



25 January 2026

# Conversion of St Paul



## 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      Revd Sarah Upchurch

10:00 Sung Eucharist  
Celebrant & Preacher

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.

Are you certain?

Often I preach about the nature of the call of Jesus being gentle and of his followers being drawn to him, that he does not force or coerce people to follow him ... so this account of Saul (Paul's Hebrew name) being blinded by the light is a complete and utter contrast!

We understand from the scripture that Saul was breathing threats and murder against the first disciples, violently persecuting the early church and actively trying to destroy it. Divine intervention in the personal appearance by Jesus himself, was chosen to change Saul's mindset.

The Church refers to this event as the Conversion of Paul, yet Saul already believed in God, had studied to the highest level and was zealous in his service. It is possible to be a believer and get things wrong! Sometimes we can feel certainty about something or someone and it is not right in God's eyes. It is difficult to keep an 'Open to God' mind as we seem programmed to judge one another in human terms.

Why not look at the posture and approach of Ananias in these events? This is key for us. Ananias was a person of prayer. He talks openly and honestly with God. Look at how he reacts to God's instructions ... he works in partnership with God, he follows what God has called him to do, despite initial reservations, Ananias trusts God and through him Saul is healed.

To pray and to seek God's wisdom is what we are called to do, which each of us can do. Maybe we need to think again about people we have written off as lost causes? Nobody is beyond God's redeeming power. Prepare to be confounded.

Peace be with you,

Revd Sarah

## Collect

Almighty God, who caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul: grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion may follow him in bearing witness to your truth; 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**

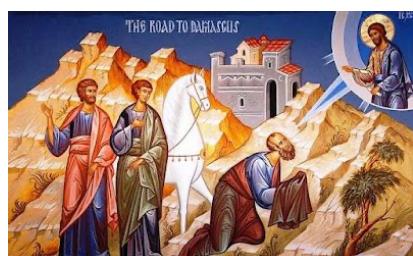
## Reading *Acts 9.1-22*

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the

ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?'

The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay



his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.' But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.' All who heard him were amazed and said, 'Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?' Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

## Reading *Galatians 1.11-16a*

For I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin; for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. I advanced in Judaism



beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. But when God, who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles.

### **Gospel** Matthew 19.27-30

Then Peter said in reply, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

And everyone who has left houses or

brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.



### **Post Communion**

Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

<b>Festivals this week</b>	
Mon 26 Jan	Timothy and Titus, Companions of Paul (LF)
Wed 28 Jan	Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Philosopher, Teacher 1274 (LF)
Fri 30 Jan	Charles, King and Martyr 1649 (LF)
Sat 31 Jan	John Bosco, Priest, Founder of the Salesian Teaching Order 1888 (C)

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

<b>SERVICES THIS WEEK</b>		
Tues 27 Jan	10:30 Said Eucharist	St Barnabas'
Thur 29 Jan	10:30 Said Eucharist	St Nicholas'
Sun 1 Feb	8:15 Eucharist (BCP) 10:00 Sung Eucharist 10:00 Sung Eucharist 12:00 Baptism (tbc) 13:00 Baptism 16:00 Candlemas Compline	St Nicholas' St Barnabas' St Nicholas' St Nicholas' St Barnabas' St Nicholas'
<b>Sunday 1 February 2026</b> <b>Presentation of Christ in the Temple</b> <b>Candlemas</b> Malachi 3.1-5      Hebrews 2.14-18 Luke 2.22-40		

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

### **Parish Prayer Group**

Meets on **Wed 28 Jan** at 14:30 at St Nicholas'. Join us to pray for our Parish, our clergy, our outreach and the congregations.

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

### **Recycling**

We continue to recycle **milk bottle tops**. Containers are now available in the Narthex and on Sue's doorstep. Please deliver **by the end of JANUARY**. We also collect used postage **stamps** (for the Hospice) and used **printer cartridges** (for McIndoe); please deliver to the Narthex. Thank you!

## 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>

## Choral Compline

St Nicholas', 16:00 on **Sun 1 Feb.**

We believe that this is the first time Compline has been sung at St Nicholas' since the choir was formed in the 1960s. Please come and join us for a short service including music by Tallis and Gibbons.

## Friday Lunches

The next lunches will be on **6 and 20 Feb.**

Please book your place for the 6 Feb with the Office or the Café by **Wed 4 Feb.**

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

## CONTACTS

### The Rector

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### Worth Parish Office

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