

Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away;
for now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtle-dove
is heard in our land.

SONG OF SONGS 2:12



WORTH PARISH magazine

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ST BARNABAS', POUND HILL
ST NICHOLAS', WORTH

Reg. Charity No. 1131090

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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

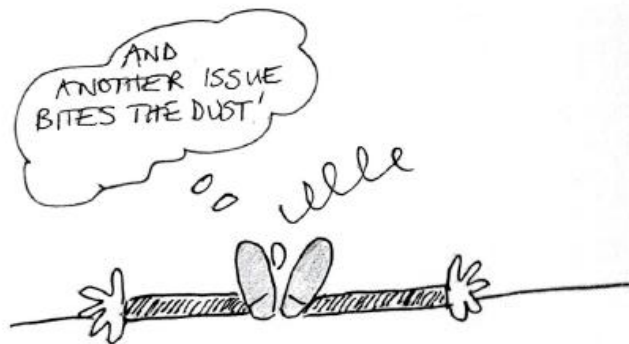
Saturdays

10 - 13:00

Coffee Shop

NOTE FROM THE ED

I wonder how many of you noticed? As well as losing an hour in March in the mag we managed to 'lose' April as well. After some consideration, consultation and agreement I decided that the time had come to produce the mag 4 times a year, but not actually quarterly. In order to avoid the clergy, any future editor and myself having to produce a mag in December we stretched the last mag as it included all the Easter events and therefore 'lost' April for this year. From now on you will get a new mag in May, August, November and February and probably, like this one, each one will be four pages longer. Copy dates will always be close to the middle of the month before publication. Hopefully this will encourage someone to offer to take over editing the mag when Max and I eventually move to West Moors, near Bournemouth. I am happy to keep going for the time being, we have a great team and the copy comes in with only a few nudges here and there, and the bulk of the work is done in a few days, but it would be great if someone would like to come and see what's entailed and work with me for an issue or two to see if it is something they could do (if you don't like it when you see what's involved there will be no pressure - the cartoon is just a joke!).



So without furthermore to do, let's see what we have got this time: A super, well-supported Easter, a new monthly service for anyone and everyone and a new 'branch' of Messy church, as well as updates from all our various groups. Read on to see what a happy, vibrant parish we are.....

Sue x

A PS from Jane

The Parish Spring Fair Saturday 30th May 11.30-1.30 at St Barnabas. As ever, we will be looking for volunteers on the day to help set up, run stalls (everything provided) and with clearing up after event. Please give this some thought and if you feel able to help on the day, even if it's just for an hour, please sign up when the sign up lists come out at beginning of May. Also, we will be looking for items in the raffle. We will be making up a couple of hampers as prizes and donations of summer themed items would be much appreciated. Along with the sign up sheets there will be a couple of boxes at the back of each church to receive contributions. Your help in making the fair a success is very much appreciated.

Statistics

The only science that enables different experts using the same figures to draw different conclusions.

Evan Esar

Like dreams, statistics are born out of wish fulfilment.

Jean Baudrillard



RECTOR'S REFLECTION

Here is a very short excerpt lifted from a poem called 'The Voyage', which is set on a quayside in Auckland, by the New Zealand poet A.R.D. (Rex) Fairburn (1904–57). Rex was a friend of my grandparents and also my parents. The first part of the poem was read at their funerals.

'I never imagined all this fuss and ceremony.

What are these people doing? Why aren't they fighting?

There's hardly room for the band. Yes, that's the word – sardines. I love their smiles. And look at the streamers.

I admire these people. Nothing is too good for them, nothing.

I have shared their joys and sorrows, have come to love them.

...

Thank you, thank you. It has all been very interesting.

What shall we do? Shall we dance, or burst into song?'

I particularly love the line 'What shall we do? Shall we dance, or burst into song?' As the ocean liner prepares to leave for London, half a world away from Auckland. As the coffin prepares to leave on its final journey; it is a reminder to me of the deep, deep joy that cannot be overwhelmed by sorrow and grief, the joy that is the best expression of God's abiding presence and love, that fills the universe. Not even death is a barrier to that love.

In depictions of the Resurrection, we sometimes see Jesus standing in triumph, in front of the empty tomb with soldiers at his feet, the stone rolled away; or in the garden, leaning over towards Mary Magdalene, who is on the ground, clasping his feet. But this Easter morning another image came to mind. Anna Stringer (Grade 3 Ballet) danced at the head of the St Nicholas' Gospel Procession, while the choir sang a verse of 'O filii et filiae', a fifteenth-century Easter hymn from France: 'Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! O sons and daughters, let us sing! The King of heaven, the glorious King, o'er death today rose triumphing. Alleluia!' It was both joyous and serious, as befits liturgy at its best. Bishop Ruth, replying to my email a couple of days later, wrote: 'Thank you Michael, this is really so beautiful. She was so brave to dance! What a lovely act of worship.'

Worship is a serious business. Well-prepared and delivered, whatever we do in church, preaching, presiding, praying, training, greeting, serving, reading, cleaning, flower arranging, offering refreshment, opening up, closing up, washing up, laundry and supplies, drawing up rotas, admin, planning and preparation, ringing the bells, gardening, studying, singing, playing, working with toddlers and youth, fundraising, social events, publicity, proof reading and dancing (!) ; whatever we are called to do, we do so joyfully, with the greatest care and respect, as befits the Court of the High King of Heaven. Joyfully and thoughtfully. Only the best is good enough: 'magic doesn't happen by magic' and we know from what our visitors and congregation tell us, just how much all this effort means to them, so on their behalf, thank you. Joy is a serious business and something to be treasured, but then so is life.

The nature of God the Holy Trinity has been described as a circle dance of love and God, not just a dancer; God is the dance itself. The stone is rolled away and Jesus steps out lightly from the tomb, dances among the flowers and blossom and comes to dance with us.

So. What shall we do? Shall we dance, or burst into song? Both! Alleluia!



Fr Michael

PARISH ROUNDUP - ST BARNABAS'

It has been a busy Spring at St Barnabas', time has flown by and I cannot really believe it is May already. Here are a few highlights!

As we approached Lent, on Shrove Tuesday we held our Mothers' Union Shrivng Service. It was a well-attended service with 4 branches of the Mothers' Union represented.



