

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear? **PSALM 27:1**

A lit candle in a textured, woven holder. The candle is lit, casting a warm glow. In the background, there is a pile of wheat or grain, and the overall scene is softly lit with a warm, golden light.

WORTH PARISH magazine

£1.00 February – March 2026

ST BARNABAS', POUND HILL
ST NICHOLAS', WORTH

Reg. Charity No. 1131090

CONTACTS AND REGULAR SERVICES

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND GENERAL ENQUIRIES



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CHURCHWARDENS



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SOCIAL MEDIA



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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

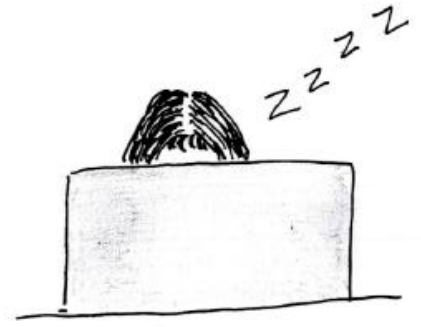
Saturdays

10 - 13:00

Coffee Shop

NOTE FROM THE ED

Following on from where the last editorial ended, as many of you now know, my mother's dearest wish was granted and she joined my father on Friday 5 December. I went to the Blue Christmas Service at St Barnabas' and found it very calming and therapeutic. We are so lucky in our parish to have such a wide range of services across the whole year and I, for one, am very thankful for this.



We are now in the process of going through mum's house – something she had never had to experience. My parents have lived in that house for 43 years and they never threw anything out (including unopened boxes from their move there). The first trawl through is relatively easy, clothes out of fashion and far too small; blankets, bought in the 50s replaced by duvets in the 60s (my father was a very early convert to the duvet); medical items. These are all now on their way to Ukraine where they are desperately needed. Unneeded and used gifts of notelets etc have made their way to the Saturday market – you may now have something of my mother's in your home now! Boxes and boxes of cut-outs from magazines and papers are now in recycling (or will be – we are about to fill our fifth recycling bin). This highlights the transformation the digital revolution has made, as the information my parents kept in hard paper form is searchable, instant, and frequently updated by a quick tap of the keys.

My mum was always very fond of candles and across her lifetime she lit many. I think she even wanted to put real candles on the Christmas tree when she first arrived in England – although my father probably put a stop to that, he was very conscious of fire hazards. Throughout, this mag you will see we have a bit of a 'candle theme' along with a few more of mum's clippings..... read on

Sue x

Think about it: –

GRACE is God making sure that you get what you don't deserve.

MERCY is God making sure that you don't get what you deserve.

PEACE is what you get when you accept His grace and mercy.

Essentials!

Three great essentials to happiness are:

Something to do, something to love and something to hope for.

The kiss of the sun for pardon
The song of the bird for mirth
One is nearer God's heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth.

*From 'God's Garden' by
Dorothy Frances Gurney (1858-1932)*



VICAR'S VIEWPOINT

Carrying the Light

Some people cannot wait to take all their Christmas Decorations down.....maybe it's because they put them up so early! I don't seem to mind, and I value the tradition of keeping the Crib in place until Candlemas. I have been known to say; "Jesus isn't just for Christmas!"

So it will come as no surprise that I am glad that the white Christmas candle is still standing proud outside St Barnabas'. This eight-foot-tall wooden replica of a candle will be taken down at Candlemas.... yet inside the church there are always candles being lit, of all shapes and sizes. We have lots of baptism candles to give out as we start 2026. There are always opportunities to remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World all throughout the year.

The light of a candle is gentle. It gives a soft glow, reminding us that we are drawn towards the light of Jesus; we are never forced into his presence.

I would love to share with you these words written within a most beautiful Christmas Card sent to me just last year:



When the song of the angels is stilled
When the star in the sky is gone
When the kings and princes are home
When the shepherds are back with their
flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost
To heal the broken
To feed the hungry
To release the prisoner
To rebuild the nations
To bring peace among people
To make music in the heart.

In this poem *Song of the Angels*, Howard Thurman teaches us that the story of Jesus does not end at Christmas. The 'Star in the Sky' may not be visible above us, but that same guiding light now lives in our hearts to be shared for the good of all people.

Last Autumn many of us followed *The Prayer Course* and we gained such a great deal by listening to one another and sharing our experiences. We look forward now to a group of people from both our churches preparing for Confirmation. Do ask all about it if you want to know more.

Learning together seems to be one of the best ways to get to grow in our understanding of God, and to navigate life in the world with all its opportunities and challenges.

May you nurture the Light within you and carry it with you always.
Peace and Light be with you,

Revd Sarah

Tradition is not the worship of ashes, but the preservation of fire.
attr. Gustav Mahler

PARISH ROUNDUP - ST BARNABAS'

How quickly we find ourselves in a New Year, where did 2025 go? So I will start with "Happy New Year" to everyone and a huge "Thank You" to everyone that helps and support all that happens at St Barnabas', you all know who you are and your efforts are very much appreciated.

On Sunday, 23 November, it was our pleasure to host a concert to raise funds for Open House. It was a fabulous occasion with music, singing and poetry performed by Warren Shattles, Liz Elsworth, Philip Robinson and Helen Hardwick. It was a wide and varied repertoire including Chopin's "Military Polonaise", Prokofiev's march from "The Love for Three Oranges", "I Can Give You the Starlight" from "The Dancing Years" by Ivor Novello, "Song to the Moon" from Dvořák's "Rusalka" and "Oranges" by Roisin Kelly.

There was an interval for tea and cake and a talk by Ian Watkins about the work that Open House does here in Crawley. As many will know we, as a parish, support Open House throughout the year with collections of food and clothing, but it was great to be able to host this concert and listen to the music songs and poetry.

Over £800 was raised on the evening for Open House – thank you to all who supported the concert.



