

## CONTACTS AND REGULAR SERVICES

#### BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND GENERAL ENQUIRIES



worthparish.org



office@worthparish.org



Worth Parish Office St Barnabas' Church Worth Road Crawley RH10 7DY



0300 111 8150

#### CLERGY



Rector Fr Michael Boag (Tuesday to Sunday) rector@worthparish.org 01293 882229

Vicar

Revd Sarah Upchurch (Tuesday to Sunday) vicarstb@worthparish.org 01293 524804

Assistant Priest Fr Francis Pole francis.pole@virgin.net 07764 752608

Assistant Priest Revd Gordon Parry gordonmwparry@btinternet.com 07802 432398

Assistant Priest
Revd Canon Penny Foreman
michaelzanny@btinternet.com

#### **CHURCHWARDENS**



St Barnabas' Churchwarden David Anderson stbwardeneworthparish.org

St Nicholas' Churchwarden Colin Smith 01293 889894

#### SOCIAL MEDIA



facebook.com/worthparish



instagram.com/worthparish

#### 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

It's amazing how life pans out sometimes. As many of you know, Max, my husband works for the United Bible Societies. I am used to him getting up early to have an on-line meeting with someone in Australia or chatting away with someone in the afternoon who is in Kenya and finishing with 'enjoy your evening' as they are about to finish work



when he has 2 or 3 to go. Every two years the UBS has a global meeting and if possible, I buy a ticket before or after and we have a holiday wherever the meeting is. Last time it was Turkey, this time it is Thailand. How lucky am I that this year it falls just after I need to edit this mag?! (why don't they make an interrobang key?) Max goes out the end of next week and I follow the week after.

Do you like a mag with a lot of photos? I do and I think it reflects all that we achieve in our Parish. However, I have to admit that it can be a bit of a mission, to download, copy, crop, select the layout option, fix it on page, reduce it to the correct size and amend how sharp/bright it is, so every photo has a minimum of 8 adjustments – more if you want to put one photo in front of or behind another. Nevertheless, just like giving birth, the result, I hope, is worth it!

What a splendid celebration we had at St Nicholas' this August and we have another to look forward to in October when St Barnabas' becomes 70 – although it is awful to think that St Barnabas' is younger than I am!!! In August we had about 20,000 views on our Facebook page, so hopefully some will also look at this mag on our website and find out a little more about who we are and what we are about. Our Circle group has a full programme of talks and events coming up so please encourage your friends to come along to this and, indeed, any of our other activities. Feel free to pick up an extra free copy of the last mag or this one and read on.....

Sue

# SHELLEY COPTHORNE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Registered Charity No. 306408

Small grants towards the expenses of college or university courses are available to students, under the age of 25 years, who are resident in or around the civil or ecclesiastical parishes of Worth.

Applications for grants should only be made for courses where a confirmed offer of a place has been accepted.

Application should be by letter, giving brief details of yourself, including date of birth, your education and the course you will be undertaking, and addressed to:

The Honorary Secretary,
The Shelley Copthorne Educational Foundation,
3, Saxon Road,
Worth,
Crawley,
RH10 7SA.

Applications by 1st November for consideration in the current year



## THE RECTOR REFLECTS

The fragrant honeysuckle spirals clockwise to the sun
And many other creepers do the same
But some climb anti-clockwise: the bindweed does, for one
Or Convolvulus, to give her proper name
Rooted on either side of a door, one of each species grew
And raced towards the window-ledge above
Each corkscrewed to the lintel in the only way it knew
Where they stopped, touched tendrils, smiled, and fell in love.

Said the right-handed honeysuckle to the left-handed bindweed 'Oh, let us get married! If our parents don't mind, we'd Be loving and inseparable, inextricably entwined, we'd Live happily ever after,' said the honeysuckle to the bindweed...



These words from a song by the late musical comedy duo of Michael Flanders and Donald Swann tell the story of two climbing plants that do indeed become 'Entwined in Harmony' as our recent flower and music festival reminded me. Unfortunately, although their story doesn't actually end as well as they had hoped for, nevertheless, I love the imagery of our own lives being entwined, growing stronger through mutual support and encouragement.

The parish is a multi-stemmed plant, supporting a great number of fruitful endeavours, reaching out well beyond the walls of our buildings. Among those who nurture and nourish, teach and encourage the people of God in this place, we are blessed by a new addition to our ministerial team. Deborah Cowie was admitted to the office of Reader, in the Cathedral on Saturday 20 Sept (and licensed to this parish), along with (among others) Beverley Killick, who is now serving with Revd Greta, over in Gossops Green. Through shared activities, study and fellowship, I hope we will see both parishes becoming harmoniously (and informally) entwined, though our mutual understanding and friendship.

Deborah, and the others, were asked these questions:

'Do you believe that God is calling you to this ministry?

Will you be faithful in leading the people of God in worship, and in preaching the word to them?

Will you be diligent in prayer, in reading Holy Scripture, and in all studies that will deepen your faith and fit you to bear witness to the truth of the gospel?

Will you endeavour to fashion your life according to the way of Christ?

Will you promote unity, peace and love in the Church and in the world, and especially among those whom you serve?

Will you work closely with your colleagues in ministry and encourage the gifts of others?'

