



17 August 2025

Trinity 9



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

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

SERVICES TODAY

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

08:15 Said Eucharist (BCP)	St Nicholas'
Celebrant & Preacher	Fr Michael Boag
10:00 Sung Eucharist	St Barnabas'
Celebrant & Preacher	Fr Francis Pole
10:00 Sung Eucharist	St Nicholas'
Celebrant	Fr Michael Boag
Preacher	Deborah Cowan
12:00 Baptism	St Nicholas'
13:00 Baptism	St Nicholas'

Please try our QR code to
donate to Worth Parish.
Scan this code with a
smartphone to take you
straight to a giving page.



Payments to the Parish

If you possibly can, please transfer the money
by electronic payment to: Parish of Worth
Poundhill & Maidenbower, sort code 40-18-22,
account 61223372.

If you need help, call the Office.

One of the endearing qualities of Luke and his Gospel, is that it tends to radiate love and peace; but not in our reading today.

Jesus declares, "I came to cast fire upon the earth." Here Jesus is expressing His desire to create spiritual upheaval. This fire is not one of destruction but, rather, of purification - symbolising the radical change in attitude and beliefs that the Kingdom of God demands.

The Jews had expected a Messiah who would bring real change - harmony and tranquillity, and freedom from Roman occupation. Instead, Jesus warns that *His* message will divide even families, because allegiance to Him demands a choice that may well challenge earthly relationships. This is not a call to conflict, but a recognition that real truth often provokes arguments and resistance.

Despite people being able to interpret signs of changes in the weather, (red sky at night etc.), they fail to recognise the transformation that Jesus offers, and they are roundly condemned for it. The truth is that in Jesus, God's Kingdom is breaking in, yet many remain oblivious to its arrival.

So where are we in all this? I believe that this passage challenges us to acknowledge the fact that Christ's call can lead to divisions in communities and between families; this is why believers (in Christ) and non-believers in a close relationship can find their bonds challenged, disturbed - even broken.

Jesus didn't promise that everything in life would be sweetness and light. Today's Gospel passage certainly underlines this!

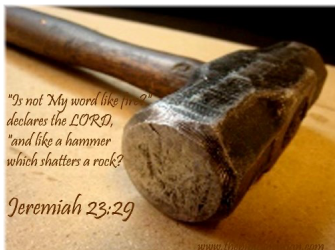
Fr Francis

Collect

Gracious Father, revive your Church in our day, and make her holy, strong and faithful, for your glory's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Reading *Jeremiah 23.23-29*

Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back - those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common



with wheat? says the Lord. Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

Reading *Hebrews 11.29- 12.2*

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets - who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection.

Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented - of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

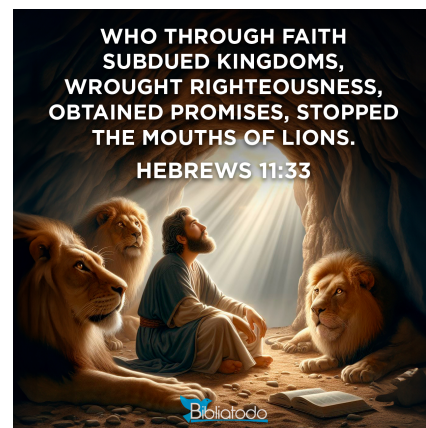
Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, without us, be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

There are others who, through faith, have subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight, received their dead by resurrection, and others who, through faith, were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection, others who suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented - of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

Gospel *Luke 12.49-56*

I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on, five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'





He also said to the crowds, ‘When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, “It is going to rain”; and so it happens. And when you see the

south wind blowing, you say, “There will be scorching heat”; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

Post Communion

Holy Father, who gathered us here around the table of your Son to share this meal with the whole household of God: in that new world where you reveal the fullness of your peace, gather people of every race and language to share in the eternal banquet of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

SERVICES THIS WEEK		
Tues 19 Aug	10:30 Said Eucharist	St Barnabas'
Thur 21 Aug	10:30 Healing Eucharist	St Nicholas'
Sun 24 Aug	8:15 Eucharist (BCP)	St Nicholas'
	10:00 Child Friendly Eucharist	St Barnabas'
	10:00 Sung Eucharist Visiting Preacher*: Revd Giles Carpenter	St Nicholas'
Sunday 24 August 2025 Bartholomew the Apostle Acts 5.12-16 I Corinthians 4.9-15 Luke 22.24-30		

*The Revd Giles Carpenter, who is the Diocesan Director of Vocations (DDV). From 2014 to 2025 he was Vicar of St John's Meads in Eastbourne and started his new job in Church House last month.

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

Festivals this week	
Wed 20 Aug	Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, Teacher 1153 (LF) William and Catherine Booth, Founders of the Salvation Army b 1912 and 1890 (C)
(F) Festival; (LF) Lesser Festival; (C) Commemoration	

Friday Lunches

Friday lunch on **22 August** 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 20 August**. 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
Now on holiday

worthparish.org/festival

ENTWINED IN HARMONY
 CELEBRATING ELEVEN CENTURIES
 OF MUSIC AND FLOWERS
ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH
 WORTH RH10 7RT

Flower Festival
 Saturday 23 – Monday 25 August
 11 – 5pm

Festival Choir Concert
 Sunday 24 August 4pm

IN AID OF
 ST CATHERINE'S HOSPICE ST NICHOLAS' ORGAN FUND

**Entwined in Harmony, Eleven centuries of
music and flowers at St Nicholas', Worth:
August 23 - 25 2025**

Our Aim is to share our Beautiful Church, its History, Music and Flowers, with as many people as possible to benefit the Organ Repair Fund and St Catherine's Hospice. Our Hope is to re-create the feeling of welcome and inclusion experienced at the celebration of Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee at St Nicholas' in 2022. Our Challenge is that this festival runs over three days of the August Bank Holiday!

To help us achieve this we need a strong team of willing volunteers who are available for a couple of hours on a rota to help our Festival run smoothly. There are signup sheets in both churches, or please email:

Rose Wells rosetw@btinternet.com

Colin Smith colin.s.smith@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Prayer Group

Wed 27 Aug 14:00 at St Nicholas'. Please join us at St Nicholas' as we pray for our Parish, its clergy and its outreach.

Jumble Sale

in St Barnabas' Hall, **Sat 6 Sept**, 10:00-11:30. In aid of St Barnabas' Refurbishment Fund. Please save your jumble for us but do not bring it before 5 Sept as we have nowhere to store it. Helpers will be needed, if you are able to volunteer please sign the list at St Barnabas' or contact Phyl on 07895 052729. Thank you.

CONTACTS

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Assistant Priest

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