As always Advent and Christmas is a busy time, starting with the decorating the church. The Christmas tree arrived at the end of November, with grateful thanks to the Paddockhurst Estate, a magnificent tree almost reaching the ceiling. Thanks also to Ewan, Bob and Carol for getting the tree into position and decorated.



Thank you to Reverend Sarah for leading our Christmas services, bringing joy, peace and spreading the good news, not only to us but also in the schools she visits and the Army Cadets.

At the same time the first of the Advent Candles started to appear outside of St Barnabas' all the way through to Christmas Day – certainly noticed by passers-by!

Carols for All was hugely popular and a lovely occasion for everyone to get together to sing familiar carols. We were again fortunate and very grateful to have Luke and his friends form the orchestra to make the perfect musical backdrop. We also had the Christmas story retold with crisps!



Along with the United Reformed Church (URC), we held a short study course – preparing and exploring Advent, led by Reverend Sarah and Reverence Cristina. The first part was held at St Barnabas' and the second at the URC. Each session comprised a bible reading and discussion. It was well attended, with almost equal numbers from both churches, it was great to get together with the URC and study jointly. We again welcomed Pound Hill Junior School Year 6 to St Barnabas' for their Christmas concert, it was a joyful occasion, with over 200 attending and singing.



We also held our Blue Christmas service, a quiet service for those who may find this Christmas difficult, it was a space for sadness to be acknowledged alongside hope with the telling of the Christmas story together with prayers and reflection.

Our Crib Service on Christmas Eve was joyous occasion, with the telling of the Christmas story and the children creating the Nativity scene and dressing the crib.

Following the Crib Service, we held our Christingle service – in support of the Children's Society. It was good to welcome old as well as new faces to the service. Thanks to James and Rhianon for performing the drama and especially Rhianon for her beautiful rendition of "Mary Did You Know" – such a wonderful voice.



A group of us went to Lanehurst Gardens to sing carols to the residents, it was lovely to be able to sing and chat to them (over tea and cake). They all enjoyed it, joining in with their favourite carols.



As always, Midnight Mass was a special service welcoming and celebrating Jesus' birth, followed by the service on Christmas Day, a child friendly service showing the light of Christ is here with us always.

Epiphany was celebrated with the arrival of the Magi.

In January, Fr Michael, Sarah and myself were privileged to attend the service for the Institution of Reverend Mark Davey – Team Rector, South Crawley by the Right Reverend Dr Martin Warner, Bishop of Chichester.

David Anderson, Churchwarden

ST NICHOLAS'

With all the preparations for Christmas completed well in advance, and the Christmas Trees in place, we all looked forward to a very special time, and it didn't disappoint. The special services at this time of the year were wonderful and so well supported. I will leave our Clergy and Director of Music to reflect in more detail, but I do feel I should sincerely thank all the amazing volunteers who worked so hard to facilitate the increased numbers attending our services. As always there was a great effort to promote and publicise our Christmas services and an additional thanks go to those of you who posted the printed postcards to our local residents and beyond. The exceptional attendances prove the fact that publicity works; across the 24 and 25 December we saw 425 adults, 14 teenagers and 95 children under 10.

An additional thanks goes to all our churchyard helpers this year as the build-up to the Christmas services saw extremely wet weather and a download of vegetation, followed by icy conditions. We cleared the approach to the Lychgate of fallen leaves and spread winter grit to prevent, as far as possible, slips and trips. We also spread fresh bark along the path leading to the Memorial Garden as at this time of the year the footfall increases quite significantly, as one might expect. We also renewed the white tape on our West entrance step to highlight this possible trip hazard. All in all, I think our precautions were very much worth the effort.

Whilst writing this Warden's update, I am awaiting the weather to improve sufficiently for our roofing contractor Ernie Chapman, (EC Roofing), to inspect and clear our gutters of any debris, leaves and probably birds' nests. There has recently been an ingress of water in the upper bell chamber which may have been caused by this type of obstruction. Ernie will also inspect our roof and carry out any necessary repairs. In addition, I have requested that the Lychgate roof is brushed clear of moss and any other growth, and the tiles inspected for any required attention.

I hope you agree that 2025 was a successful year in every respect. Let us all hope and pray that 2026 will also be happy, healthy and joyful.

Colin Smith, Churchwarden



FROM THE BELL TOWER

Bell Ringers' Report for 2025

There was one Sunday morning when we didn't have enough to ring, otherwise we rang for every one of the 10:00 services with the number of ringers ranging from 5 (once) to 12 (also just once), although the number is most often between 8 and 10. Martin rang for every Sunday morning service when we did ring. We also rang for the Evensong on 12 October, for the All Souls service, for the Advent Carol service and for the Carol Service on 21 December, as well as all the main Christmas services.

We rang on 45 out of a possible 52 Thursdays (not counting Maundy Thursday when we always have a night off). Two were cancelled in advance when we knew we didn't have enough ringers and one when only 5 ringers turned up. On one Thursday, when we only had 6 ringers, we took the opportunity to ring a quarter peal which was Linda's first. Of the other occasions we didn't practise, one was our AGM and another was our Christmas Social. We also decided not to practise on Christmas Day or New Year's Eve!

There were three quarter peals on the bells in total this year, including one for the Entwined in Harmony Festival and one by a visiting band (which included Jenny and me). There were 7 weddings all of which had bells and only 3 of which were on a Saturday! We also rang for the 80th anniversary of VJ Day.

Neil Dobson, Tower Captain, January 2026



December 2025 – January 2026

We do not meet in December as a branch, but members were involved in setting up the Blue Christmas Tree and helping at the service. I am pleased to see the numbers are increasing and more people are staying after the service so we have a chance to speak to them over mince pies and coffee.

December also meant Crib Service, with Sunday School children playing a very important part. Our Sunday School teacher, Nicky, is also a MU member. Although we had a lot of children attending the Crib Service, very few wanted to dress up so MU members helped out by being shepherds and kings.

In January we will enjoy our "January Supper" on Wednesday 28 at 17:30. This gives us the opportunity of having a social time together along with good food.