Once Bishop Ruth had admitted the readers, she said to them: 'Receive authority to exercise the office of Reader in this Diocese. May the Lord be with you in all your work and ministry from this day onwards.' and 'We welcome you as ministers of God's word' to which everyone added: 'May the word of Christ dwell in you richly.'

Vocation is not just a calling, or the listening to and recognition of a calling but the *response* to a calling; the rich indwelling and knowledge of God's calling is in each and every one of us. Some may reach up to face and feel the warmth of God's presence, climbing clockwise, others counterclockwise, but we are all called and drawn to the source of all life and love who is God, by God. May Deborah and may we, through her ministry among us, be richly blessed in this bountiful and beautiful corner of God's garden and be thankful.

Fr Michael

# PARISH ROUNDUP ST BARNABAS'

Over the weekend of 28 and 29 June, Bishop Ruth led a pilgrimage for the youth of the Diocese, as part of the celebrations of Chichester cathedral's 950<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It started with worship at St Peter's Church in Upper Beeding, then walking along the South Downs Way, arriving at the Parkwood Scout Camp for dinner, a range of activities (low ropes, obstacle course, crafts and games) and campfire. The pilgrimage concluded on the Sunday with breakfast, a communion service and lunch. Four of our young people, Harry, Ewan, Jamie and Ethan went on the pilgrimage and all had a great time. We had the largest contingent of young people from any parish; including the leaders there were 55 pilgrims in all from around 15 parishes.

The comments we received included "receiving a copy of Luke's Gospel was special", "enjoyed making the prayer book we used to make notes on what we had read in the Bible", "I was inspired by the way the leaders linked their sermon to the parts of Luke's Gospel that we had learned" and "the food was good, particularly the chocolate flapjacks."













At the start of July, it was a pleasure to accept the invitation from Bishop Martin for a reception for the Churchwardens of the Diocese. It started with Evensong in the Cathedral, followed by the reception in the Bishop's Palace Garden, where we were entertained by a jazz ensemble. It was great to meet up with fellow churchwardens and talk about what is happening in different parishes across the Diocese. Fortunately, the reception was under cover as it was one of the wettest days of the summer – as Bishop Martin commented it was the answer to his prayers as the gardens were desperate for water!

Later in July, Louise Ryrie held another "Sunday Space" a time to rest and meditate with relaxing music, reading

and candlelight. If you've not attended before, it is highly recommended as a truly uplifting and relaxing experience.

In early August, we held a family barbeque, a collaboration between Mothers Union and Messy Church, which was lovely and well attended.











The August bank holiday weekend saw the "Entwined in Harmony" flower and music festival to mark the 1050<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St Nicholas' Church. There is a full report elsewhere in the magazine but I do want to say what a wonderful weekend it was, the flower displays and the music were fabulous. Thank you to the Mothers' Union and the St Barnabas' flower ladies for their wonderful display "Blessings", as well as the financial support from the congregation at St Barnabas and the Mothers' Union.







On 6<sup>th</sup> September, we held our second jumble sale of the year, it was very well supported, both by helpers and customers and we made over £500, which is, I'm told, a record. So well done and thank you to Phyl and her team for organising.

The café at St Barnabas' remains open on Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 10am, 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, Churchwarden

Do you know this woman?

Church Times 5 Sept 25



Faith in the field: more than 25D cadets from Sussex Army Cadet Force and 80 adult volunteers gathered on Dartmoor for their annual summer camp last month. Pastoral and spiritual care was provided by three padres: the Revd George Butterworth, the Revd Sarah Upchurch, and the Revd Daniel Valentine, all of whom serve in Chichester diocese



Each session is 1 hour long and comprises:

- · Introducing the theme
- Opening in prayer
- Watching a short video
- Teaching
- Discussion and questions
- A practical prayer activity

Come from 1:30 for a 2pm start

- Saturday 27 September
- Saturday 4 October
- Saturday 11 October
- Saturday 25 October
- Saturday 1 November
- Saturday 8 November
- Saturday 22 NovemberSaturday 29 November

Wednesdays may be available for catch ups - speak to Sarah.

St Barnabas' Cafe, Worth Road, Crawley RH10 7DY

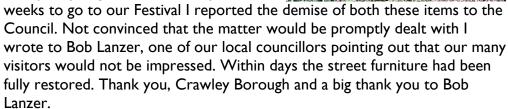
## ST NICHOLAS'

To begin this article, how could I not mention our Festival weekend celebrating I,050 years of continuous worship at St Nicholas' Church. I will leave the detail of this wonderful long weekend to other writers in this magazine, but I must mention the amazing work of our churchyard team, John and Jenny in the immediate build up to the weekend who did a wonderful job, especially as Jason, our Sexton, was unwell during the latter stages. We wish him a speedy recovery and a safe return to his Sexton duties.

In the previous issue, I spoke about the dilapidated and broken fencing bordering the path from the Lychgate to Bishops Lodge. Not a good look especially when we are expecting so many visitors. SM Fencing, Cowfold, who fixed the Rectory fencing, did the repair and replacement to a very high standard and it was fully repaired in good time for the Opening Day. The 'Sussex Fencing' had fifteen posts completely replaced, the chestnut rails were salvaged and reinstalled and the wire netting reattached to deter deer from gaining access. (Not sure how effective the wire netting is as deer will always find access).

