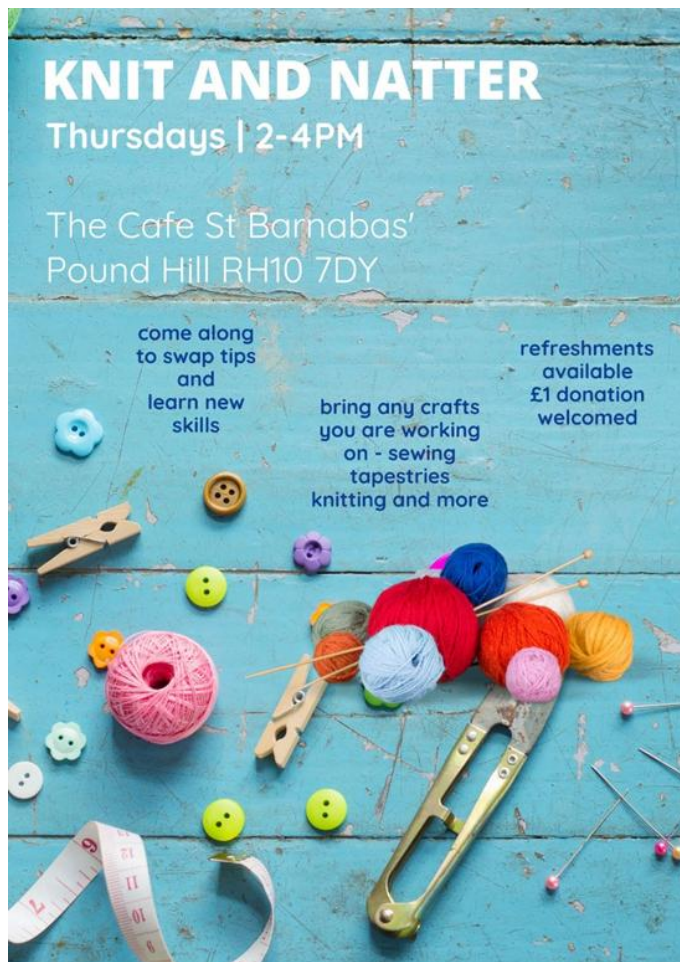
Dave & Sarah Rice

Glenn, Mia, Ewan and Jamie Russell (see P6)

Wedding

14 June Eleanor Wells and Guy Harding





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USEFUL NUMBERS

See also page 1 for Clergy, Office and Churchwarden contact details.

Altar Servers (St Barnabas')	David Anderson	0300 111 8150
Altar Servers (St Nicholas')	Jenny Dobson Colin Smith	
Bellringers	Neil Dobson	
Bookings (Hall, Meeting Rooms, Café, Church)	Revd Sarah	
Children's Society	Ann Lane	
Children - Messy Church	Office	
Children - Toddlers	Jenny Dobson	
Children - Sunday School	Nicky Anderson	
Choirs	Mark Harrison	
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	
Music at St Barnabas'		
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	

Whether the weather be fine, Or whether the weather be not,
 Whether the weather be cold, Or whether the weather be hot,
 We'll weather the weather Whatever the weather,
 Whether we like it or not!

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2025 CALENDAR

Before travelling far, check pewsheets/website or with the Office.

When?		What?	Where?
Wed 2 July	20.00	The Circle - Wine, Cheese & Strawberries	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Wed 9 July	12:00	Julian Group	<i>St Nicholas'</i>
Sat 12 July	10:00	Saturday Market	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Sat 12 July	15:00	Messy Church	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Mon 14 July	14:00	Julian Group	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Wed 16 July	15:00	Messy Church	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Wed 23 July	15:00	Mothers' Union Cream Tea	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Wed 30 July	14:30	Scrabble and Cake	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Wed 30 July	19:00	Parish Prayer Group	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Sat 9 August	12:00	Families' BBQ	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Mon 11 August	14:00	Julian Group	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Wed 13 August	12:00	Julian Group	<i>St Nicholas'</i>
Sat 16 August	15:00	Anglo-Saxon Voices	<i>St Nicholas'</i>
Fri 23 - Mon 25 August	Various	Entwined in Harmony	<i>St Nicholas'</i>
Sun 24 August	16:00	Entwined in Harmony Concert	<i>St Nicholas'</i>
Wed 27 August	14:30	Parish Prayer Group	<i>St Nicholas'</i>
Wed 27 August	14:30	Scrabble and Cake	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Sat 6 September	10:00	Jumble Sale	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Mon 8 September	14:00	Julian Group	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Wed 10 September	12:00	Julian Group	<i>St Nicholas'</i>
Wed 10 September	14:30	Scrabble and Cake	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Wed 10 September	19:00	Film - Conclave	<i>St Peter's West Green</i>
Sat 20 September	15:00	Messy Church	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Wed 24 September	15:00	Messy Church	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Wed 24 September	19:00	Parish Prayer Group	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Thur 25 September	16:00	Mothers' Union Meeting	<i>St Barnabas'</i>



MARKET

St Barnabas' Café, Worth Road, Pound Hill, RH10 7DY
In aid of St Barnabas' refurbishment

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SATURDAY 12 JULY 10.00 - 11.30

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