On February 27 at 16:00 we will have a service in the church followed by our AGM, when we look at the past year and how we move forward into this year. In the MU we try to balance the fun whilst also taking seriously the many problems that women and children have and looking at the ways we can best help. We have a full programme of speakers and activities planned for 2026. If you would like to know more about Mothers' Union please speak to Mary Fry or any of our members.

Mary Fry on behalf of the committee

Dear Lord,

So far today, God, I've done all right.

I haven't gossiped, haven't lost my temper, haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish or over indulgent. I'm thankful for that.

But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed.

And from then on, I'm probably going to need a lot more help! Amen

THE CIRCLE

It's great to have a full schedule of events for the Circle for 2026. I hope you'll all like the programme that we have put together. The Circle is for anyone and everyone who is interested, so please spread the word and encourage your friends and theirs to come along.



7 JANUARY 2026

TALK

Postponed due to forecasted bad weather



4 FEBRUARY 2026

TALK

Graham Beaumont gives notes on some modern British churches.



4 MARCH 2026

TALK

Francis Pole discusses the Amish.



15 APRIL 2026

TALK

Stewart Lock on the history of Ifield Barn Theatre.



13 MAY 2026

TALK

Issues affecting the national traffic safety and planning by Graham Feest.



10 JUNE 2026

TALK

Ryan Greaves from the **Sussex Bat Society** - with bats!



8 JULY 2026

SOCIAL

Cheese, wine (or soft drinks), strawberries and a short, light-hearted summer quiz.



23 SEPTEMBER 2026

DEMO

Cooking Greek - Mary Pollatos demonstrates some family favourites - watch and taste!



21 OCTOBER 2026

TALK AND TRY

An easy introduction to improv comedy! Ed Pithie, the founder of Dingbats Improv on why you should try this.



18 NOVEMBER 2026

TALK

Andy Thomas on Christmas - A Festive History.



2 DECEMBER 2026

SOCIAL

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

ACTIVITIES

Refreshments from 7pm
Activities start 7:30pm
unless otherwise stated

ST BARNABAS' CAFE
POUND HILL
CRAWLEY
RH10 7DY

In December we enjoyed a social Christmas catch up with bread and a large variety of cheeses, washed down by whatever our driving arrangements allowed.

The New Year brought us snow and icy conditions, so that along with an unfavourable weather forecast, the decision was made to postpone the talk to February. It is for reasons such as this that we planned for the 'winter' talks to be by 'in-house' speakers as it were. They are in the parish and know what our current situation is.

Our presenters for April and May have already been in touch, so please put these onto to your brand new calendar so that we can ensure a good turnout.

We understand that not every subject is of immediate relevance to everyone, but you may be surprised interesting subjects can become with a good orator. What is more the organisers thrive on your support!

Our evenings are never exclusively for our congregations or even parishioners, so spread the word far and wide and we promise - there will be cake!

Max Perry

max.perry@datamax.co.uk

FROM THE ORGAN LOFT

Christmas, avec Donkey

The choir rehearsal on the 17 December was, to put it mildly, "full on." Because we normally rehearse on a Wednesday evening, and both Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve were Wednesdays, that meant that we had to fit in everything for:

- Sunday 21 morning service
- Nine Lessons and Carols
- Midnight Mass
- Christmas Day
- Sunday 28 morning service
- Epiphany (4th Jan)

So, I want to open by thanking our choir, regular and guests, for all their hard work over the season. I got so much good feedback from church patrons and visitors about how the music really adds to the way they relate to St Nicholas'.

In addition to that, there is the busiest service of the year – the Nativity. With over 300 people in the church, the singing was enthusiastic, but concentrated on the old favourites. This includes the Christmas Carol that divides the Church Music Community more than almost any other – Little Donkey. Indeed, we have two boxes of different print runs for the service, one labelled "Avec Donkey" and one labelled "Donkey Free." The objections to the carol are threefold – Biblical, Scientific, and Anachronistic.

Let's take those one at a time – firstly, where did the Donkey come from? It's not mentioned in Matthew, Mark, Luke or John's retelling of the Christmas story. Sure, Zechariah 9:9 had told that the Messiah would enter on a Donkey – but that was specifically about the entry to Jerusalem, not Bethlehem. Perhaps, the Bethlehem Donkey is there to show a consistency of vehicle choice, or maybe it's just what people would ride when going back to their city of birth...

... but Donkey riding isn't something that really happened for women who were 9 months pregnant. The Bible doesn't say whether they walked or, as seems more likely, joined a caravan, but unless Mary was actually trying to induce labour, it seems an odd choice.

However, unlike some of the other things in the Little Donkey carol, at least donkeys were around at the time, unlike the things in the chorus "Ring out those bells tonight." To have bells ring out in AD1 makes about as much sense as Mary calling cousin, Elizabeth on her mobile to let her know the news. In fact, Church bells are closer in time to the invention of the mobile phone than to the birth of Christ.

So, against these, why did we choose to include it?

It was written in 1959 by an English songwriter – Eric Boswell, and subsequently a chart hit first for Gracie Fields in October, then The Beverly Sisters in December, and finally for Nina and Frederik in 1960. In 1959, it also hit number 1 on the UK Sheet Music sales chart as so many people wanted to play and/or sing it themselves.

So, by the time those of my generation were at school, it was a favourite for school Christmas nativities; a time of year when a whole generation of children had their singing unconditionally admired by their grandparents.

And it never went away. Little Donkey may fail on the tests of Biblical accuracy, scientific accuracy and anachronism... but for taking us back to visit the family, and reminding us of unconditional love, I think it fits the Christmas message perfectly.

Well done to Sarah Stringer and her team for taking over the reins of both the donkey and the service from Joan for 2025.