On Maundy Thursday we held our Maundy supper, followed by foot washing and eucharist. It was a lovely meal of lamb, potatoes, carrots and peas - beautifully prepared by Phyl - thank you! The Eucharist followed the foot washing and became more sombre and poignant as the altar was stripped in preparation for Good Friday. Afterwards everyone left in silence, with a few of us staying behind to wait and watch.

In the evening of Good Friday, we had Stations of the Cross, led by Deborah, a very poignant gathering. Each station was introduced, there was a Bible reading, followed by a meditation and a prayer. Between each station there was a Taizé chant played by Louise.



On Holy Saturday, the church was prepared for Easter Day, the wall hangings were replaced and the Cross dressed. The flowers were prepared and displayed by Mary, Jane, Nick and Viv; this year they had additional help from Jess, who is taking a floristry course at Plumpton College). They looked lovely and really add to the beauty of the church - thanks to Jess for helping, the flower basket looked fabulous.





The children were invited to come and help create the Easter Garden. Sereia, Luna and Halle did a great job in creating the garden and they had a great time doing it.



Saturday evening was the Easter Vigil, held at St Nicholas'. The service began in darkness, outside the West door, where the fire was blessed and the new Paschal Candle lit. The candle was then processed into the church, representing Christ as the Light of the World, followed by us with our own candles lit from it. There then followed The Exsultet: A joyful, ancient song of praise to welcome the Resurrection and a series of readings from the Old and New Testaments that recount the history of salvation. It was made extra special with the baptism of Jenny during the service.

On Easter Day, our main service celebrating our risen Lord was made extra special with the baptism of Jamie.



We have been running the "Young Communicants" course in the run-up to Easter and it was wonderful to have three young people take communion for the first time on Easter Day. Congratulations to Luna, Kian and Anaaya.

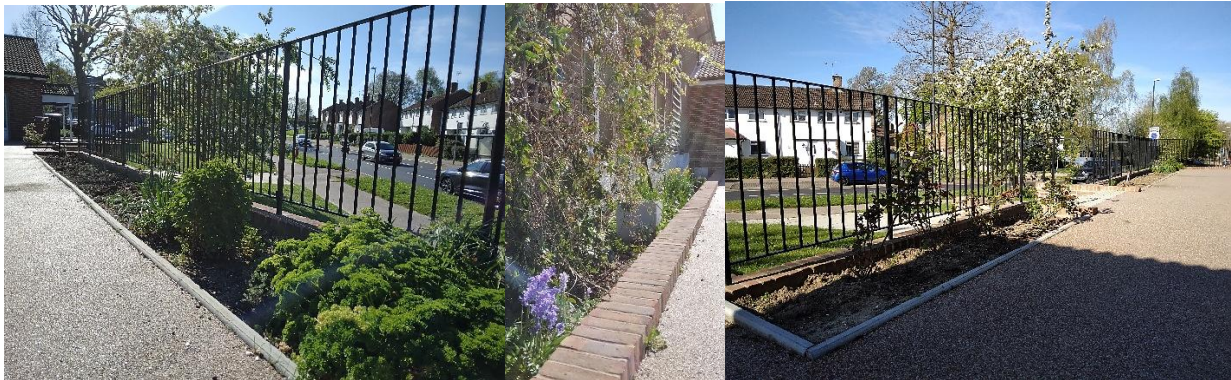
On the evening of 13 April, it was great to celebrate with Denyse, Emily, Helen, Jack and Stephen as they were confirmed by Bishop Will at Holy Trinity, Forest Row;

it was a wonderful service. There were 25 of us there



to support them as they continue their faith journeys. May God bless you and guide you.

Many of you will have noticed the Bible Garden is starting to fill out, with new apple trees and bulbs planted. Thank you Mary for organising and sourcing many of the plants and also thanks to those that have helped with the planting and the maintenance. If you would like to help planning and co-ordinating the ongoing looking after of the garden please do get in touch!



Elsewhere you may have noticed that the vastly improved border by the entrance to the downstairs meeting room and the Jubilee garden has been tidied - thanks to all those who have helped; it is very much appreciated.

David Anderson, Churchwarden



St Barnabas's oldest parishioner, Myrtle Taylor looking resplendent in her Easter bonnet, ready for her Easter afternoon tea

The new Bible Garden at St Barnabas' is coming along nicely with help from one of our younger parishioners ...Luna.... and dad!



ST NICHOLAS'

My Warden's report in our last issue talked about our wonderful Christmas services and our great team of volunteers. I can't quite believe that in this following issue Easter has already come and gone. I know Easter was early this year and I did wonder if the weather would hold, but gladly it did. The preparations for Holy Week began with the St Nicholas' Annual Spring Clean. Jill Freeborn and her many volunteers did an amazing job, and our church was ready for the most special week of our year: Holy Week.

Palm Sunday is always very special. Clergy, servers, wardens, people and choir, after the Blessing of Palms, process from the Rectory forecourt to the church, singing 'All Glory Laud and Honour'. Once inside we have a dramatised reading of the Passion, (this year) according to Matthew. The reading is interspersed with congregational singing of Bach's Passion Chorale. It was such an impressive service with our magnificent choir in full voice. It was splendid. Palm Sunday ends with the hauntingly beautiful 'Were



you there, when they crucified my Lord', before we leave in silence. Those of you who attended and took part in the 8pm Maundy Thursday Service could not help but be moved by the solemnity and deep significance of the liturgy; The Washing of Feet, The Stripping of the Sanctuary and our Choir in full voice, left a lasting impression upon us all. The 2pm Good Friday Service included another Dramatic Reading of the Passion, which on Good Friday is always according to John. Once again, it was an amazing Service. The Easter Vigil followed at 8pm on Holy Saturday. The brazier was lit at the church entrance from which the Paschal Candle was lit. The church was in darkness, the people's candles lit as they entered the church. Then from darkness to light the church was fully lit and we were blessed to witness the Baptism of our own Jenny Revell; such a moving rite as could be

witnessed by the reactions of congregation.

Congratulations Jenny, it was a privilege to be part of the ceremony.

Then there followed Easter Sunday with a joyous and very full congregation. Annie Stringer was an amazing highlight when she demonstrated her ballet skills in leading the procession of the Gospel. Well done Annie, you are a star in the making.

