



28 December 2025

The Holy Innocents



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 Revd Gordon Parry

10:00 Child Friendly Eucharist St Barnabas'
Celebrant & Preacher Canon Penny Foreman

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.

Here we are in the days between Christmas and the New Year. At this time betwixt Christmas and the New Year, we have a moment in time when we can reflect and give thanks for the miracle of the coming of Jesus, God Incarnate.

For many, Christ remains the perpetual babe in a manger, but the narrative moves on. We hear of the jealous King Herod who would go to any lengths to try to preserve his supremacy. He used his power and influence to terrorise and destroy, just as so many dictators have done throughout the ages, but as we discover, his power wasn't enough to thwart God's redemptive plan.

Joseph was warned by an angel to take Mary and Jesus and flee to a land where they would be strangers, but it was a land that would provide a place of safety for them. What thoughts and feelings do those images evoke in you?

Life can be scary at times, as it must have been for that little family as they made haste to escape the clutches of Herod. We may never be in that situation, but we face other circumstances that frighten or unsettle us. However, we are not alone because God is with us.

As we approach the New Year,
remember:

‘The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you, he will never leave you, nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be dismayed.’ Deuteronomy 31:8.

May you know God's love and peace in the year that is to come.

Canon Penny

Collect

Heavenly Father, whose children suffered at the hands of Herod, though they had done no wrong: by the suffering of your Son and by the innocence of our lives frustrate all evil designs and establish your reign of justice and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Reading *Jeremiah 31.15-17*

Thus says the Lord: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more. Thus says the Lord: Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work, says the Lord: they shall come back from the land of

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the enemy; there is hope for your future, says the Lord: your children shall come back to their own country.

Reading *1 Corinthians 1.26-29*

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

GOD CHOSE THE FOOLISH THINGS OF THE WORLD TO SHAME THE WISE; GOD CHOSE THE WEAK THINGS OF THE WORLD TO SHAME THE STRONG.

Gospel *Matthew 2.12-18*

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to

Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by



the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had

learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

Post Communion

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

SERVICES THIS WEEK		
Tues 30 Dec	10:30 Said Eucharist	St Barnabas'
Wed 31 Dec	13:00 Wedding	St Nicholas'
Sun 4 Jan	8:15 Eucharist (BCP) 10:00 Epiphany Eucharist	St Nicholas' Both Churches
Sunday 4 January 2026 Christmas 2		
Isaiah 60.1-6 I John 3.22-4.6 Matthew 4.12-17,23-25		

Festivals this week	
Mon 29 Dec	Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr 1170 (LF)
Wed 31 Dec	John Wyclif, Reformer 1384 (C)
Thur 1 Jan	The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus (F)
Fri 2 Jan	Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishops, Teachers 379 and 389 (LF) Seraphim, Monk of Sarov, Spiritual Guide 1833 (C) Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah, Bishop in South India, Evangelist 1945 (C)

(F) Festival; (LF) Lesser Festival; (C) Commemoration

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

Holiday this week.

The Hangout
Youth Club at St Barnabas' meets Every **Friday** at 19:00 during Term
Holiday this week.

The Circle

Next meets on **Wed 7 Jan** in the Café at St Barnabas'. Graham Beaumont will speak on new Anglican churches since 1950.

Friday Lunches

There will be lunches on **9 and 23 Jan**. Please book your place for the 9 Jan with the Office or the Café by Wed 7 Jan.

We are still in need of some more cooks, so do let us know if you can help out. Thank you

Magazine Copy Deadline

The copy deadline for the Feb-Mar Parish Magazine is **10 Jan**.

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

In January Messy Church will be on **Sat 10 Jan** and **Wed 14 Jan**; both 15:00-16:30, at St Barnabas'. Everyone welcome - mums, dads, grandparents, carers - come and have fun!



St Barnabas' Julian Group

meets on **Mon 12 Jan at 14:00** in St Barnabas'. Old and new friends very welcome

St Nicholas' Julian Group

meets on **Wed 14 Jan at 12:00** for half an hour of silent prayer. Please feel free to join us - everyone welcome!

Parish Giving

As the New Year approaches, we'd love to get a little bit of admin sorted so we can head into the new year smoothly.

We can see that you make regular contributions to the Church Bank Account. We are truly grateful for your generosity, which helps to keep our Parish running and serving our community.

To make your donations go even further, we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 through Gift Aid if you are a UK tax payer. The easiest way is payment via the **Parish Giving Scheme**: <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/worth-crawley>.

Once set up, Gift Aid is collected automatically by the Parish Giving Scheme and you won't need to do anything else (just remember to cancel your standing order to the church account).

If you'd prefer to keep giving as you do now, that's absolutely fine, but if you are a tax payer we'll need a Gift Aid form to be completed. If you have already completed one that will be sufficient but if you haven't or are not sure whether you have or not then please complete one. A copy of the form will be available at both churches.

Please do consider moving your giving to the Parish Giving Scheme as it will guarantee that the church gets maximum benefit from your financial support and reduce the amount of parish admin.

Thank you again for your generosity, and please reach out to David Anderson or myself if you have any questions. Jerry Taylor.

Worth Parish Legendary Quiz Night

Sat 31 Jan 19:00 – 22:30

St Barnabas' Church

Doors 19:00; Food 19:15; Quiz 20:00

1. Gather up to 6 friends and choose a team name
2. Email office@worthparish.org stating how many people need food
3. Turn up and pay on the night (cash or card)

Food: jacket potatoes, baked beans, cheese and coleslaw, plus ice-cream

- **Teams of up to 6**
- **£12 per head with food, £7 without**

See website for details <https://wp.me/P387KI-u8s>

CONTACTS

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