Mark Harrison, Director of Music

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PRAYER COURSE



During the autumn we ran a course to help develop people's faith through prayer. We followed Pete Greig's Prayer Course, which consists of eight sessions. Each meeting begins with an introduction of the theme and prayer, followed by a short video that explains and discusses the theme. The group then uses discussion questions to explore the theme and share experiences. The gathering ends with a prayer activity and a closing prayer. After the introductory session, each following sitting was based on a line from the Lord's Prayer.

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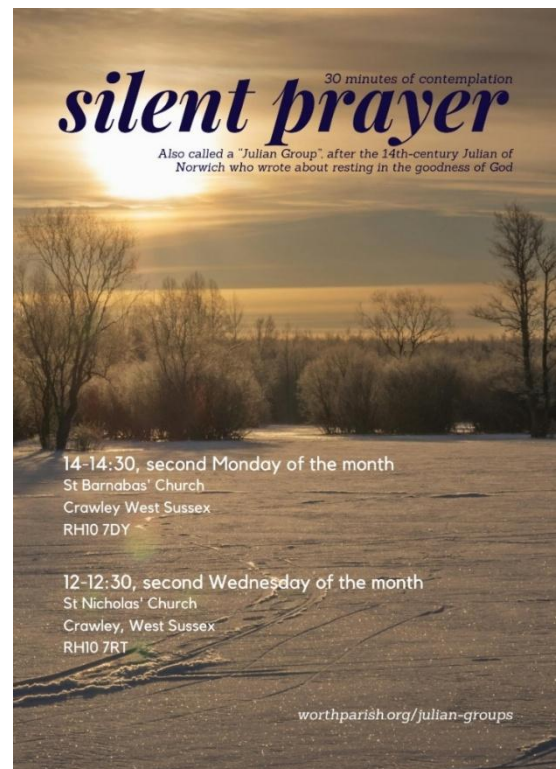
- 1 : Why Pray, "Lord, teach us to pray" – Luke 11:1
- 2 : Adoration, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name" – Matthew 6:9
- 3 : Petition, "Give us this day our daily bread" – Matthew 6:11
- 4 : Intercession, "Your kingdom come" – Matthew 6:10
- 5 : Unanswered Prayer, "Your will be done" – Matthew 6:10
- 6 : Contemplation, "On earth as it is in heaven" – Matthew 6:10
- 7 : Listening, "Give us today our daily bread" – Matthew 6:10
- 8 : Spiritual Warfare, "Deliver us from the evil one" – Matthew 6:13

Also available in the Toolshed are a number of prayer tools, grouped together to support each session as you put into practice what you have learned; providing a set of documents that will be useful at different times of your prayer life.

Each meeting took about an hour, and we ran the course over a number of weeks, on Saturday afternoons with additional Wednesday afternoon sessions to suit the people's availability. Everyone who attended thought it was a good course, well-constructed and accessible regardless of where individuals were on their own faith journeys.

Some of the key points included were:

- Prayer is like a toolbox – there are lots of different ways of praying
- Keep it simple. Keep it real. Keep it up.
- Prayer can be like traffic lights: sometimes "yes", sometimes "wait" and sometimes "no".
- We need to persevere in prayer
- God's silence is not the same as His absence.
- We are designed to walk and talk with God.
- Remember the armour of God.
- Pray it. Practise it. Preach it.



All the material is available for free online at prayercourse.org/sessions/, so you can follow the course individually at home. However, the course is designed for, and it was the opinion of the group, that much of the benefit came from the group discussion and interaction.

Prayers don't have to be long:

Prayer is the key of the morning and the bolt of the evening. *Mahatma Gandhi*
Lord, help me. *Canaanite woman (Matthew 15:25)*
O God, keep me from being difficult to live with. *William Barclay*

David Anderson

000A GLIMPSE OF CHRISTMAS





Thanks, Adela, for organising the wreath making



LETTER TO PARISHIONERS

As the new year begins and the lights and events of Christmas seem like a distant memory we'd love to get a little bit of admin sorted so we can move forward 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.

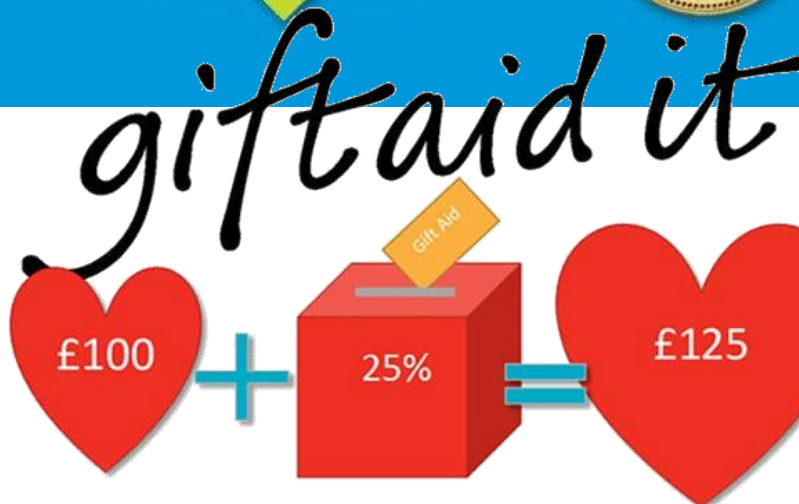
This extra support makes a big difference, so we'd love as many contributions as possible to benefit. Please do consider moving your giving to the Parish Giving Scheme as it will guarantee that the church gets maximum benefit from your financial support and reduce the amount of parish admin.

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

Jerry Taylor

Gift Aid explained...

If you make a donation and you tell us that you pay tax in the UK we can claim back 25% from the Government. **That's 25p for every £1 you give.**



THE LIGHT THAT ILLUMINATES FAITH

Church candles have long been an integral part of Christian worship and tradition. Their gentle glow creates a sacred atmosphere, symbolising the presence of the divine and guiding the faithful in prayer and reflection. From the earliest days of the Church, candles have played a significant role in liturgical ceremonies and personal devotions alike.