So it has to be said that Holy Week has been exceptional this year. We must thank Fr Michael and all our clergy for their leadership and solemnity of service during this time. Our church was bedecked with wonderful Easter Flowers, thank you to Adela and the flower team. The building of the Easter Garden was again in the capable





hands of Joan Tick and friends. Good to see you, Joan and may you return to full health soon. Our churchyard was looking so well thanks to our churchyard team. There are so many more who contribute to this wonderful week as can be seen by Michael's list on P4, please know that we very much appreciate all your contributions this Easter and indeed all year.

As churchwarden I am responsible for the Church building. I should have told you all about the lighting, the heating, the gutters and the roof and, of course, the Churchyard. You can all wait until next time as I now want to talk about our new Churchwarden. Jon Stringer was recently confirmed by our PCC as

Deputy Churchwarden. I am so grateful that he has joined me in looking after our ancient and honourable building. However, there is much more. Jon has a real interest in our churchyard and he has taken it on board with much energy. He will be asking for your support both in volunteering to work on our churchyard projects and as you might expect, to help with our much-needed finance. We need money to buy equipment, to service the equipment we already have, and perhaps some of you may have equipment and gardening tools that you no longer need at home. All offers of help and monies is very welcome.



My next announcement that most of you will already know, Sarah Stringer, Jon's wife and a chorister, has taken from me the Sunday Duty Rota. I know that you, the Sunday Duties Team, will give her your full support. She needs to know your dates to avoid in order to minimise last minute changes and for those of you who do not yet volunteer, please consider coming on board. We need more volunteers for Chancel Duty, Sides and Coffee duties or could you be an Acolyte?



In Conclusion, enjoy the Spring and Summer to come. We will do what we can to continue to make our church a wonderful place of worship.

Colin Smith, Churchwarden



FLOWERS

As I write we have just had the Easter services, where I hope everyone will agree the church looked beautiful. Flowers in church are a wonderful reminder of the joy and beauty in God's creation and hopefully they help to show visitors that St Nicholas' is a well-loved building with a thriving community.

Many of you will have heard the news that the Church of England passed a resolution at the General Synod to encourage sustainable floral arrangements in Churches and reduce the environmental impact of using floral foam (Oasis) and out of season imported flowers:

"This motion rejoices in flowers and foliage in church and encourages us to source them locally and seasonally wherever



possible: remember Jesus on that hillside, rejoice in what's around you. Think simple, natural, beautiful".

We have embraced this and are delighted to say that for Easter most of the flowers used came from the UK and, in particular, West Sussex. Of course, over Easter we were blessed that many people contributed money to provide Lilies and Flowers for the services in memory of their loved ones.

Ironically, sourcing flowers from smaller local growers can be more costly and is more time consuming than being able to buy a bunch from a supermarket. We would love to be able to continue sourcing flowers this way, but realistically, as most of our flower arrangers provide their own flowers (outside of special occasions) this is not always practical.



Could you help us? Do you grow flowers in your garden and have any you can spare? Would you like to make a contribution towards flowers for a particular week/month during the year so that we could dedicate an arrangement, perhaps to honour an anniversary? Would you like to come join our team? We welcome newcomers and our talented arrangers are very happy to share tips and techniques. Please do get in touch via the Parish Office to find out more.

Finally, as we celebrate our wonderful flower arrangers, we also say goodbye to two long standing members of the team who have decided that, after very many years, the time has come to put away their secateurs. Carol and Elizabeth have given their time and shared their talents with us all at St Nicholas', bringing joy and peace to many through their beautiful arrangements. We thank them heartily for their dedication and service. We will miss them!



Adela Hawley - Flower Lead, St Nicholas'

FROM THE BELL TOWER

Stays

In English church bellringing, a stay is a simple but very important piece of equipment that helps control how a bell moves.

First, it helps to understand that in traditional English bellringing (called change ringing), the bells don't just swing a little – they rotate almost a full circle. Ringers actually bring the bell "up" so it can balance upside down for a moment before swinging back the other way. This allows precise timing and patterns.

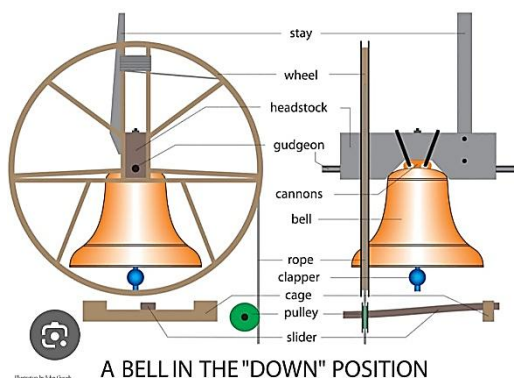
The stay is a wooden bar attached near the top of the bell's wheel. Its job is to act as a safety stop. As the bell swings up toward the vertical (mouth upwards), the stay eventually hits another fixed piece called the slider. When it does, it prevents the bell from going too far.



Caption competition: email the office

So in plain terms:

- The bell is meant to swing high, almost upside down;
- The stay stops it from going too far and flipping over uncontrollably;
- It helps the ringer keep the bell balanced and under control;



A useful analogy is thinking of it like a limit stop on a hinge – it allows movement up to a safe point, but no further.

There's also an important safety aspect:

If something goes wrong and the bell swings too far, the stay is designed to break. That might sound odd, but it's intentional – it prevents damage to the bell, the tower, or injury to the ringer by releasing the system safely.

So overall, the stay:

- Defines the safe limits of the bell's swing;
- Helps the ringer control and balance the bell;
- Acts as a built-in safety mechanism if things go wrong.

Lucy Laing, Bellringer

FROM THE ORGAN LOFT

Sung Compline



Back in the 1960s, the late Eric Spencer basically built up a large choir at St Nicholas'. Since then, we have sung weekly Mass Settings on a Sunday morning, other services around Easter, All Souls and Christmas and occasional evensongs.

However, having talked with various people who sang and played under Eric and since, we can't find records of sung Compline (Night Prayer) at St Nicholas'. So, on the day of Candlemas (1 Feb) this year, in singing Compline, we did something that plausibly had not been done here since the Victorian era.

Compline used to be more common in parishes, but over the centuries

had become restricted to colleges, cathedrals and closed orders.)

Thank you firstly to the choir but also to the congregation for turning out in good numbers. It was great to welcome some familiar faces from St Barnabas'.

According to the Parish calendars, in 2015 there were several "Compline and Drinks" at St Barnabas', and while Compline is traditionally the "just before bedtime" service, we felt that the St Barnabas' tradition was important to honour.