Whilst these preparations were going on the large community notice

board at the junction of Church Road and Street Hill collapsed over the bench. That, together with the collapsed conservation notice board a few yards along, made the approach to our Church look pretty neglected. With only a few



During the Festival weekend John and Jenny, joined by Bill Puttick, gave many guided tours of the churchyard and, from the feedback, these tours were

clearly highly successful. Bill's many years of not only working in the churchyard, but researching and studying its history amazed our visitors with his wealth of knowledge. Thanks John, Jenny and Bill you provided an exceptional service.

The maintenance of our churchyard requires constant funding. It is hoped that the new 'Churchyard Banners' expertly designed, will encourage donations from our many visitors. The banners have a QR code to encourage donations through the website which has been set up to receive them. Thank you, Elizabeth, for the design and Seb for funding their production.



This is a very long ladder and no, it is not me up there! Colin

Over the years, our church lighting has deteriorated. With so many other important projects to deal with our



to Worth

lighting has received little attention. However, it has become quite apparent that this cannot go on. If I don't do something about it, I will have to issue torches and candles to our readers, clergy and choir. However, by the time this magazine is published there may have been an improvement. If so, I shall report to you in our next issue what has been done, how it was achieved and hopefully report your positive feedback. And all before the clocks go back on 26 October!

Colin Smith, Churchwarden



June: Mothers' Union have had a few busy months, starting off with a talk by Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). We were surprised and delighted to hear the names of places in our link branches when the speaker was talking about places in Africa that they fly to regularly. He had some photos of the very remote places where the people were waiting for supplies and patients were being the air lifted out. It was a very enjoyable evening.





July: At our afternoon tea, it was good to see members of the Parish who are not members of the Mothers' Union joining us. We each had a box full of sandwiches, scones, jam and clotted cream, and several different cakes all served up with cups of tea. We were sad that Joan and Simon couldn't be with us. Joan's afternoon tea box was taken to the hospital the next day. The profit made by our raffle will go to the "Away from it All Caravans".





August: we do not normally have a meeting, but we were still busy, starting off with a service on the Thursday celebrating Mary Sumner Day (the founder of Mothers' Union 149 years ago). A team from Messy Church and Mothers' Union hosted a BBQ in the Jubilee Garden at St Barnabas"; it gave us time to talk and watch the children play; everyone had a great time. Four of our members made a flower arrangement for St Nicholas' Entwined in Harmony Festival.

September: looks as though it is going to be just as busy. It's good to have both Joan and Simon back with us, in spirit if not in person.

If you wish to find out more about the Mothers' Union, why not come to our coffee morning on the 11

October

Mary Fry on behalf of the committee

## FROM THE BELL TOWER

From First Ding to First Quarter Peal - by one of our newer ringers

I retired from full-time work in 2015 and enjoyed having more time to keep fit and well. At my 2018 biennial well-woman health check-up, I was told that my weekly fitness programme was great for most of my body but that I needed one more weekly form of arm exercise.

That evening, I went for my evening walk up to Worth Church, around it and home. At the church I found a "Ringing Remembers" leaflet.

The leaflet explained that prior to the First World War, church bell-ringers were men. When they went to war, church vicars taught female parishioners to ring the bells. By the end of the war, 1400



bell-ringers had been lost to the war. To commemorate those ringers, the 'Ringing Remembers' scheme was launched to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the war by recruiting 1400 new bell-ringers across the UK and have them ring in church bell-ringing bands on the anniversary of the end of the war. I decided to join the scheme and become one of those ringers.

That Thursday, I went to the 19:30 ringing practice to see what was involved and if I could join. I met our 'Grand Master' of Worth Church ringers, Gerald Sandwell and found out that there is quite a lot more to ringing than pulling on a rope! You start with a few one to one lessons, you do a hand stroke and the trainer catches the rope and does the back stroke. Everything is carefully planned and as your confidence increases you do more on your own.

We have a six bell tower. I started on Bell 3 and to begin with you learn to follow Bell 2 in what are called Rounds. Bell number 1 – called the treble – always starts and Bell 6 (the tenor) always comes last, but as you progress the middle bells keep changing places with each other to make the tune of the 'method' that you hear in the Church.

After learning the basic skills of ringing the bells in a controlled fashion, I learned to 'plain hunt' on the treble, and 'cover' on the tenor. I then taught myself to ring some methods on the working bells from books at home and practised actually ringing them in the bell tower (with Mary patiently standing behind me to get me back on track if I went wrong!).

The Covid-19 pandemic saw us reduced to a weekly WhatsApp chat followed by restricted ringing where only 6 ringers could be in the ringing chamber at a time. Carolyn devised a great system of 10 minute ringing slots for six people at a time with the others waiting in the lower area of the tower (which is now our new bell-ringing chamber).

I most enjoy ringing methods on the working bells as that is a good work out for my brain and memory as well as my arm muscles!

This month I reached a landmark when I rang the number 3 bell for a 'quarter peal' – 45 minutes (1260 changes) of the 'Plain Bob Doubles' method.

I have also learnt 'Grandsire' and am currently perfecting 'Reverse Canterbury'. Hopefully, my next milestone will be to ring a quarter peal consisting of a mixture of the Plain Bob Doubles, Grandsire and Reverse Canterbury methods to engage and exercise my brain, memory and arms even more!



Bell-ringing is a great way to be part of a community while nurturing my physical and mental wellbeing.

Please contact us by ringing Neil (see useful numbers) or emailing the office if you would like to join our band.