Candles are rich in symbolism. The flame represents Christ as the Light of the World, a beacon of hope and purity that dispels darkness. Lighting a candle is often seen as an act of prayer or remembrance, connecting the earthly with the spiritual. In many churches, worshippers light votive candles to accompany their prayers for loved ones or special intentions.



During services, candles are used in a variety of ways. The altar is usually adorned with candles, which are lit for Mass or Eucharistic celebrations – usually two in Anglican churches; more commonly six in High Anglican or Roman Catholic churches. I have counted twenty on or around the altar at the (Anglican) Shrine Church at Walsingham. Of the two candles, that to the south of the altar is the Epistle candle, that to the north the Gospel candle. The Gospel candle should never be lit alone – so lit second and extinguished first.



Special candles such as the Paschal candle are lit at Easter, representing Christ's resurrection. Advent wreaths, with their sequence of candles, mark the weeks leading to Christmas, each one carrying its own meaning. Candles may be carried during a service by acolytes.

Candlemas, celebrated on 2 February, is also known as the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus Christ or the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The day marks the occasion, as described in the Gospel of Luke, when Mary and Joseph brought the infant Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem forty days after his birth, in accordance with Jewish tradition.

The name 'Candlemas' derives from the custom of blessing candles in church on this day, which are then distributed and lit to symbolise Jesus as the 'light for the revelation to the Gentiles'. The ceremony of candle blessing is still observed in many Anglican, Catholic, and Orthodox churches, creating a striking visual display of light that symbolises the light of Christ entering the world.

In Britain, Candlemas was historically considered the end of the Christmas season. It was also a day marked by weather folklore; for example, if the weather was bright, it was believed that winter would linger, a belief echoed in traditions such as Groundhog Day in North America.

In the medieval period, parishioners were expected to donate candles to their church at Candlemas as an act of piety; for the wealthy of beeswax, otherwise of tallow. This created a supply of candles for the coming year. Bequests of candles also appeared in wills, often with a specific location indicated; in a guild or chantry chapel, or before a particular statue of the Blessed Virgin or an honoured saint.

Records from medieval churches and monasteries frequently mention lists of candle donors, sometimes inscribed in memorial books or commemorated in prayers. These entries provide valuable historical insight into the customs and values of medieval Christian communities.

YOUR PCC MINUTES FROM 21 JANUARY 2026

Safeguarding

- Safeguarding Sunday and training both went well.
- The CofE Safeguarding hub is available where we enter a full list of those in Church roles.
- Anita was reappointed as safeguarding officer – special thanks were given to her for this essential role in Parish life.



Treasurers Report

The 2025 draft accounts were discussed prior to being finalised, approved and sent to the accountants. A new Stewardship Campaign will run through 2026 to raise awareness of the financial needs of the Parish.

Wardens Update

St Nicholas'

- Three lovely Christmas trees were donated from the Paddockhurst Estate. Colin will write letter of thanks to them.
- Ernie Chapman will clear gutters when rain stops.
- Problems with lighting will be sorted tomorrow.
- There has been some damage (vandals) to a couple of graves with damage to two bronzes. There will be a PCSO pop-up event on Friday.
- On 6 January a new electricity box was fitted.

St Barnabas'

- The hole in the ceiling has been fixed. Thanks to Bob, Stephen and Colin U.
- Six fire extinguishers have now been replaced.

Good News

- A new Friday night Messy is starting under initiative by BRF to fill the age gap between Messy and the Hangout.
- Brinley Thomas offered to do a course in life resuscitation and how to use a defibrillator. We have had a very successful first session with more sessions offered. Five certificates issued. If either of our boxes are opened, South Coast Ambulance will refresh.

Christmas Events

- 2025 Events were quite spectacular. To encourage attendance at St Barnabas' on Christmas Eve, consideration is being given to a Bethlehem midnight service (2 hours earlier at 22.00) in 2026. The Blue Christmas Service was thought to be different and a success despite the relatively lowish turnout.
- A group went to Lanehurst Gardens where some of our congregation now live.
- URC joined us for the Advent Course and have now reached out to join us for a Lent Course.
- Generally we had very successful numbers across the period.

AOB

As it has been 3 years since Seb's appointment to the Authorised Lay Ministry (ALM), a renewal is required. The PCC were delighted to do so and thanked him for his work.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 25 March 2026 at 19:00 at St Barnabas' when the 2025 accounts will be signed off ready for the APCM on 17 May 2026. Please speak to a warden or member if you want to have anything brought to our attention.

GOSSIP FROM GOSSOP'S GREEN

You may remember from my last article that I'm still on something of an investigative spree in my new church of St Alban's. I haven't uncovered any more pieces of Roman stone in the walls, but my search has widened – not only to the building itself, but also to some of its contents. These may not be centuries old, yet they are full of interest and story.

As in both St Barnabas' and St Nicholas', a processional cross is used during services at St Alban's. Ours is not ancient, but it has a remarkable provenance. When the New Town was being built, including the neighbourhood of Gossops Green, many people moved into the area to be close to their work in the industrial area of Manor Royal, and strong links quickly formed between church and community.

At first glance, the processional cross looks entirely ordinary. A closer look, however, reveals something rather special: it is made from radiator components, crafted by the skilled workers at APV, who specialised in stainless steel. Not just the cross, but the rod too is stainless steel, making it heavy (and rather cold to handle in winter!) Several other items in the church, including (and in common with St Barnabas') the candlesticks, were also made by local craftspeople. I'm told that this was a deliberate choice, intended as a continual reminder that we are called to worship God not only in church, but in the work of our hands and the pattern of our daily lives.

Next time you are in church have a look at the objects around you, you may be surprised by their history!



Revd Greta

DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING COURSES



In January it was great to welcome Brinley Thomas to the Café to provide a group of us (Fr Michael, Reverend Sarah, Sue, Stephen and David) with basic CPR and Defibrillation training. It was a very informative and practical session learning the basic principals of what to do when somebody stops breathing with CPR and the use of a defibrillator. It was particularly reassuring to learn that the defibrillator talks you through the process, to ensure it is used properly. Everyone there said it was an excellent course, Brinley made it a very relaxed atmosphere and we learned a lot particularly with being able to try out the practical techniques – highly recommended.