Easter

Colin has told me that he is intending to write about the services over Easter, so I don't want to say any more than "thank you", not just to the choir and organists, but all those who make the Church a very special place in which to sing - see Michael's list on page 4 (and apologies to anyone, missed out, we really have tried to remember everyone).

Now He Comes with Green Blades Rising

While the music choices for each Sunday are reviewed with Fr Michael (who has already suggested hymns), the final music - what's known as "the voluntary" is firmly in the hands of the Music Team. The very word - *voluntary* - relates to the fact that it's not prescribed, but at the organists' choice.

Both Luke and Ollie have played and tend to rehearse what they will be playing, but I tend to "have an idea but wait till the sermon." Seb has a habit of having such things as Robbie Williams' "Angels" after it was part of a sermon.

Fr Michael, on the other hand, often alludes to a piece of music rather than naming it, and then waits until the voluntary to see whether I picked up on the piece to which he was referring. I certainly wasn't expecting him to pick the Advent favourite "Now He Comes with Clouds Descending" and had been imagining I'd play "Now the Green Blade Rises." However, it turns out they interleave with each other reasonably well!

Mark Harrison, Director of Music

AND FURTHER AFIELD

On 6 March, it was great to be involved in the World Day of Prayer; we attended the services held in Crawley, in the morning at St John's Church and in the evening at St Michael and All Angels in Lowfield Heath. The



service was put together by Christian women from Nigeria. Both Revd Sarah and Ann were involved and the ecumenical service was a wonderful and joyful occasion, with dancing in the aisles.



It was a privilege to be able to be involved with the Lighthouse Project at Milton Mount School for their Easter Explored workshop. The children were fully engaged with what was going on at each "station" as the Easter story was presented to them, asking questions as we went along.

On Wednesday 1 April it was wonderful to attend the Chrism Mass for the Blessing of the Oils at Chichester Cathedral. We all travelled down to Chichester by train, arriving in good time. I was ushered to the Quire Stalls, where I was seated amidst the Canons and the choir.

There was added poignancy as Bishop Martin welcomed clergy and laity from across the Diocese to the annual Chrism Mass as he presiding at the annual service for the last time as Bishop of Chichester. He is due to retire at the end of May.

He thanked everyone for all they had done during his fourteen years as Bishop. "You are the Diocese of Chichester" he said.

In his address, Bishop Martin said: "Our task as ministers of the gospel of Jesus Christ is to nurture in the minds and hearts of the people of this generation that instinct for the truth revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds." He said he was reminded this year of the words of St Augustine of Hippo "For you I am a Bishop, with you I am a Christian" urging the congregation to stay true to their calling to be a household of faith serving East and West Sussex.

As well as renewing their ordination vows of bishops, priests and deacons, the holy oils used for ministry in parishes were blessed and distributed.

It was an honour, and slightly nerve-racking, to collect the oils on behalf of our parish - making sure each went into the correct container! (see page 19 for more about the oils)



Pictures courtesy of Jim Holden at Chichester Cathedral

On Good Friday morning, 11 of us attended the "Unity Service" in Queen's Square, a service for all church denominations in Crawley. It is organised by "Love Your Neighbour" with a band leading the singing and readings that were read by representatives of organisations supporting the people of Crawley, such as CAP (Christians Against Poverty). There was a reflection by Reverend Mark Davey – Team Rector, South Crawley. Whilst it was a fairly cool, grey and wet morning the music lifted our spirits and the service was enjoyed by several hundred people; the square was virtually full. You might be able to identify some of our group if you look closely around the large blue umbrella.



Easter Day began with the Sunrise Service held, with the United Reformed Church, at the lake in Gratton's Park at 6am. There was a good representation from both churches, along with several geese and ducks!! It was a lovely simple

service held at the lakeside, followed by a cooked breakfast at the URC.

David Anderson

YOUR PCC

From the minutes of the PCC meeting held on 25 Mar 2026, in the St Barnabas' Café:

At this meeting, Jon Stringer was co-opted onto the PCC and welcomed as Acting Deputy Churchwarden with particular care and oversight of the churchyard.

Among items for discussion, Anita Wilkinson (Safeguarding Officer) reported that the new Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard is being worked on and that, to provide a clear line of oversight, Fr Michael will ultimately be accountable for Social Media. In the case of clergy vacancy, the PCC will take responsibility for safeguarding documents primarily located on the Google Shared Drive (which has limited access).

David Anderson gave the PCC an overall summary of the financial report, which will be available to parishioners at the APCM on 17 May at 11:30 in St Barnabas' Church. Jon Stringer is creating a log of issues relevant to the churchyard and will speak to Richard Turpie (Health & Safety) and Anita (Safeguarding) about our Lone Working Policy and Health & Safety matters. Also, a churchyard specific fundraising drive is needed, and a new (reduced) budget has been drawn up for this year.

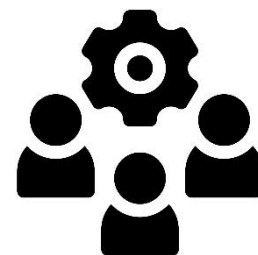
Internal decoration in St Barnabas' Church is being considered but the damp issue around the windows needs dealing with first.

Holy Week and Easter Services were discussed and everyone thanked in advance for their efforts to make it a memorable week.

Seb Pelissier has prepared and will launch a new 'Service of Light' in St Nicholas' on the last Saturday of each month, at 17:00 (starting on 25 April). It will be a 'quiet gathering that offers space for anyone navigating grief, stress, change, or simply the weight of life.'

Six confirmation candidates are being prepared, and two new lay ministers are in training. The recent very well-attended Shrove Tuesday service in St Barnabas' brought together Mothers' Union members from four parishes and has become a much anticipated annual event in the Deanery.

The next meeting will be the APCM on **17 May 2026**. Please speak to a warden or member if you want to have anything brought to our attention.



Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

February – April 2026

We have had quite a busy three months, starting with our January Supper where 21 of us enjoyed a buffet supper. The savoury was ordered in from Waitrose and puds were made by members of the Committee. It was a time for eating and drinking and just enjoying ourselves. It was nice to have all the clergy with us.



In February we had the Crawley District joining us for what has become an annual service of Shrivings at St Barnabas'. We paraded our banners to a good



congregation with Revd Sarah giving a short homily. Of course, this was followed by pancakes and the profit went to the District to help fund jogger trousers and trainers which the MU supply to the Gatwick Detainees.