Linda Richardson

## THE CIRCLE

Before the summer break, we met to enjoy some cheese and wine or soft drinks followed by strawberries, meringues and cream. It gave us the opportunity to talk about the coming year and the different activities we could do. This inspired Sue to put her thinking cap on and her fingers to Google to see what might be of interest

to as many people as possible. She found a great website of speakers available in different parts of the country. Some offering their talks for free apart from travel expenses or a donation and others making a charge roughly in proportion to their expertise and significance. We decided to limit the expenses for the next year so as not to over-commit our resources. However, if our attendance and interest grows, we can always look to extend the remit.

In September, The Circle went to the Community Cinema at St Peter's in West Green. *Conclave* uses the secretive process of a papal conclave to explore themes of faith, power, doubt, and the inherent political and human flaws within the Vatican, creating an "ecclesiastical hoot" that is both entertaining and thought-provoking. We thoroughly enjoyed it. Next, we see Mr Burton, a film about Richard Burton who changed his name when his schoolteacher Philip Burton became his legal guardian and mentor and helped him attend Oxford and rise to stardom. On 8 October, they have *I'm Still Here* a film based on a true story that helped reconstruct an important part of Brazil's hidden history. On 22 October it is *Bridget Jones: Mad about the Boy* which needs little introduction. In November, they have *The Seed of the Sacred Fig* followed by *The Penguin Lessons* starring Steve Coogan - another true story about a teacher working in an Argentinian school whose life is turned upside down when he rescues a penguin.

We now have a full programme of monthly events up to December 2026. In October, Liz Gallagher, ably assisted by Fr Michael, will be talking about Walsingham and the benefits of a retreat. This has been advertised on posters, but will have happened by the time you are reading this, so look for a summary in the next mag. In November, Beth Hilton, from Copthorne will be talking about her experience with Rommie Rescue Dogs and we will be making a collection for her charity on the evening. In December there is a social where we will discover how well cheese goes with mince pies! Posters of all the upcoming events are dotted around and if you would like to display one anywhere, please ask Sue who will be pleased to print you off a copy.

A few of us went to Ifield Barn Theatre in August to see *A Pack of Lies*. It was the first time I had been there – what an amazing place. We are having a talk on its history next year, but if you haven't been, then from 4 – 17 December they proudly present *Jack And The Beanstalk* – a popular version of this story with all the traditional panto ingredients. Giant Blunderbore battles with the gentle Fairy Moonshine as brave Jack is tricked on his way to market to sell the family cow for a handful of magic beans, and then has to climb the beanstalk resulting in more adventures. Tremendous fun! Tickets are £13 for adults and £11 for children.

Max Perry <u>max.perry@datamax.co.uk</u>





12 NOVEMBER 2025

TALK

Beth Hilton from **Rommie Rescue Dogs** discusses her experiences with dog rescuing and fostering.



3 DECEMBER 2025

SOCIAL.

Cheese and wine (or soft drinks), mince pies, and a short, light-hearted Christmas quiz.



7 JANUARY 2026

TALK

Graham Beaumont gives notes on some modern British churches.

## FROM THE ORGAN LOFT

## How The St Nicholas' Pipe Organ is Failing

In the last issue of the magazine, I wrote an article describing how the St Nicholas' Pipe Organ works.

This is, alas, the sequel, but tries to outline both what we've been doing to preserve the organ, and what the organ restoration fund is raising money for. I'm going to use the technical terms I introduced last issue, so you may want to refresh your memory.

The keyboard is the first happy bit. I have a pair of white cotton gloves next to the organ keyboard. I bought them that winter when the St Nicholas' heating was being repaired, to keep my hands warm enough to play, but now they have a new role – I put them on every so often to dust the keyboard!

The blower, the bellows, the humidifier and the cases are in good working order. That's because the blower is serviced and oiled once a year, and the humidifier is kept switched on 24/7. If you want to see my panic, watch how I react when I discover that someone has "tried to help save electricity" by turning it off... but I think we've got everyone with access to the cupboard at the back of the church nicely trained now.

The switches that control the stops are all working, but inside the circuit board it's a different story. The electrics are gradually failing. A couple of times in 2025 I've found that we have odd failure modes that manifest in things like "the top half of the swell keyboard doesn't play", or "the top half of the great plays the wrong stops." My technique for fixing this is to take the back off the organ, and blow dust out, but 60-year-old electrical wires are fragile things, and need tracing by a specialist. That's probably a few days' work, though, and not the major problem.

## The pipes themselves

The pipes are where the big issues are - the actual pipework, the support frames, and the relays that control where air gets into them. Let's take those one at a time:

We all know that we're meant to clear the filters out of our tumble dryers each time we use them. This is because dust builds up over time, and not only constitutes a fire hazard, but gradually makes the dryer less efficient. Organ pipes likewise fill with dust – not as fast, since we're not pushing clothes lint into them, but it's been 37 years now. I'm not too worried about the dust being at "fire hazard" levels, since the organ is played enough to keep a bit of air flowing (though you will, sometimes midweek, hear me playing every single note on every single working pipe to make sure we still have airflow.) The more subtle problem is that, as different amounts of dust build up in different pipes, the volumes of those pipes start sounding different from their neighbours. So, the organ has to be played slightly louder each year so that the "quietest pipe" is loud enough to be heard.

