



St Nicholas' Parish Church, Worth & St Barnabas' Church, Pound Hill



**Sunday December 6th 2015
Second Sunday of Advent**

Welcome to our churches today.

*If you have time after the services,
please stay for refreshments.*

*At the Distribution of Communion all
are welcome to come to the altar rail to
receive a blessing or, if baptised, the
Communion.*

*Children are welcome at all our
services, and there are soft toys and
children's books at the back of the
church for their use.*

SERVICES TODAY

- 08.00 Holy Communion (BCP)
at St Nicholas'
Celebrant & Preacher: Rev'd Gordon Parry
09.45 Sung Eucharist at St Nicholas'
Celebrant: Canon Anthony Ball
Preacher: The Ven. Fiona Windsor,
Archdeacon of Horsham
- 10.00 Eucharist at St Barnabas'
Presiding & Preacher: Rev'd Gordon Parry
- 11.30 Nic's All-age at St Nicholas'
Presiding: Rev'd Steve Burston

Next week's Readings

- Zephaniah 3. 14 - 20
Psalm 146 4 - 11
Philippians 4. 4 - 7
Luke 3. 7 - 18

The Rector writes:-

We extend a warm welcome to Archdeacon Fiona as she visits the parish and preaches at St Nicholas' Patronal Festival this morning. This afternoon she will take her place in Chichester Cathedral, our mother church, as Bishop Martin blesses a specially designated door to herald the Year of Mercy he has declared for the Diocese. Pope Francis, whose call Bishop Martin is supporting, describes such a door as "a Door of Mercy through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons and instils hope". It is a welcoming door through which all in need may enter, but also a door from which the Church must go out to proclaim mercy to all. As our Alpha Course concluded this week I was struck by how much it had anticipated (& modelled) some of the key principles both of the Year of Mercy and how we can be "church": the open welcome, the fellowship (and thanks again to Higgidy Pies for another wonderful meal on Tuesday!), the learning through clear teaching and free discussion, the building of a common purpose respectful of individual needs and journeys and the going out challenged yet resourced. The final evening spoke powerfully as in the talk and discussion we considered what the church could be and, quite naturally, put it into practice in the support of two of our members – one who received (during the talk) news of the death of a family member and one who was then in hospital and died shortly afterwards. It is that bond, within the church family and with all God's children, that was modelled by St Nicholas. His is an example of a life infused with pastoral care, teaching and worship that continues to proclaim the gospel in our own day and challenges us to do likewise.

READINGS for the day.

Collect:

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Malachi 3. 1 - 4

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Malachi.

Thus says the Lord God: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Canticle: Benedictus. Luke 1. 68 - 79

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Philippians 1. 3 - 11

A Reading Paul’s Letter to the Philippians.

My brothers and sisters, I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God’s grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

GOSPEL

Luke 3. 1 - 6

A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of

Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth.

Post Communion

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEW SHEET

After 4.5 years the current compiler of the pew sheet is planning to retire at the beginning of January 2016. If you are interested in this role please contact the Rector or Joan Tick.

Footpath at St Nicholas’

The footpath from the lych-gate towards the church will be resurfaced **from Thursday December 10th**, weather permitting, therefore access to the church will be restricted and please contact the Parish Office (0300 1118150) on Thursday morning to ascertain whether the 10.30 service will still go ahead. Thank you.

SERVICES during next week

St Barnabas’

Wed. & Fri.

09.00 Morning Prayer & Eucharist

Tues. & Thurs.

09.00 Morning Prayer

St Nicholas’

Sat. 09.00 Morning Prayer & Eucharist

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**Tues.** 10.30 Eucharist - St Barnabas’

**Wed.** 15.15 Messy Church –  
Maidenbower Infants School

**Thurs.** 10.30 Eucharist – St Nicholas’

**Sat.** NO WEDDINGS – St Nicholas’

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Services next Sunday

Third Sunday of Advent

08.00 Holy Communion (BCP)

- St Nicholas’

09.45 Sung Eucharist - St Nicholas’

10.00 Family Eucharist - St Barnabas’

Parking at Bishop’s Lodge and access to the Cottage. The Bishop of Maidstone has kindly agreed to us continuing to use the cottage for certain events. Please access the cottage through the gate at the end of the path down from the St Nicholas’ porch. **Please do not park** at Bishop’s Lodge or attempt vehicular access to the Cottage.

St Barnabas’ Vicarage. **Please do not use the ‘drive’ of the Vicarage** for parking. Contact the clergy or Parish Office to make arrangements for loading/unloading.

We regret to announce that Claire Popoff died on December 4th. Our prayers are with her daughters Irene and Natasha and their families.

NOTICES

Friday lunches 12.30pm in the Pastoral Centre - 2 courses plus tea / coffee - £5.50
Please purchase tickets by **Dec. 8th** for Dec. 11th at the Centre or phone **883362**

Thank you to every one who helped with **Advent Fair** last week, a wonderful effort and **£737.85** was raised for Church Funds.

UNWRAPPED gifts of toys, games, books etc. suitable for ages 0 - 12years. These donations will go to the Golden Lions Children's Trust and **toiletries, non perishable foodstuffs, warm clothing**, for Crawley Open House. All items must be new and unwrapped although donations of wrapping paper is also welcome. Thank you. Bring to the following **4.00pm** services ----

St Barnabas' - December 20th at Carols for All & the Christmas Eve Crib Service on December 24th.

St Nicholas' - Christmas Eve Crib Service on December 24th

Thursday December 10th 2.30pm

St Nicholas' Julian Group **will not** be meeting this month.

Monday December 14th 11.00am

St Barnabas' Julian Group meets in church. Everyone welcome.

Christmas is coming !

"www.easyfundraising.org.uk is a great way to raise funds for the Church while you shop on the internet. We receive a small cash reward for your purchase as a donation to the Parish, If you have not already done so then please register. If you are registered please remember to select easyfundraising whenever you shop. Many thanks to those who have raised over £300 to-date for the Parish this way.

DIARY NOTES

Tuesday December 8th 7.30 p.m.

Fr. James' licensing service at St Julian's church, St Julian's Lane, Kingston Buci, Shoreham and will be conducted by the Bishop of Lewis. Please contact Parish Office if you need or can offer a lift.

Sunday December 20th Services -

St Barnabas' 4.00pm Carols for All

St Nicholas' 6.30pm Nine Lessons & Carols



Christmas lunches....

...will be served in the Pastoral Centre on **Friday December 18th**. The menu will include turkey, accompaniments, Christmas pudding and mince pies, fruit juice, tea/coffee (bring your own alcohol). **Tickets cost £10.50 each and must be bought in advance by December 15th** from the Pastoral Centre or (01293) 883362.

CONTACTS

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Curate

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PARISH OFFICE

for enquiries about
weddings, baptisms, hall bookings, etc.

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