We also had our AGM: we had a Eucharist Service first conducted by Fr Michael, then enrolled two new members. Michael then chaired the business side of the meeting when we looked back on what we had achieved over the past year and

what we hope to achieve in the coming year. Members of the Committee were elected. Unfortunately, no members wanted to join the Committee so it stays the same.



March saw our Wave of Prayer, which is a service of readings and prayers, looking at our Link Branches across the world. Some of the countries are in a state of unrest or war, so there is very little that can come out of the branches at the moment. We do know that the

Mothers' Union members carry on their work as best they can.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, FOREST ROW



MUSIC FOR A SUMMER EVENING



in aid of Holy Trinity and St Dunstan's Churches
with
Holy Trinity Festival Choir
Lingfield College Prep Orchestra
Rupert Dartnell – Piano, Saxophone, Clarinet

SATURDAY 6th JUNE 7.00pm
£10.00 Adults £5.00 Children

Lucky Programme Prizes / Refreshments
Tickets: Simon Morris 01342 823940 or on the door



Mary Fry on behalf of the committee

Mothers' Union

Invite you to an
**Afternoon Cream Tea
with a Raffle.**

To raise funds for A.F.I.A.
(Away From it all)

St. Barnabas' Café

Wednesday July 22nd 2026

3.00pm – 4.30pm

Keep the date free, come and join us

**Price to be confirmed,
depending on numbers.**

Contact for more details:

Mary Fry or Joan Tick

01293 410383 or 01293 884695

THE CHORAL

Wed 6th May / 7:30pm
1916. As war rages on the Western Front, the Choral Society in Ramsden Yorkshire has lost most of its men to the army. The Choral's ambitious committee decides to recruit local young males to swell their ranks. They must also engage a new chorus master, and despite their suspicions that he has something to hide, their best bet seems to be Dr Henry Guthrie (Ralph Fiennes) - driven, uncompromising and recently returned from a career in Germany.



Director: Nicholas Hytner UK 2025 113 mins 12A

THE VOICE OF HIND RAJAB

Wed 20th May / 7:30pm
January 29th 2024. Red Crescent volunteers receive an emergency call. A five-year-old girl is trapped in a car under fire in Gaza, pleading for rescue. While trying to keep her on the line, they do everything they can to get an ambulance to her. Her name was Hind Rajab. With subtitles.



Director: Kaouther Ben Hania TUNISIA/ FRANCE 2025 90 mins 15

SONG SUNG BLUE

Wed 3rd June / 7:30pm
Adapted from the documentary of the same name 'Song Sung Blue' dramatizes the incredible real-life story of Mike and Claire Sardina (Hugh Jackman and Kate Hudson). In the late 1980s while forming the Neil Diamond tribute band 'Lightning and Thunder', the two fell in love and married. Following the couple through hard times and stage successes, the film chronicles the way the two never let go of each other or their love for Neil Diamond.



Director: Craig Brewer USA 2025 133 mins 12A

HAMNET

Wed 17th June / 7:30pm
William Shakespeare (Paul Mescal) falls for the free-spirited Agnes (Jessie Buckley). Their whirlwind romance leads to marriage and three children. But as Will's theatrical ambitions draw him to London, Agnes remains behind to manage the household. When tragedy strikes, their bond is deeply tested - but through grief and resilience, their journey inspires the creation of Shakespeare's timeless masterpiece 'Hamlet'.



Director: Chloe Zhao UK 2025 126 mins 12A

THE BIG CITY (MAHANAGER)

Wed 1st July / 7:30pm
Arati (Madhabi Mukherjee), an intelligent and resourceful housewife must leave the familiarity of domestic life to join the workplace and supplement their income. First unconfident, Arati soon thrives in her job selling sewing machines door-to-door. She is no less devoted to the family she wants to share this success with, but her husband and children begin to resent her new responsibilities and the time she's forced to spend away from home. Subtitled. AS PART OF SOUTH ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH



Directors: Satyajit Ray INDIA 1963 135 mins PG

THE PATIENCE STONE

Thurs 2nd July / 7:30pm
A young woman struggles to care for her husband who has been incapacitated in a shooting. She begins a heartfelt monologue in the hope that he will awaken and recover. She talks about her childhood, her dreams and frustrations, her loneliness, her desires and suffering... For the very first time in her life she is able to confess her deepest feelings, believing her husband has become her 'Patience Stone', a magical stone, which according to Persian mythology, will deliver her from her pain and torment. Subtitled. AS PART OF SOUTH ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH



Director: Atiq Rahimi AFGHANISTAN 2012 102 mins 15

Left - Crawley Community Cinema - St Peter's, West Green.
Doors open at 18.00
Films at 19.30 during summer months

Below - Ifield Barn Theatre
Box Office: www.ticketsource.co.uk/ifieldbarntheatre

The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe
by CS Lewis & Glyn Robbins
Ifield Barn Theatre
20th - 23rd May 2026 at 7.30pm
matinee 23rd May at 3pm
Tickets £13 (£11 for members and children)
Relaxed Performances 17th May at 2pm and 6pm
Tickets £7
BOX OFFICE: www.ticketsource.co.uk/ifieldbarntheatre
This amateur production of 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

THE GHOST TRAIN (Revised)
by Arnold Ridley
Adapted by Jocelyn and Nicolas Ridley
Ifield Barn Theatre
22nd - 25th July 2026 at 7.30pm
Matinee 25th July 2026 at 2.30pm
Tickets £14 (£12 for members and children under 16)
BOX OFFICE: www.ticketsource.co.uk/ifieldbarntheatre
This amateur production of 'The Ghost Train (Revised)' is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

THE CIRCLE



February: Graham Beaumont: Church design of the last 80 years

Graham captivated us with the unusual subject of Church architecture in more recent Churches. Explaining that Victorian Churches were not his thing (and indeed are not mine) he presented a series of slides of more modern Churches that had caught his attention. It was generally agreed that some, like our St Alban's, could remind one of a fire station! The meeting ended with some lively and controversial debate. Who would have thought it! Thanks to Graham for another great talk.

March: Francis Pole: The Amish

Francis joined us for another presentation, this time on the Amish community and his interaction and study of them. These tightly knit and strong religious communities flourish in several areas around the world in Canada and South America, but predominantly in Philadelphia. Francis explained his interaction with them and living amongst them, sharing photos of their way of life and shunning modern technology.

