



WORTH PARISH

ancient and present in Crawley

Registered Charity no. 1131090

20 September 2026

Matthew Apostle and Evangelist

Welcome to
St Barnabas' in
Pound Hill and St
Nicholas' in Worth.

This sheet details the readings in today's
services as well as notices for everyone.

SERVICES TODAY

Certain services will still be available
online (live or recorded)

08:15 Said Eucharist (BCP)	St Nicholas'
Celebrant	Father Michael Boag
Preacher	Seb Pelissier
10:00 Sung Eucharist	St Barnabas'
Celebrant	Revd Sarah Upchurch
Preacher	Revd Canon Penny Foreman
10:00 Sung Eucharist	St Nicholas'
Celebrant	Father Michael Boag
Preacher	Revd Gordon Parry
12:00 Baptism	St Nicholas'

Please try our QR code to
donate to Worth Parish. Scan
this code with a smartphone to
take you straight to a giving
page.



Payments to the Parish

If you possibly can, please transfer the money by
electronic payment to: Parish of Worth Poundhill &
Maidenbower, sort code 40-18-22, account
61223372. If you need help, call the Office.

What does Jesus mean when he says; "I desire mercy not sacrifice"? How perfect are you feeling today? Well of course none of us is perfect. God knows this. So it isn't really a good idea to try and fool God. God wants us to open our hearts to get to know him. This is why Jesus came to earth and since then, the truth about God's great love for us is still being made known to us through the awesome, radiating power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus was quoting the prophet Hosea from the Old Testament. In the Old Testament, God gave Israel sacrifices as part of their worship. But people began to think that performing religious duties made them right with God, even while treating other people badly. Just look at the Pharisees with all their rules and making themselves more important. The problem wasn't the sacrifice itself. The problem was religion without a changed heart, ritual without mercy. It's the same for us today, does God want us to regularly attend church or be kind to our neighbour? Hopefully we can do both! Church, is I hope a 'School of Kindness and Love'. A place where we learn how to navigate life with other humans. Take heart, you don't have to be perfect or change to be accepted, Matthew the Levite wasn't perfect when he met Jesus and followed him. God desires mercy which means more than simply feeling sorry for someone. It involves compassion that leads us to treat everyone with kindness, forgiveness, patience, and practical help. You know what to do.

Peace be with you,
Revd Sarah

Collect

O Almighty God, whose blessed Son called Matthew the tax collector to be an apostle and evangelist: give us grace to forsake the selfish pursuit of gain and the possessive love of riches that we may follow in the way of your Son Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever

Amen

Reading Proverbs 3.13-18

Happy are those who find wisdom, and those who get understanding, for her income is better than silver, and her revenue better than gold. She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honour. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called happy.

Reading 2 Corinthians 4.1-6

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose



heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the

open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your

slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Gospel Matthew 9. 9-13

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man



called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-

collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'

Post Communion

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

Amen

NOTICES

The Hangout Youth Club

at St Barnabas' meets Every Friday at 19:00 during term time.

Toddlers Group

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

Forge wood Community event

Today, Sunday 20 September, we will be hosting a community event at Forge Wood community centre (Somerley Drive RH10 3SY) 14:00-16:00. If you are able to volunteer please speak to Revd Sarah, Father Michael, David Anderson or Stephen Mumford. We hope to see you there.



Mothers Union

meeting on **Thursday 24 September** In St. Barnabas' Cafe at 4 pm. Jane Stanford will be talking about her trip up the O 2 and service at St Paul's Cathedral with some slides, to celebrate the MU 150 year. this is open to all and helps raise funds for worldwide MU. Tea & biscuits afterwards.

Please come. All are very welcome.

Parish Prayer Group

Meets on **Wednesday 30 September** at 14:00 at St Nicholas'. Please join us to pray for our parish, our clergy, our outreach and our congregations.

Service of Light

at St Nicholas takes place at 1700 on the last Saturday of each month. This months' service will be on **Saturday 26 September**. This quiet gathering offers space for anyone navigating grief, stress, change, or simply the weight of life. Through stillness, candle-lighting, and moments of reflection, the service creates a calm, supportive environment to pause, breathe, and find renewed hope. Open to all, whatever your background or beliefs.

Friday Lunches

The next lunch will be on **9 October**. Please book your place with the Office or the Café by **Wednesday 7 October**. We are still in need of some more cooks, so do let us know if you can help out (help and advice given)

Shelley Copthorne Educational Foundation

Registered Charity No. 306408

Small grants towards the expenses of college or university courses are available to students, under the age of 25 years, who are resident in or near the civil and ecclesiastical parishes of Worth. Applications for grants should only be made for courses where a confirmed offer of a place has been accepted. Application should be by email, giving brief details of yourself, which must include your date of birth, your home postal address and the course you will be undertaking, and sent to the Secretary at

shelleycopthorne@gmail.com

Applications by 1st November for consideration in the current year

Scrabble and Cake, Wednesday 30 September, in St Barnabas Cafe, 14.00-16.00. Come and enjoy games, refreshments and company. £4. In aid of St Barnabas Refurbishment. All welcome. Just turn up.

SERVICES THIS WEEK		
Tues 22 September	10:30 Said Eucharist	St Barnabas'
Thur 24 September	10:30 Said Eucharist	St Nicholas'
Friday 25 September	13:30 Funeral	St Nicholas'
Saturday 26 September	17:00 Service of Light	St Nicholas
Sun 27 September	8:15 Eucharist (BCP)	St Nicholas'
	10:00 Sung Eucharist	St Barnabas'
	10:00 Sung Eucharist	St Nicholas'
	12:00 Baptism	St Nicholas'
Sunday 27 September 2026 Trinity 17 Ezekiel 18. 1-4, 25-32 Philippians 2. 1-13 Matthew 21. 23-32		

GENERAL ENQUIRIES



worthparish.org



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CLERGY



Rector
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Assistant Priest
Fr Francis Pole
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07764 752608

Assistant Priest
Revd Gordon Parry
gordonmwparry@btinternet.com
07802 432398

Assistant Priest
Revd Canon Penny Foreman
michaelzanny@btinternet.com

CHURCHWARDENS



St Barnabas' Churchwarden
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St Nicholas' Churchwarden
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St Nicholas' Deputy Churchwarden
Jon Stringer
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