The biggest piece of work when the organ restoration is actually done will be that every pipe has to be removed, taken downstairs, and cleaned internally with what's basically a supersize pipe cleaner.

This is going to take about 6-8 weeks, on the assumption that we can board over one side of the church and turn those pews into a big workbench. It gets massively longer in time and cost if we can't do that, but the experience of other churches is that this sort of work becomes a bit of a tourist attraction in its own right. The need for taking out the organ and half the pews for two months means that the work will probably be done between Christmas and Easter one year.

#### The pipe supports

From tumble dryers and pipe-cleaners, my next visual aid is a pencil. Remember trying to balance a pencil on a finger and keep it upright - I know in my era of school children, we all tried that.

Once the pencil starts to go off the vertical, it gets harder and harder to balance. There's some physics about the forces acting based on the angle, but we don't need to calculate cosines to realise that the more a pipe leans over, the more it will continue to bend.

We now have several pipes that are so bent they no longer play. We also have a bunch more that are still playable, but on their way to "too far." At the last organ tuning, the week before the Festival, the notes from the tuner included a paragraph about how another support had bent, and he'd straightened it, but the pipe was now resting on the surrounding pipes rather than being properly supported. He went on to note that this made the surrounding pipes untuneable. This is why we can't wait much longer to do the work – the rate of failure is going to increase over the next few years. The photo show how bad the situation has got.



## The pipe relays

These are the bits of electrics that sit inside the case and control the signals out to individual pipes. When I took over as Director of Music, one of them had completely failed - so the bottom C on the Swell keyboard no longer does anything. Last year, the F above middle C on the Swell also failed. Our organ team (see elsewhere in this issue of the magazine) are learning the skill of working around organs where some of the notes don't work, but it's not a skill we enjoy acquiring.

Fixing this is, to be honest, going to be a lot easier when all the pipes are downstairs, and we can get at the electronics without over 1,000 tuned tubes crammed in the way.

## So, what's the process?

Having discussed this all with Fr Michael and Colin, our Warden, late last year, I approached the former Director of Music at the Cathedral and now Diocesan Hon. Organ adviser, for help.

The first step was to get an organ specialist to do a full survey, which we did just before Easter. That survey included both their own price estimate, and enough information for us to send out to other organ specialists for quotes when we've got the money.

Colin and Michael have presented their findings to the PCC, and we're now at the fund-raising stage. Provisionally, we need £35-40,000 (+vat). Once we get close to that amount, we're going to go out to tender from specialists. The chap from the Diocese has suggested some likely suppliers and offered to help review when we get to that stage. But, at the moment, it's "fund raising time."

Mark Harrison, Director of Music

#### The St Nicholas' Music Team for the new Academic Year

One of the great joys of my job is aiding the musical development of some talented young musicians.

Our newest appointment is Luke Turvill who has joined the St Nic's team as "Junior Organ Scholar" (we are deliberately picking the job titles to mirror those at Universities who have such roles.)

Luke is a familiar face (and sound) to those at St Barnabas', having helped with the playing there, but his appointment at St Nicholas' adds the ability to sing with and accompany a choir as well as a congregation. Luke attends Oriel school in Maidenbower.

Ollie Salamon, who assisted Charlotte during the last academic year, has officially taken up the role of Organ Scholar at St Nicholas', as we had hoped he would. He's also been awarded a sixth form music scholarship at Ardingly College.

Charlotte Wong left us at the end of the summer, and having spent the holiday back in Hong Kong, is now off to Durham, where she'll be reading Mathematics.

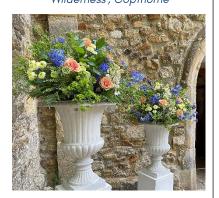
Thomas Watkin, who played with us before Charlotte, and came back for the Young Organists concert, has accepted the (rather more full time) post of Organ Scholar at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.

## ST NICHOLAS' - A CELEBRATION OF 1050 YEARS

23 - 25 Aug - raising £2500 for St Catherine's Hospice & the St Nicholas' Organ restoration fund



Compassion - Billie from 'Into the Wilderness', Copthorne



A concert attendance "at capacity", (around 180) including:

- o The Deputy Lieutenant of Sussex, Her Honour Judge Christine Laing, KC, DL
- o The Member of Parliament for Crawley, Peter Lamb MP
- o The Archdeacon of Horsham, The Venerable Angela Martin
- o The Leader of Crawley Council, Councillor Michael Jones
- o The Councillor for Pound Hill South and Worth, Councillor Thomas Bidwell
- o The Councillor for Pound Hill South and Worth, Councillor Bob Lanzer
- o The Councillor for Pound Hill North and Forge Wood, Councillor Nick Hilton

## Featuring:

- A three-day flower festival
- A quarter peal (45 minutes) of bellringing
- Tours of the churchyard on the Saturday and Monday
- Tours of the organ loft, including "inside the organ" on Saturday and Monday
- A gala concert and drinks reception on the Sunday afternoon

Comfort - Jill Freeborn



Eternity Adela Hawley



Grace - Sue Perry



Praise - Brownies, 2nd Maidenbower + 2nd Pound Hill



Joy - Christine Barwell, Worth Abbey



Karen Park - Horsham Eco Churches





Love - Carys, Zoe's Florists





## LICENSING OF THE REVEREND DOCTOR GRETA SAWYER TO ST ALBAN'S



On Wednesday 3 September, I was Licensed as Priest in Charge of St Alban's Gossops Green and Bewbush by The Right Reverend Ruth Bushyager, Bishop of Horsham with the installation by The Venerable Angela Martin, Archdeacon of Horsham.