April: Stewart Lock : History of The Ifield Barn Theatre

Stewart spoke with passion about his association with the Theatre since its acquisition and rebuilding/opening in 1973. The 72-seat venue is ideal for local productions and puts on about 5 per year including a panto (which is always sold out). Stewart also explained about how productions are put on and how his favourite role is as the panto villain (impossible to imagine in such a mild-mannered man). Now flourishing with the help of local people (in its re-building) and those that see the productions (with a 92% fill). As interesting, was the history of its survival despite the attempts of storms, elements and falling trees! A big thank you for swapping thoughts and advertising between local like-minded groups.

In General

The full list of events and talks is published here, starting with two fascinating talks in May and June, followed by our get-together in July when we will be spending the minimum time approving the new Constitution and the maximum time enjoying each other's company and celebrating the longer days and summer weather with cheese and wine/soft drinks.

Max Perry (max.perry@datamax.co.uk)

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

**ST BARNABAS' CAFE
POUND HILL
CRAWLEY
RH10 7DY**



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

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CHRISM OILS



I thought it would be interesting to include some words about the oils that we have and what they are used for. The following words are taken from the Order of Service for the Christ Eucharist and are courtesy of Chichester Cathedral.

The first oil is the **Oil of the Sick** for use in the Church's ministry of healing and wholeness, following the example of the Apostles (Mark 6:13) and the teaching of James (James 5:14-15): "Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the Church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord." Oil soothes and heals and the Oil of the Sick blessed at this

service is a sign of the Anointed One; those who are anointed with the oil receive the healing, saving power of the Messiah. The anointing of the sick is linked to the sacraments of baptism and confirmation as sickness and death itself are united to the passion and death of Jesus into whose life we are baptised and transformed into signs of hope.

The **Oil of Baptism** awaits the hundreds throughout the diocese who will be baptised into the life of Christ – making new Christians! We remember how in the gospels Peter acknowledged Jesus as "the Christ" (Mark 8:29) recognising him as the Lord's anointed (*Christos*, in Greek, *Messiah* in Hebrew). As Jesus had been anointed with an outpouring of the Holy Spirit at his baptism (Acts 10:38) so from the earliest times, it became the Church's custom to trace the sign of the cross in oil (the Oil of Catechumens) on the heads of candidates for baptism, as a sign of their anointing with the Holy Spirit in union with Christ. The New Testament speaks of the gift of the Holy Spirit as anointing (1 John 2:20; Corinthians 1:21-22).

The **Oil of Chrism** has perfume and balsam added to make it fragrant. The oil is used for a variety of consecrations – confirmation, at the ordination of priests and bishops, and in the consecration of church buildings and altars. As priests and monarchs in the Hebrew scriptures were anointed with oil to set them apart for God's service (Exodus 29:7) so the Chrism Oil is used at the ordination of priests of the New Covenant, and at confirmations, as a sign that candidates sealed with the Spirit confirm their place in the "royal priesthood" of Christ and the Church (1 Peter 2:9) – the "kingdom and priests serving our God" (Revelation 5:10).

These are some of the biblical and historical roots which help us in our understanding of the use of these oils in the Church's sacramental ministry: the Oil of the Sick, the Oil of the Catechumens and the Oil of the Chrism that are blessed for our use at the Chrism Eucharist.

David Anderson



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HOLY RUBBISH

Dearest Gentle Reader,

St Nicholas' Church takes pride in maintaining a welcoming and attractive environment. As with any facility, rubbish bins are necessary for proper waste management. In our commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability for future generations, we adhere to established guidelines regarding waste disposal. Currently, the rubbish bins at St Nicholas' are not being utilised appropriately.

At the Lychgate, there are three main bins:

- The black top bin is for general waste - plastic bags, wrappers, Oasis, food waste, and dirt. Do not include plants, flowers, cardboard, paper, tins, or glass (unless broken).
- The red top bin is for recycling only clean items like cardboard, paper, tin, glass, and plastic trays. Do not put cellophane, flower wraps, or broken glass in this bin.
- The green bin should be used for disposing of green materials such as flowers, plants, grass, tree or shrub clippings, and soil, but Oasis should never be placed in it.



Inside the church, bins are either for general rubbish or recycling. A bin with a plastic liner is for general waste; one without a liner is for recycling. The same guidelines apply as with the larger outside bins.

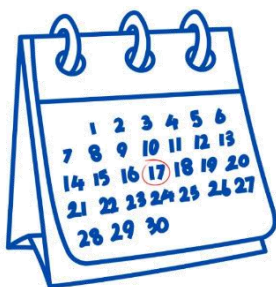
We encourage everyone to maintain our church space by keeping it clean and organised, contributing to a sustainable planet for future generations. This could benefit your children, grandchildren, and great-

grandchildren - a thoughtful consideration that is worth acting upon.

Thank you from everyone who appreciates and wants to maintain this space.

Liz G

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)



Sunday 17 May 11:30

St Barnabas'

Please do come along

Community

A shared brolly, a kettle on,
A "You alright?" before we're gone.
More than postcodes or the rain
We're the brew that heals the strain.



WERE YOU THERE?

We were recently passed these newspaper cuttings from the 1930s. Maybe you are in the photograph or know someone who is. If so, do let us know.

BUNGALOW TRAGEDY

CHURCH SERVICE FOR CHILD

Crowds of village folk carrying banners and sprays of flowers flocked to the Worth parish churchyard yesterday to witness the funeral of Thomas Isaac Levin, his wife Betty, and their little girl, June, who were found gassed in a bungalow at Three Bridges.

The rector met the coffins in the churchyard and proceeded that of the child into the church. While he was conducting the burial service from the Prayer Book in the church, the coffins of the man and woman were lowered into the grave.

After the service the rector proceeded to the graveside, where he read a special service authorized by the Bishop. Afterwards he said the prayer specially written by the Bishop of Chichester for the child.

The child's coffin was then lowered into her parents' grave, in accordance with their last wish.

Two wreaths came from friends the little girl had made while staying at a private hotel in the West-end. One was "In affectionate remembrance of June, from Uncle Jimbo," and the other, "In affectionate remembrance of darling little June, from Peggy."

08-1531.



The Rev. H. F. Walker-Bridge receiving gifts from children of the Worth (Sussex) Parish Church for a toy service. The toys were distributed at Christmas to the Children's Union House and St. Mary's Hospital at Paris.

