



4 January 2026

## The Epiphany



## 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 Epiphany Eucharist      St Barnabas' Celebrant & Preacher      Revd Sarah Upchurch

Please try our QR code to  
donate to Worth Parish.  
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## **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.

The first words spoken in Matthew's Gospel, other than by the angel to Joseph in chapter one, come as a question, asked by visitors from foreign lands: 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?' Matthew emphasising his point that Jesus has come for everyone, not just the nation he was born into. Moreover, these visitors find him through unexpected ways, not through the existing community of faith, or its sacred texts but from completely outside both. They are scholar-scientists, possibly Zoroastrian priests and astronomers, seeking truth, which is in itself a reminder to us that the Church exists not to shut out the world but to welcome it in. This story of mysterious, unexpected visitors, also teaches us that the limits of God's actions and activity are beyond any limitations we might make.

Matthew reminds us of the things that happened surrounding the birth of Jesus fulfil scripture, that none of them is random but foretold long ago by the prophets. Matthew makes the point that God's providential care nudges these events to their intended end. He also gives an early hint of the hostility that will be shown toward Jesus by the authorities of his own people, the powerful insiders, whereas the opposite response will come from the outsiders and those shut out from the centre of things.

In this feast of The Epiphany God invites us, if on the inside, to look out, and if on the outside, to come in...

Fr Michael

## Collect

Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## Reading *Isaiah 60.1-6*



Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord

will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

## Reading *Ephesians 3.1-12*

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power.

Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

TO ME, WHO AM LESS than the least OF ALL SAINTS, IS THIS GRACE GIVEN, that I should preach AMONG THE GENTILES the unsearchable riches OF CHRIST.

## Gospel *Matthew 2.1-12*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it

stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with



Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

### Post Communion

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

**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 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

### The Hangout

Youth Club at St Barnabas' meets Every **Friday** at 19:00 during Term

### 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

### Festivals this week

Sat 10 Jan William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury 1645 (C)

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

## 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](mailto: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>



YOU KNOW, THE IDEA  
THAT GOD - THE WISDOM  
OF THE COSMOS - WOULD  
BECOME A REAL HUMAN  
WAS BEYOND THE  
IMAGINATION OF THE  
GREEK PHILOSOPHERS.



[www.agnusday.org](http://www.agnusday.org)

WAIT! ARE YOU  
SAYING THAT THE  
PEOPLE WHO BROUGHT  
US "SETTING CHEESE  
ON FIRE" AND YANNI...



## CONTACTS

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### Worth Parish Office

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WERE LACKING  
IN IMAGINATION?

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JOHN 1:1-18

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