It was a truly joyous occasion, with 197 people filling the church.

The procession was a long and wonderful sight: led by the crucifer and acolytes, followed by two Readers, 18 clergy, myself, the Archdeacon, the churchwardens, the Bishop, and finally the Bishop's Chaplain. As we entered, I was delighted to see not only St Alban's choir in their familiar cream and green robes, but also – as a lovely surprise – the red cassocks and white surplices of St Nicholas' choir.



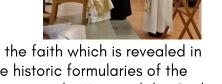
Once the service began, it was a joy to see the congregation of St Alban's joined by family, friends, colleagues, and so many of you from Worth Parish.

The Licensing Service is held within a Eucharist, but it includes some distinctive elements:

The presentation

The Archdeacon presents the priest to be licensed.

The declarations



The Priest to be licensed makes a declaration to declare their belief 'in the faith which is revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds, and to which the historic formularies of the Church of England bear witness...' This is followed by the Oath of Allegiance to the King and the Oath of Canonical Obedience to the Bishop.

The signing

The Declaration and Oaths are signed

The reading of the legal instrument and the blessing

The Priest kneels before the Bishop

The Installation

The Archdeacon places the new Priest in Charge in their stall.

The Notices

The new Priest in Charge gives out brief notices.

It was an amazing occasion, full of joy and love, and also brought a sense of relief for St Alban's that their interregnum had finally come to an end!

Even though I'm now licensed to St Alban's, Gossops Green is just a stone's throw away across Crawley, so I'm sure we will find lots of opportunities for keeping in touch.









Revd Greta

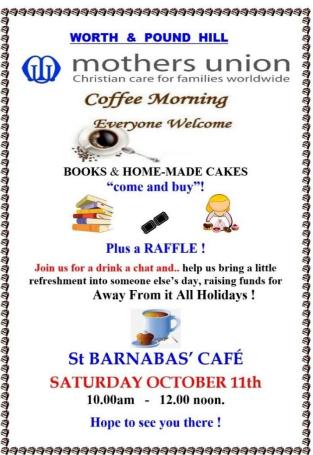
It has been great to follow Greta's journey, which started at St Barnabas', and to congratulate her on her new appointment. David Anderson





We're all going to a clergy conference, no more worries for a day or two...









 Go to <u>www.easyfundraising.org.uk</u>

- 2. Click Find a Cause
- 3. Type in Worth Parish
- 4. Click and follow instructions

## MARIAN PRAYER

## The Significance and Practice of Prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Prayer to the Virgin Mary occupies a cherished and enduring place in Christian spirituality, especially within Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and some Anglican traditions. Revered as the Mother of Jesus Christ and often called by titles such as Our Lady, the Blessed Virgin, or Theotokos (God-bearer or Mother of God), Mary is seen not only as an exemplar of faith and obedience but also as a compassionate intercessor for those seeking comfort, guidance, and hope.

## Historical Foundations of Marian Prayer



The roots of Marian devotion stretch back to the earliest centuries of Christianity. As the mother of Jesus, Mary's pivotal role in salvation history made her a figure of deep veneration. Early Christian writers such as St Irenaeus and St Ambrose spoke reverently of Mary, emphasizing her purity, humility, and acceptance of God's will.

By the Middle Ages, Marian devotion became more formalized, with prayers like the "Ave Maria" (Hail Mary) and the development of the rosary – a structured form of meditation centering on the life of Christ through Mary's perspective. The popularity of Marian feasts, shrines, and

apparitions further cemented her importance in Christian prayer life.

## Theology and Meaning of Marian Prayer

At its heart, prayer to the Virgin Mary is not worship in the same sense as prayer to God, but veneration – a form of profound respect and love. The doctrine of intercession maintains that Mary, being close to her Son, presents the prayers of the faithful to Jesus, acting as a spiritual advocate and motherly guide.

This intercessory role is rooted in biblical narratives, such as the Wedding at Cana (John 2.1–12), where Mary intercedes on behalf of the wedding hosts, prompting Jesus' first miracle. The Magnificat (Luke 1.46–55), Mary's own prayer of praise and surrender to God, has become a model for believers in expressing humility and trust.

## Forms and Expressions of Marian Prayer

Prayer to Mary takes many forms, ranging from simple invocations to elaborate litanies and meditative practices. Some of the most notable expressions include:

#### The Hail Mary

This prayer, based on scriptural greetings from the Angel Gabriel and Elizabeth (Luke 1.28, 42), is perhaps the most well-known Marian prayer. It reads:

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.