Nov 1937.
D MORNING POST, M



CHILDREN'S TOY SERVICE—The Rev. H. F. Walker-Bridge receiving toys from children during yesterday's annual service at Worth, Sussex, Parish Church.

TOYS TAKEN TO A CHURCH



Boys and girls carrying toys to Worth Parish Church, 1041 Three Bridges, Sussex, for a children's service yesterday. The toys will be distributed at a shop 1047's hospital on Christmas Day.



The Rev. H. F. Walker-Bridge with some of the children who brought gifts of toys, to be handed to charities, to their annual toy service at Worth Parish Church (Sussex).



Children in the church at Worth, Sussex, delivering their contributions yesterday to the Rev. H. F. Walker-Bridge at the annual toy service when Christmas toys are collected for the pupils of a charity school.



TOY SERVICE—Children handing gifts to the Rev. H. F. Walker-Bridge during the annual service held at Worth (Sussex) Parish Church. The toys will be given to poor children.

GOSSIP FROM GOSSOP'S GREEN

St Alban's had their first experience of Low Sunday this year on the Sunday after Easter Day. For many people it felt quite different. Low Sunday is usually a said service, but if it's your first time it can come as quite a surprise, especially for a congregation used to five hymns every week and plenty of sung responses. So why do it? After the fullness and intensity of Holy Week and Easter Day, the Church has long treated this Sunday as a time to breathe and let the truth of the Resurrection settle. Low Sunday isn't less important; it's simply quieter. It's a deliberate pause in the rhythm of Eastertide, a chance to rest after the spiritual marathon of Lent and Holy Week and not just to give the choir and musicians a rest.



A said service gives the whole congregation space to listen, to pray, and to notice the gentler movements of God's Spirit. It's a different way of worshipping, but not a lesser one. And that matters as healthy church life includes different experiences, not for the sake of novelty, but because variety helps us grow. A quieter Sunday helps us appreciate the joyful ones; a reflective service deepens our understanding of the lively ones, and our worship is strengthened when we encounter God through a range of experiences.

I do sometimes wonder, though, what St Alban's congregation think I might be planning next!

Revd Greta

DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING COURSES

A successful training session was completed in April with some of our ringers and choir members. The course on Monday 11 May is fully booked, but there is space available on the next one on Fri 29 May. Please contact the office (office@worthparish.org) if you would like to be added to the list. Even for those who have done a CPR course some time ago a refresher course is always valuable.

BAPTISMS AND WEDDINGS



Baptisms

1 February 2026

Eloise Rose Poli Martin

Nancy Eve Lane

Mia Grace Rudley-Lane

4 April 2026

Jenny Revell

5 April 2026

Jamie Burnett



Rhianna & Alex

Weddings

11 April 2026

Sam Howe-Berry & Claire Watson

18 April 2026

Derek Pratt & Mary Grace

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CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Sunday School

Sunday School, run by Nicky and Emily (as well as help by other members of the congregation) 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. For Easter a competition was held to make a "shoebox sized" Easter Garden, well done to Luna, Halle and Imogen - very inventive and beautifully made.

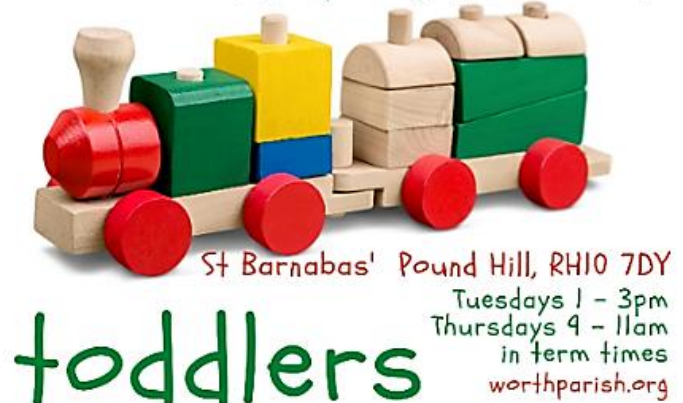
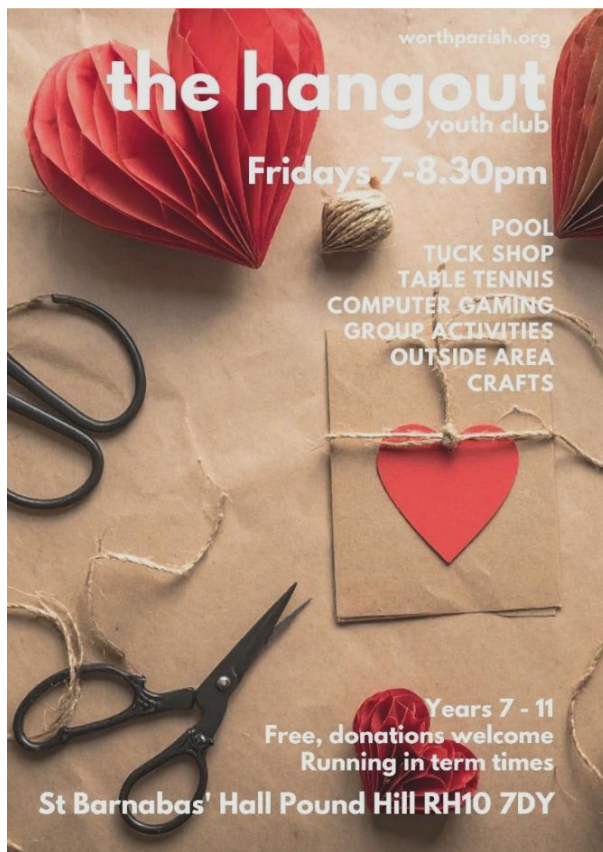
David Anderson - Churchwarden



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!

everyone welcome
£1 donation per family includes refreshments



The Hangout

The Hangout has resumed after the Easter break. 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

Silence is golden. Unless you have a toddler, then silence is suspicious.

EASTER FOR THE "YOUNG AT HEART" AT ST NICHOLAS'

It all started on Good Friday morning with the hanging of the Easter Banner in the Apse. Colin began with help from John Cahill, then Linda guided Colin to hang the *INRI* sign near the top of Cross. Once all was settled I set up the "Green Hill".



Holy Saturday saw Jon, Mark, Mary, Pippy and Peter set up the base for the Easter Garden. Three children, Toby, Erin and Annie arrived during the afternoon to plant a variety of colourful pansies.