Brinley (and his son) is a member of our congregation at St Barnabas' and runs a First Aid training company. If you are interested in a future training course please do get in touch with Fr Michael or Revd Sarah.



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EASTER IN WORTH PARISH

worthparish.org/easter

St Nicholas' Church Worth, Crawley RH10 7RT
St Barnabas' Church Pound Hill, Crawley RH10 7DY

donations welcome

HE IS RISEN

Palm Sunday 29 March 8.15am, Holy Communion, St Nicholas'

Palm Sunday 29 March 9.45am for 10am, Procession and Sung Eucharist, St Nicholas'

Palm Sunday 29 March 10am, Child-Friendly Eucharist with Procession, St Barnabas'

Holy Tuesday 31 March 10.30am, Eucharist, St Barnabas'

Maundy Thursday 2 April 10.30am, Eucharist, St Nicholas'

Maundy Thursday 2 April 6pm, Meal, Foot Washing and Holy Communion, St Barnabas'

Maundy Thursday 2 April 8pm, Sung Eucharist, Foot Washing and the Watch, St Nicholas'

Good Friday 3 April 2pm, Liturgy, St Nicholas'

Good Friday 3 April 11am, Unity Service in Queen's Square Crawley Town Centre

Good Friday 3 April 7pm, Stations of the Cross, St Barnabas'

Holy Saturday 4 April 8pm, Easter Vigil Sung Eucharist and Baptism, St Nicholas'

Easter Day 5 April 6am, Sunrise Service, Worth Park Lake

Easter Day 5 April 8.15am, Holy Communion, St Nicholas'

Easter Day 5 April 10am, Sung Eucharist with Egg Hunt, St Nicholas'

Easter Day 5 April 10am, Eucharist with Egg Hunt, St Barnabas'

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Desmond Tutu



THE CLERICAL DOG COLLAR

The term "clerical dog collar" refers to a distinctive white collar worn by members of the Christian clergy, notably within Anglican, Roman Catholic, Methodist, and some other denominations. Officially called a "clerical collar," it is colloquially nicknamed a "dog collar" in the United Kingdom and Ireland.



The clerical dog collar is typically a narrow, stiff, white band that fastens around the neck. It is often inserted into the collar of a black shirt or cassock, creating a stark contrast that makes it easily recognisable. The collar may be a full band or just a white tab visible at the front of the neck, depending on tradition and personal preference.

Wearing a clerical collar serves as a visible symbol of a person's ordained status and their commitment to religious service. It identifies the wearer as someone available for pastoral care, prayer, and guidance, both within the church and in the wider community. The collar is also a sign of the wearer's willingness to serve and lead within the Christian faith.

The clerical collar was introduced in the 19th century, though the tradition of distinctive clerical dress dates back much further. Its adoption quickly spread throughout various denominations in the British Isles and beyond.

Today, the clerical dog collar remains a common sight among ordained ministers and priests. Some may choose to wear it daily, while others don it only for formal services, ceremonies, or when performing pastoral duties.

The Clerical Shirt

The clerical shirt is typically a long- or short-sleeved shirt, available in various colours, though black is the most traditional and widely recognised, especially within the Roman Catholic, Anglican, and some Protestant denominations. The shirt is often worn with a white collar insert, known as a clerical collar or dog collar, which is a detachable band that fits into the shirt's neckline.

Roman Collar Shirt: Features a stiff, upright white collar that encircles the neck, leaving a small gap at the front. Tab Collar Shirt: Incorporates a small white tab at the front of the collar. Colours: While black is most common, other colours such as grey, blue, or purple may be worn, often denoting rank or the liturgical season.

The Clerical Stock

Sometimes confused with the Clerical Shirt (a 'bib stock'), a stock is a stiffened, band-like collar or neckcloth, typically made from linen or cotton, and sometimes silk. It is designed to encircle the neck. The stock is usually white, but black versions have also been used, especially in mourning or for less formal occasions.



Originating in the 17th and 18th centuries, the stock was adopted by clergy as part of their distinctive dress. Its introduction coincided with a wider trend in formal wear, as stocks were also worn by military officers and gentlemen of the era. In the clerical context, the stock served both as a symbol of the office and as a practical item,

The stock has been particularly associated with Anglican and some Roman Catholic clergy. In the Church of England, it was frequently worn with the cassock and surplice, especially by those holding higher ecclesiastical office such as bishops, deans, and canons. In contemporary times, the use of the stock has diminished, with the clerical collar becoming the standard neckwear for most clergy in Britain and elsewhere. However, stocks may still be seen in certain cathedrals, during formal services, or as part of traditional academic or liturgical dress.

Church Mouse

(I have often wondered whether clergy pack their dog collar to go on holiday? I can see for and againsts for this!! - Ed)

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Sunday School

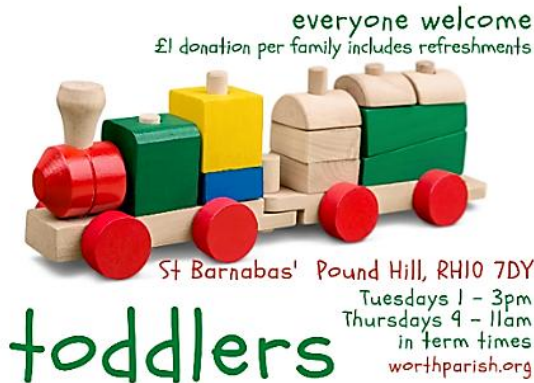
Sunday School, run by Nicky and Emily (as well as help by other members of the congregation); it provides a fun learning environment to get to know Jesus. There are always activities linked to the readings of the day and it is fabulous to see and hear what the children have been doing – and to hear the prayer that they have written – when they come back into church towards the end of the service. On the fourth Sunday they



stay and take part in the service.