Church Mouse

## 70 YEARS OF ST BARNABAS'

#### ChatGPT said:



Here's a summary of the history of St Barnabas' Church, Pound Hill (Worth Road, Crawley, RH10 7DY):

## Origins & Early History

- St Barnabas' was built in 1955, during the post-war/new town expansion of Crawley. Worth Parish+2sussexparishchurches.org+2
- The land for the church was bought using funds made by selling land which had been donated to the Church Council by Sir Desmond Montefiore. Worth Parish
- It was dedicated on 8 October 1955 by the Bishop of Chichester, Dr G.K.A. Bell. Worth Parish
- The total cost at that time for the church & dual-purpose hall was about £18,000. Worth Parish

#### Architecture & Structure

- The church is a fairly plain, low brick building, with a pedimented gable, long straight windows along the sides, and a lower three-sided chancel. sussexparishchurches.org
- There's a hall attached on the north side, which was added later in 1972.
   sussexparishchurches.org+1
- The dual-purpose hall was completed in 1956-7 according to some sources. <u>British History</u> Online+1

#### Changes & Development

- In 1972, the church was re-dedicated, with much the same layout as it has today. Worth Parish
- Over recent years, there has been a building project to improve accessibility and community facilities. Worth Parish+2Worth Parish+2
  - o For example, work has been done on the pastoral centre: upgrading entrances, making it more accessible to those with mobility issues, improving lighting etc. <u>SussexWorld</u>

#### Parish & Community

- The church is part of the Parish of Worth, Pound Hill & Maidenbower in the Church of England. Worth Parish
- It serves the eastern part of Crawley, including Pound Hill, and as part of Crawley's New Town infrastructure. Worth Parish+1

If you like, I can dig up even older records (for example, any planning documents, details from archive photos) to give you a richer timeline. Do you want me to do that?

I was amazed at how quickly the above appeared in answer to my question. Without a doubt AI has its uses! I didn't have room for planning docs etc as they suggest, let me know if you want them next edition. Ed

## WHAT SHALL I WEAR? ANGLO-SAXON COSTUME

Our recent Festival events has left Church Mouse wondering about appropriate wear.

The Anglo-Saxons primarily relied on natural fibres for their clothing. Wool was the principal textile, spun and woven by hand in homes and small workshops. It offered warmth and durability, essential qualities in the often damp climate of England. Linen, derived from flax, was another important material, prized for its smoothness and comfort against the skin. While silk was rare and reserved for the elite – acquired through distant trade routes – there is evidence that small decorative silk pieces occasionally adorned clothing.

## Men's Clothing

Anglo-Saxon menswear was functional, reflecting the demands of agrarian life while indicating status and allegiance. The tunic was the cornerstone of male attire. Typically knee-length, it was pulled over the head, sometimes featuring long sleeves for warmth. The cut was simple: a rectangular body with gores inserted to allow greater movement. For wealthier individuals, tunics could be longer, more finely made, and lined with contrasting fabrics. Leg coverings varied. Early Anglo-Saxon men often wore tight-fitting trousers, sometimes with

foot bindings known as "winings." Later, looser trousers or leggings became common, sometimes paired with puttees – strips of cloth wound around the lower leg for protection and support. A cloak, fastened at the shoulder with a brooch or pin, served as an outer garment. The brooch itself was more than a fastening – it was a marker of status and wealth, often elaborately worked in bronze, silver, or, for the most privileged, gold.

## Women's Clothing

The Anglo-Saxon woman's dress had its own distinctive elements, blending modesty, practicality, and, for those who could afford it, elegance. Women typically wore a linen underdress covered by a wool overdress. The overdress was usually sleeveless or had short sleeves, ankle-length and sometimes belted at the waist. Wealth and status were expressed through fabric quality, the richness of dye, and ornamentation; embroidery in silk or gold thread was a mark of distinction. A cloak or large shawl might be worn for additional warmth. Like men's cloaks, these were secured with brooches or pins, which could be simple or highly decorated. Head coverings were typical for married women, both as a

sign of respectability and for practical reasons. These ranged from simple linen kerchiefs to elaborate veils. Unmarried women and girls sometimes went bareheaded, particularly in earlier periods. Adornment played a vital role in Anglo-Saxon society. Brooches, beads, and buckles were more than decorative; they were symbols of rank, family, and even regional identity.

## Children's Clothing

Evidence for children's clothing is scant, but it is likely that young people wore scaled-down versions of adult dress. Simple tunics and trousers for boys, dresses for girls, and occasional adornment for those of noble birth. Dress differed according to status (freemen, nobles, slaves), occupation (warrior, farmer, cleric), and region (Mercia, Wessex, Northumbria). The conversion to Christianity brought new influences, with clerics and monks eventually adopting continental styles and robes. Kings and queens wore especially magnificent clothing, including imported silks and precious metals, to assert their power. Ceremonial dress for the elite could be ornate, incorporating imported fabrics and luxurious embellishments. Military attire, meanwhile, married protection with display: chainmail, helmets, and shields were often paired with brightly dyed cloaks and decorative accoutrements.

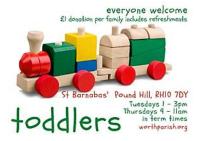
Church Mouse (n.b. - no knitting before the Eleventh Century)
For those who may be interested, this piece was drafted by CoPilot

# KIDS AND YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Despite a broken wrist, Nicky ably helped by Emily (as well as help from other members of the congregation) runs Sunday School; 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 at the family service they stay and take part.



## **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





## **HUNT THE MAG**

What does the Shelley Copthorne Educational Foundation do?

When was St Barnabas' built?

Where was Revd Sarah in August?

Who had a very special occasion on 3 September?

Why did Sue put her thinking cap on?











