



YEAR OF PRAYER 2018

WORTH PARISH

Serving Crawley in Worth, Pound Hill, Maidenbower and Forge Wood

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10th December Advent 2

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

This sheet details the readings in today's services & notices for everyone. **It is for you to take home and share.** There are soft toys and books available at the back of the church for children. At Communion, everyone is welcome to come up and receive a blessing or, if baptised, share the bread & wine. If you are here for the first time, please do introduce yourselves. We'd love you to join us for refreshments after the service.

SERVICES TODAY

08.00 Holy Communion St Nicholas'
Celebrant & Preacher: Revd Gordon Parry

10.00 Sung Eucharist St Nicholas'
Celebrant & Preacher: Fr Michael Boag

10.00 Eucharist St Barnabas'
Celebrant & Preacher: Revd David Knight

12.00 Baptism St Nicholas'
Fr Michael Boag

Please send pew sheet notices to
pewsheet@worthparish.org.uk or
phone 0300 111 8150

The Advent readings are full of expectations and hopes and the fulfilment of promises; promises that speak to us of presence. That's presence - c e - not presents - t s.

Easy to get the two words confused, especially at this time of year. I love Lynne Truss's book on the importance of precision in written language, her zero tolerance guide to punctuation. On the back cover, the book's title is explained by this little story:

A panda walks into a café. He orders a sandwich, eats it, then draws a gun and fires two shots in the air.

'Why?' Asks the confused waiter, as the panda makes towards the exit. The panda produces a badly punctuated wildlife manual and tosses it over his shoulder.

'I'm a panda,' he says, at the door. 'Look it up.'

The waiter turns to the relevant entry and, sure enough, finds an explanation.

'Panda. Large black-and-white bear-like mammal, native to China. Eats comma shoots and leaves.'

Mark, chapter one, verse one, is very precise: in it is contained a summary of the entire Gospel.

'The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.'

The beginning, not just a beginning, but the beginning is when you first hear or read this and in that beginning you meet and encounter The Good News. The book itself is the beginning of the good news.

There may be other stories the reader has heard about Jesus but the truth about him is contained here... See if you can read all sixteen chapters of Mark before Christmas!

Michael

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

First Reading

Isaiah 40
v. 1-11

God's People Are Comforted

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her that she has served her
term, that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare
the way of the LORD, make straight in the
desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every
mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall
be revealed, and all people shall see it
together, for the mouth of the LORD has
spoken.' A voice says, 'Cry out!'

And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

All people are grass, their constancy is like
the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades, when
the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass. The grass
wITHERS, the flower fades; but the word of
our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain,

O Zion, herald of good tidings;

lift up your voice
with strength,

O Jerusalem,

*The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the
Word of our God
endures forever.*

Isaiah 40:8

herald of good tidings,

lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,

'Here is your God!'

See, the Lord GOD comes with might,

and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;

he will gather the lambs in his arms,

and carry them in his bosom,

and gently lead the mother sheep.



Psalm 85.1-2,8-13*

Second Reading

2 Peter 3 v.8-15

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved,
that with the Lord one day is like a thousand
years, and a thousand years are like one
day. The Lord is not slow about his promise,
as some think of slowness, but is patient
with you, not
wanting any to
perish, but all to
come to
repentance. But the
day of the Lord will
come like a thief,
and then the
heavens will pass
away with a loud noise, and the elements
will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and
everything that is done on it will be
disclosed.



Since all these things are to be dissolved in
this way, what sort of people ought you to
be in leading lives of holiness and
godliness, waiting for and hastening the
coming of the day of God, because of which
the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved,
and the elements will melt with fire? But, in
accordance with his promise, we wait for
new heavens and a new earth, where
righteousness is at home.

Final Exhortation and Doxology

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given to him.

Gospel

Mark 1v.1-8



The Proclamation of John the Baptist

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight”’,

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

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**

SERVICES THIS WEEK

Tues 12 th Dec	10.30 Eucharist	St Barnabas’
Wed 13 th Dec	15.00 Messy Church	St Barnabas’
Thurs 14 th Dec	10.30 Eucharist	St Nicholas’
Sun 17 th Dec	08.00 Holy Communion	St Nicholas’
	10.00 Sung Eucharist	St Nicholas’
	10.00 Eucharist	St Barnabas’
	11.30 Baptism	St Barnabas’

Readings for Sun 17th December Advent 3

Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11

Psalm 126 or Canticle: Magnificat
I Thessalonians 5.16-24 John 1.6-8,19-28

Messy Church

Wed 13th Dec

St Barnabas Hall
15.00 – 16.30



Wed 10th Jan 18

Maidenbower Infants School 15.15-16.45

Old and new friends welcome!

Christmas Wishes

Rather than sending individual cards to your friends in the congregation why not ‘send to all’ and put a message on one/other/both boards in the churches and place the money saved as an ‘extra’ in the collection.

Choice of Christmas charities.

Members of the congregations are invited to help choose a local and an international charity to benefit from 50% of our CASH collections at Christmas services. Submit forms **today. 10 Dec** please

DIARY NOTES & NOTICES

Christmas lunch 12.30 in the Pastoral Centre, 2 courses + tea / coffee - £10.50. All welcome. Please order tickets by 13th Dec (for catering) for 15th Dec at the PC or call 0300 111 8150. Turkey and trimmings, Christmas pudding, mince pies and soft drinks. Bring your own alcohol

Julian Meeting at St Barnabas Church
Monday 11th December at 11am.
Meet in the Pastoral Centre. Old and new friends very welcome

Sat December 16th 19.30 Christmas Concert. Freshfield Hall, Forest Row. Tickets £ 10 01342 324196. Raising funds for the RNLI

Tues 9th Jan 18 18.00 Magazine Team Meeting at The Rectory. All contributions welcomed!

Christmas Cards

Christmas cards featuring a painting of St Nicholas Church by Father Roger Brown are still available. They come in packs of 5 cards priced at £2.50 per pack. See Joan Pallett please

Friday lunch - order by 13th for 15th. This is our Christmas Lunch. Tickets cost £10.50. All welcome.
2. Christmas charities - forms to be submitted **TODAY** please.

The Saturday Market on 2 December raised £65.45. Thanks to all our supporters.

Christmas closures- the Pastoral Centre will close at 12 noon on Tuesday 19th December and will reopen at 10.30 am on Tuesday 2nd January.

Recycling: Please save used postage stamps - these are passed to St. Catherine's hospice. Thanks

WE NEED YOUR TIME & TALENT !

Our churches need volunteers to clean; garden, ring bells, sing in the choir; arrange flowers, become servers, serve in the Pastoral Centre, & various other roles. Please consider donating an hour or more to help keep our churches running smoothly! You could become part of a group or offer your time to suit you! Please contact the Rector or the Office to find out how YOU could help!

January Thank you Party

Fr Michael requests the pleasure of the company of all the retired volunteers who have given of their time so much in the past, but are now officially 'discharged'. If you are, or you know of, these people please let Sue in the office know by 31 Dec 17, so that an official invitation can be sent.

CONTACTS

The Rector

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St Barnabas' Churchwardens

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