Toddlers

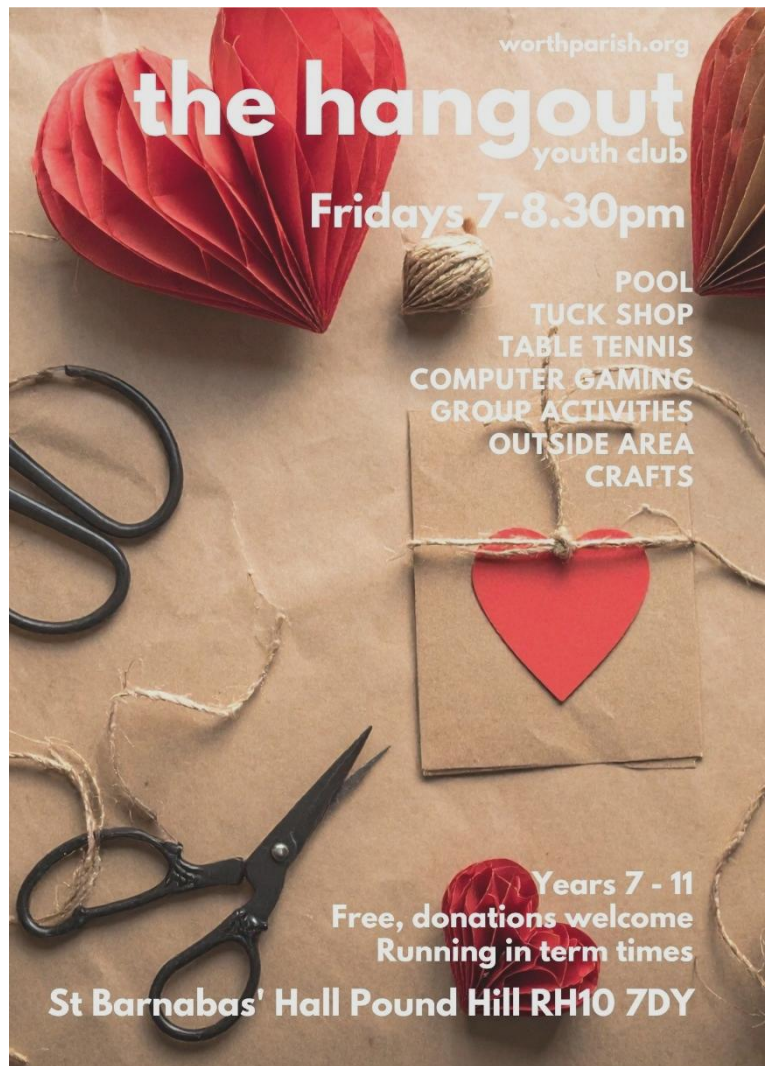
Our Toddlers Group continues to thrive, every Tuesday (1-3pm) and Thursday (9-11am) during termtime. Lots of fun had by all with activities to keep all the toddlers (and carers!) entertained. We have a break in the middle for refreshments followed by singing and more fun activities. The Tuesday session is quieter, but growing and the Thursday session remains as popular as ever! Why not come along!



The Hangout



The Hangout has resumed after the Christmas break. At the end of last term we had a gingerbread house building competition, which was keenly contested! It 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 steady 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

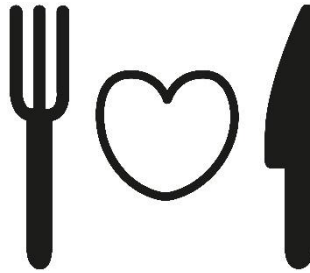




December was a very busy month and the photographers were either away or busy helping on tables. What a large number of dads we had at the Saturday Messy in January it is so wonderful to see how the whole family get involved and being able to bring out their creative sides. We explored Baptism and our Bible reading and two crafts were about Jesus being baptised by John the Baptist. We also looked at how water can change things and we made candles out of beeswax to represent those given to us at our baptism.



COMING UP
7 and 11 February 3-5pm:
David and Goliath
7 and 11 March 3-5pm:
Jesus heals the man
through the roof



Messy Church is truly just a different church 'service' and has its own congregation in the same way as all the other services we have. We have a 'format' too, but for Messy it is based more on the visual and the tactile rather just the auditory and the vocals are much laughter and shrieks of joy with just a few Amens thrown in. In January across the two sessions we had 7 + 6 helpers, 19 + 14 children and 14 + 8 adults from a total of 18 families. So anyone wondering where the families are on a Sunday? Now you know.



SCRABBLE AND CAKE

WEDNESDAYS 2-4 PM
25 FEBRUARY
25 MARCH
22 APRIL

ST BARNABAS' CAFE
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£4 TURN UP AND PLAY
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28 FEBRUARY
14 MARCH
11 APRIL

10 - 11.30 am
ST BARNABAS' CAFE
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JUMBLE SALE

21 FEBRUARY 2026

10 am - 11.30 am

St Barnabas Hall, Worth Road, RH10 7DY

Books Cakes Toys Bric-a-Brac and More

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 to swap tips
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bring any crafts
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BAPTISMS AND WEDDINGS