Joseph





## **BAPTISMS AND WEDDINGS**

#### **Baptisms**

17 August 2025 Ashlynn Violet Mitchell Rupert James Alexander Campey

28 August 2025 Siobhan Elizabeth Eley Isaiah Moses Eley Mia-Rose trinity Eley Israel Reyes Eley

30 August 2025 Waylano Miracle Victor Waylana Angel Victor



31 August 2025 Benjamin Bueno Marin

21 September 2025 Poppy Emily Bateman 28 September 2025

Mario Ortyl-Cullen

Jenny & Barry Tullett 23.08.75 & 23.08.25



## Weddings

28 June 2025 Natalie Warner & George Payne

6 August 2025 Olesia Lobunets & Nicolas William Latimer

4 September 2025 Marie-Louise Chambers & Luke Peter David Jones

7 September 2025 Vanessa Oparebea Acquaah & Giuseppe Stratis Afentoulis 20 September 2025

20 September 2025 Melanie Jane Tilbury & Nicholas Martin Wright







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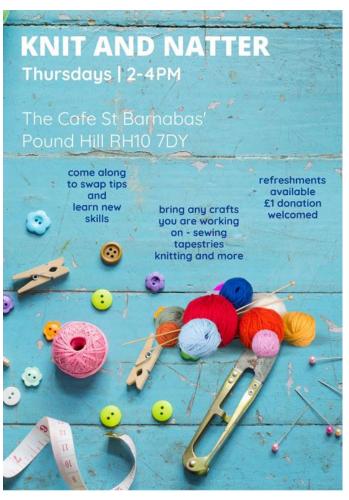




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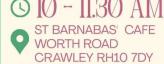
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1/4 page A4 Colour	£20	£85
1/2 page A4 Black and White	£22	£100
1/2 page A4 Colour	£45	£180
Full page A4 Colour	£68	£300







# **USEFUL NUMBERS**

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

Altar Servers (St Nicholas')  Bellringers  Neil Dobson Bookings (Hall, Meeting Rooms, Café, Church) Revd Sarah Children's Society Ann Lane Children - Messy Church Children - Toddlers Children - Sunday School Choirs Children - Sunday School Choirs Church Cleaning (St Barnabas') Church Cleaning (St Barnabas') Church Cleaning (St Nicholas')  Electoral Roll Officer Jane Stanford Flower Arranging (St Barnabas') Friends of St Nicholas' Colin Smith Giving David Fry Julian Group (St Barnabas') Don Hewerdine Knit and Natter Magazine Sue Perry Mothers' Union Mary Fry Music at St Barnabas' PCC Secretary PCC Secretary Prayer Group - Parish / Julian (St Nicholas') Don Hewerdine Prayer Group - Julian (St Barnabas') Don Hewerdine Elizabeth Whyman The Circle Max Perry	Altar Servers (St Barnabas')	David Anderson	
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	The Circle	Max Perry	

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# **OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2025 CALENDAR**

When?	110 V ET IBEK	What?	Where?
Wed 1 Oct	20:00	The Circle: Walsingham	St Barnabas'
Sat 4 Oct	10:00	Saturday Market	St Barnabas'
Sun 5 Oct	12:00	Harvest Bring and Share	St Barnabas'
Sun 5 Oct	19:00	95% Prayer Gathering	St Barnabas'
Wed 8 Oct	12:00	Julian Group	St Nicholas'
Wed 8 Oct	14:30	Scrabble and Cake	St Barnabas'
Sat 11 Oct	10:00	MU Coffee Morning	St Barnabas'
Mon 13 Oct	14:00	Julian Group	St Barnabas'
Sat 18 Oct	15:00	Messy Church	St Barnabas'
Sun 19 Oct	16:00	Healing Service	St Andrew's
Wed 22 Oct	15:00	Messy Church	St Barnabas'
Thur 23 Oct	15:45	MU Songs of Praise and Meeting	St Barnabas'
Fri 24 Oct	19:00	Ensemble Reza Concert	St Nicholas'
Sun 26 Oct	16:00	Warren Mailley-Smith & Susan Parkes	St Nicholas'
Wed 29 Oct	14:30	Parish Prayer Group	St Nicholas'
Sat 1 Nov	11:00	Autumn Fair	St Barnabas'
Sun 2 Nov	16:00	All Souls Requiem	St Nicholas'
Wed 5 Nov	14:30	Scrabble and Cake	St Barnabas'
Sat 8 Nov	10:00	Saturday Market	St Barnabas'
Sun 9 Nov	10:00 St B	NB Remembrance Sunday NB	10:15 St N
Mon 10 Nov	14:00	Julian Group	St Barnabas'
Wed 12 Nov	12:00	Julian Group	St Nicholas'
Wed 12 Nov	19:30	The Circle: Dog Rescue – Beth Hilton	St Barnabas'
Sat 15 Nov	15:00	Messy Church	St Barnabas'
Wed 19 Nov	15:00	Messy Church	St Barnabas'
Wed 26 Nov	19:00	Parish Prayer Group	St Barnabas'
Thur 27 Nov	15:45	MU Sock Pack & Meeting	St Barnabas'
Sun 30 Nov	16:00	Advent Carol Service	St Nicholas'
Wed 3 Dec	19:30	The Circle: Wine, Cheese, Mince Pies, Quiz	St Barnabas'
Sat 6 Dec	10:00	Saturday Market	St Barnabas'
Sat 6 Dec	15:00	Messy Church	St Barnabas'



Fri 24 October 19:00 Ensemble Reza Concert St Nicholas' Church All Welcome



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