On Easter Day before the Gospel, was read by Fr Michael, Annie led the Procession from the Chancel to the Font and back with some delicate, suitable ballet, well done!



A lovely, peaceful and blessed Easter weekend was had by all who attended.

Joan Tick



EASTER MESSY

Our Messy Church this Easter, was far from peaceful. 20 Children and their accompanying parent or parents ensured an exciting event.

In February we went back to the Old Testament where David met Goliath and the children enjoyed making catapults and flinging less violent screwed



up paper across the church. March saw us back into the New Testament when we thought about Forgiveness and the importance of friends as illustrated by the Man who was lowered through the roof in order to reach Jesus. As this mag is being prepared we are about to learn about how Jesus proves His resurrection to many in the days following Easter.





MESSY CHURCH COMING UP

16 and 20 May 3-5pm: Holy Communion – Bread & Wine

13 and 16 June 3-5pm: Fruits of the Spirit – the birthday of the church

15 and 18 July 3-5pm: I am ... The vine

Sue Perry

FRIDAY NIGHT MESSY CHURCH



Last year we started to think about what we offer to young people looking to explore their faith and identified a gap for those who had outgrown Messy Church. Coincidentally, BRF (the Bible Reading Fellowship) that run Messy Church nationally, had carried out research which reached the same conclusion – something was needed for the 9 to 14 year olds. We were invited to join their two year national pilot scheme called “Messy Momentum” and were selected to be part of “Friday Night Messy”. This has been running now for 4 months and is following the same themes as the regular Messy Church. Each session lasts for 1 hour and starts with food (pizza and cake is always popular!) followed by a short Bible reading/video and discussion. This leads on to an activity (or two) that the group participates in and concludes with a prayer. Thanks to the team of helpers – it couldn’t be done without you.

Our first session was a “getting to know each other” session based on “faith being a journey”; in February we explored “overcoming challenges”; the theme in March was “forgiveness” with Old Testament Parables and in April we looked at “hope” through the Easter story.



We have a core group of around 12 young people, and several have brought friends along. Some of the young people’s adults stay to join in – it is intergenerational. All are welcome, so if you would like to know more get in touch at youth@worthparish.org

David Anderson

Visit our market

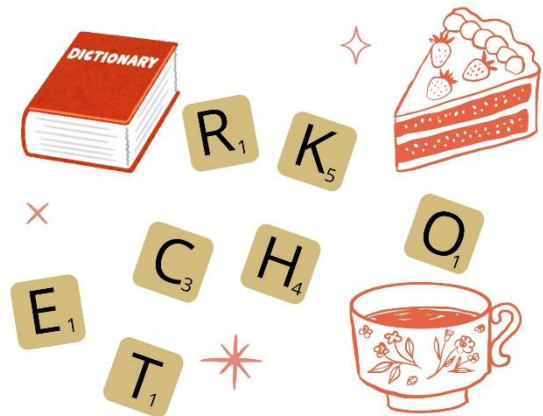


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HUNT THE MAG

What was on the menu for the Maundy Thursday supper at St Barnabas', and who prepared it?

What is the name of the new monthly "quiet gathering" service starting on 25 April at St Nicholas'?

In bellringing, what is the name of the wooden equipment designed to break as a safety mechanism if a bell swings too far?

The Mothers' Union Shriving service raised profits to buy trousers and trainers for which specific group of people?

Who were the three winners of the Sunday School "shoebox sized" Easter Garden competition?

Where locally, could you see an example of a 'fire station church'?

When is the Spring Fair?

KNIT AND NATTER

Thursdays | 2-4PM

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USEFUL NUMBERS

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

Altar Servers (St Barnabas')	David Anderson	<p style="font-size: 48px; text-align: center;">0300 111 8150</p>
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

Lamb, potatoes, carrots, and peas; prepared by Phyl, Service of Light, The stay,
The Gatwick Detainees, Luna, Halle, and Imogen, St Alban's, Sat 30 May

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MAY, JUNE AND JULY CALENDAR

Travelling far? - we recommend you check dates/times on our website calendar, or with the Office.

When?		What?	Where?
Saturday 9 May	10:00	Plant Sale	St Barnabas'
Monday 11 May	14:00	Julian Group	St Barnabas'
Wednesday 13 May	12:00	Julian Group	St Nicholas'
Thursday 14 May	10:30	Ascension Day	St Nicholas'
Saturday 16 May	10:00	Saturday Market	St Barnabas'
	15:00	Messy Church	St Barnabas'
Sunday 17 May	11:30	APCM	St Barnabas'
Wednesday 20 May	15:00	Messy Church	St Barnabas'
Sunday 24 May	10:00	Pentecost	Both Churches
Wednesday 27 May	14:00	Scrabble and Cake	St Barnabas'
	14:30	Parish Prayer Group	St Nicholas'
Thursday 28 May	15:45	Mothers' Union Meeting	St Nicholas'
Saturday 30 May	11:00	Spring Fair	St Barnabas'
Saturday 30 May	18:00	Support Ukraine - Concert	St Barnabas'
Monday 8 June	14:00	Julian Group	St Barnabas'
Wednesday 10 June	12:00	Julian Group	St Nicholas'
Saturday 13 June	10:00	Saturday Market	St Barnabas'
	15:00	Messy Church	St Barnabas'
Wednesday 17 June	15:00	Messy Church	St Barnabas'
Wednesday 24 June	14:00	Scrabble and Cake	St Barnabas'
	19.00	Parish Prayer Group	St Barnabas'
Thursday 25 June	15:45	Mothers' Union Meeting	St Barnabas'
Saturday 27 June	13:00	Songbirds Choir	St Barnabas'
Sunday 28 June	14:00	Festival choir rehearsals begin	St Nicholas'
Wednesday 8 July	12:00	Julian Group	St Nicholas'
Saturday 11 July	10:00	Saturday Market	St Barnabas'
Monday 13 July	14:00	Julian Group	St Barnabas'
Wednesday 15 July	15:00	Messy Church	St Barnabas'
Saturday 18 July	15:00	Messy Church	St Barnabas'
Wednesday 22 July	15:00	MU Afternoon Cream Tea	St Barnabas'
Wednesday 29 July	14:30	Scrabble and Cake	St Barnabas'
	14:30	Parish Prayer Group	St Nicholas'

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