Baptisms

2 November 2025

Lyra Philippa Jones

25 January 2026

Elodie Tess Mackenzie

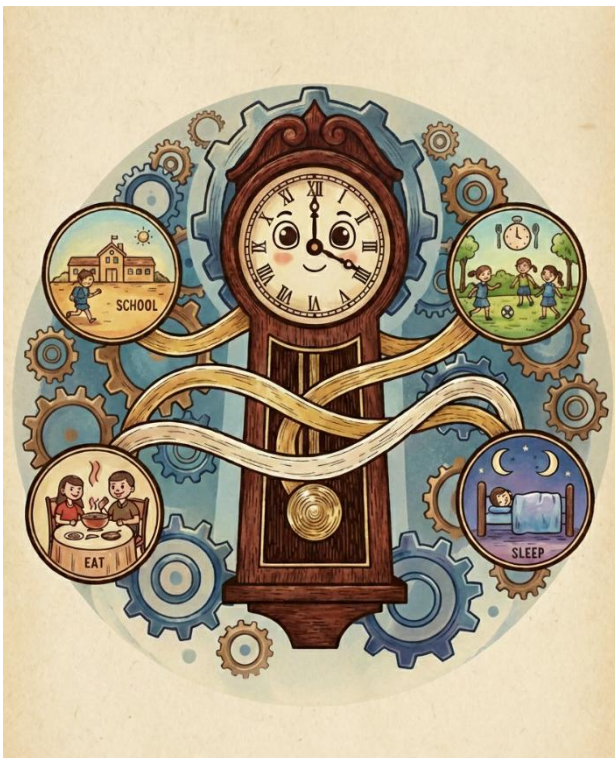


Weddings

31 December 2025

Rhianna Winslade & Alexander Harrison

MY FRIEND THE CLOCK



When I was small I thought the clock,
Said nothing, but 'Tick-tock, tick-tock',
But when a person understands
About its numbers and its hands,
It tells us what to do all day.
The time to work, the time to play,
The time to come. The time to go,
And when to eat and sleep. I know
Its language now, and so you see
It can tell all those things to me,
As it goes quietly 'Tick-tock'
All through the day, my friend, the clock.

HUNT THE MAG

What is the processional cross at St Alban's made from?

When is the Mothers' Union AGM?

Where can you learn how to use a defibrillator?

Which Feast Day is celebrated on 2 February?

Who will be talking to The Circle in March?

Why is 'Little Donkey' a contentious carol?

How can you help the parish make more of the money you give?

Super Difficult: What is missing from victor and cake?



USEFUL NUMBERS

Please also see the first page for Clergy, Office and Churchwarden contact details.

Altar Servers (St Barnabas')	David Anderson	0300 111 8150
Altar Servers (St Nicholas')	Jenny Dobson Colin Smith	
Bellringers	Neil Dobson	
Bookings (Hall, Meeting Rooms, Café, Church)	Revd Sarah	
Children's Society	Ann Lane	
Children - Messy Church	Office	
Children - Toddlers	Jenny Dobson	
Children - Sunday School	Nicky Anderson	
Choirs	Mark Harrison	
Church Cleaning (St Barnabas')	Jane Stanford	
Church Cleaning (St Nicholas')	Jill Freeborn	
Electoral Roll Officer	Jane Stanford	
Events	Jane Stanford	
Flower Arranging (St Barnabas')	Jane Stanford	
Flower Arranging (St Nicholas')	Adela Hawley	
Friends of St Nicholas'	Colin Smith	
Giving	David Fry	
Julian Group (St Barnabas')	Don Hewerdine	
Knit and Natter	Val Rudd	
Magazine	Sue Perry	
Mothers' Union	Mary Fry	
Music at St Barnabas'	Ann Phillipson	
PCC Secretary	Available	
PCC Treasurer	Churchwarden	
Prayer Group - Parish / Julian (St Nicholas')	Linda Eells	
Prayer Group - Julian (St Barnabas')	Don Hewerdine	
Social Media / Website	Elizabeth Whyman	
The Circle	Max Perry	

Hunt the Mag Answers
Stainless steel 27 Feb Outside St Barnabas' Candlemas Francis Pole
Donkeys are not mentioned in the Bible versions of the Christmas story Giff Aid C

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2026 CALENDAR

Before travelling far, check pewsheets/website or with the Office.

When?		What?	Where?
Sun 1 February	14:00	Compline and Candlemas	<i>St Nicholas'</i>
Wed 4 February	19:30	The Circle (see p 10)	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Sat 7 February	12:00	Marriage Preparation Day	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Sat 7 February	15:00	Messy Church	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Mon 9 February	14:00	Julian Group	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Wed 11 February	12:00	Julian Group	<i>St Nicholas'</i>
Wed 11 February	15:00	Messy Church	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Tues 17 February	10:30	Shrove Tuesday Service	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Wed 18 February	13:00	Ash Wednesday	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Wed 18 February	20.00	Ash Wednesday	<i>St Nicholas'</i>
Sat 21 February	10:00	Jumble Sale	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Wed 25 February	14:00	Scrabble and Cake	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Thu 26 February	15:45	Mothers' Union Meeting	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Sat 28 February	10.00	Saturday Market	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Sat 28 February	13:00	Lent Course Week 1	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Wed 4 March	19:30	The Circle (see p 10)	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Sat 7 March	13:00	Lent Course Week 2	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Sat 7 March	15:00	Messy Church	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Mon 9 March	14:00	Julian Group	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Wed 11 March	12:00	Julian Group	<i>St Nicholas'</i>
Wed 11 March	15:00	Messy Church	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Sat 14 March	10.00	Saturday Market	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Sat 14 March	13:00	Lent Course Week 3	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Sun 15 March	10:00	Mothering Sunday	<i>Both churches</i>
Sat 21 March	13:00	Lent Course Week 4	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Wed 25 March	14:00	Scrabble and Cake	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Wed 25 March	14:30	Parish Prayer Group	<i>St Nicholas'</i>
Thu 26 March	15:45	Mothers' Union Meeting	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Sun 29 March	10:00	Palm Sunday	<i>Both churches</i>
Thu 2 April	18:00	Maundy Thursday Meal and Service	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Thu 2 April	20:00	Maundy Thursday Service	<i>St Nicholas'</i>
Fri 3 April	14:00	Good Friday Liturgy	<i>St Nicholas'</i>
Fri 3 April	19:00	Stations of the Cross	<i>St Barnabas'</i>
Sat 4 April	20:00	Easter Vigil with Baptisms	<i>St Nicholas'</i>
Sun 5 April	10:00	Easter Day	<i>Both churches</i>
Wed 15 April	19.30	The Circle (see p 10)	<i>St Barnabas'</i>

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