
Worth Parish Workshop – 25th November 2018

A huge thank you to all who came along and to those who worked so hard to set up, lead, serve and support the day. For those of you who had prior commitments, or were unable to come along, we hope this article will give you a flavour of the Workshop.

Parish history: Over coffee there was great conversation, sharing and swapping of wonderful memories from seeing pictures from a number of parishioner's archives. The display will be in the Narthex for a week or so. Do have a look.

We then split into 3 groups to visit three stands and hear what has been happening in the Parish, the Diocese and across Worth since the AGM back in April to bring our Parish from Maintenance into Mission. Fr Paul, Charlie Tibble and Will Desmond share with you here a brief summary of their talk from last Sunday.

The Church: Fr Paul

My focus was to speak of the Diocesan Plan of Bishop Richard that we should all become missionaries. I set this in the context of the call of the universal Church, highlighting especially Pope St John Paul II's call to New Evangelisation, and the vision of Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium*. We looked at the falling number of diocesan priests, noting that, in Bishop Richard's words, this offers an *opportunity and a challenge* to us all – *not a time for despondency*. We observed his priorities of prayer, formation and mission. We looked at British Social Attitudes: That over half the population of the UK has no religion, and that this is driven largely by young people no longer coming to church. (71% of those aged 18-25) We then observed that Worth was at the geographical centre of the diocese and that this places us well to become a missionary resource for the whole diocese.

Divine Renovation and Alpha: Charlie Tibble

Our mission as a church is to spread the good news of the Gospel to the lapsed or non-church goers. This is a scary thing for most of us and does not always come naturally. Relit and now Alpha has allowed me to see first-hand that evangelisation is not as hard as we might think. If we are open to it the Holy Spirit will put people in front of us in a very natural way. They will be friends, family, work colleagues or people who come looking or asking. If we are to be an invitational church then we need to be able to invite people to things and Alpha has a tried and tested format that encourages great discussion and a chance to form relationships with new and established members of our community. The aim is not to replace our prayer groups or Lectio but to have new members to join them, and we as a parish will be inviting others to come.

Worth Discipleship Centre: Will Desmond

In response to the current call to evangelisation and the needs of our society, Worth, and all its various parts, is mobilising under a fresh vision. This vision is to offer an invitation into community and sacred space where we encounter Christ, the source of our journey and mission. I went onto share how the purpose of this vision will be to see every person transformed in Christ, and we will achieve this vision through four aims: to form Discipleship Leaders; to create an Authentic Community; to form Missionary Disciples; and to become a Resource for others. I concluded by sharing the various projects which will bring this vision to life in the next few years: the Brighton mission; a transformational parish; a discipling school; estate utilisation; engagement; and a new discipleship centre.

Once all groups had visited each stall, we came together to reflect on 'What we loved' about our Parish and what we had heard, 'What could make it even better if....' And also, 'What concerns us' for the future. A very warm thank you to all who contributed with openness, honesty and love in Christ. Please find below a summary of all of the contributions from those came. There will be many more opportunities to contribute and be involved in the New Year.

What we Love:

All of it!

Today's meeting! The courage to step out and give it a go!

Parish Priest is open to Change,

Promising initiatives – Discipleship

The Forerunners and the Ascent programme

Alpha and Re-Lit

Spirituality

Worth Abbey: it is open 24 hours, The contemplative nature of Worth, The whole site, A place of prayer, Friendship, quiet

The Monks and their approachability and humility and presence in the Parish

Liturgy: I am an altar server and I find it fun!, The number of services available, Peace of Mid-week evening masses, The liturgy and tradition, A Parish Mass – our Sunday Morning, Those occasions that focus on social situations e.g.: refugees, homelessness, etc....

House Group

Community: Great sense of Community, Nucleus of committed parishioners, Teas, coffees and cake

St Dunstan's – Welcoming and Worshipful,

New Website

Music: The organ, the choir, singing hymns, the concerts

What could be better if....:

The Discipleship project – very much like the idea of the centre
Discipleship Centre... an open learning resource with a library and work rooms
There were more Young Families
A Family Mass
Grandparents meetings
Better connection with Saturday evening and Sunday masses
5pm Mass was shorter – i.e.: less sung responses
Baptisms and 1st Holy Communion to take place in the Mass
More contemporary music... better to connect with young and young at heart
Band with the Parish Mass – greater diversity of Music
Prayer Ministry, More prayer groups to be established in the Parish
Personal invitations to be involved to draw more people in
Use social media to Evangelise! Most young people use it!
Alpha was sold as for everyone to deepen our own faith
A Café, a place to meet, find out about Worth – antidote to loneliness – Real
Communion/community
More integration and opening up with other Church communities both ecumenical and
RC
Passion plays - Doing a play of Jesus's Miracles
Perpetual Adoration and healing clinic
More 'events', widely advertised and open to all e.g.: Carol Service, Barn dances
More activities that are relevant to and engage with children, teenagers and young
people
More outreach to those in need locally e.g.: Crawley
Local groups to meet together especially those who can't get transport to Worth, Run
free shuttle buses to Abbey
Share God's love with everyone – don't be selective

Concerns:

Sense of fear of change and of embracing the new
Absence of prayer and Adoration, A lack of importance/centrality of prayer
Alpha – is it re-inventing the wheel?
The word 'Evangelisation'
That not everyone is on board or supportive
The language used ... is for the 'high-brow' and not at all relevant to most
people....hard to understand and engage with
Lack of young families – how do we involve them?
Average age of parishioners
Need to engage young people – a priority
Discipleship effort – we should start with encouragement of families and children
How much will this cost – who will fund it?
Centralisation – bringing resources to Worth versus reaching out – need to work on
Christian communities – Ecumenism

Formation must lead not only to greater faith but to lay leadership – long lacking in the RC church and especially needed now...

Why have our Lectio groups gone?

Parish Pastoral Council?

Laity are not 2nd class people of God. Use their faith, life and love

Our geographic location and lack of public transport

What will be left in 10-20 years?

Other Concerns/ideas that are currently Out of our 'gift' in the Parish – but we will pass on to the Bishop.

Where are the new monks coming from? Important to work on the pipeline.

Seminarian training needs to change ...

The Church's exclusion of people in 'gay' relationships

The Diocese should be smaller

If you would like to know more or have a deeper explanation, please do come and speak to me, to members of the Evangelisation Core Team or to the Alpha Leadership team – details on our website or via the Parish office.

Yours ever, with my prayers. Fr Paul

Anniversaries

Please pray for the Souls of - John Davidson, Allan Cameron-Willson, Amy Constable, Revd Rupert Studd, Peter Lovell, Agnes Greenstreet, Trevor Adam, Jane Stimson, Dr Ronald Matthews, Molly Cox, Louisa Jane Thornton, Ann Botting, Doris Barber, Stephen Price and Dom Roger Bacon.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen.

Prayers



Please pray for Fr David Goddard, parish priest of Our Lady of Consolation and St Francis, West Grinstead died on Friday 23rd November. Please pray for the repose of his soul and the consolation of wife and children.

Parish News

Baptism

Please pray for Zachary Hicks who will be Baptised this Sunday 2nd December at 12 noon. We pray for his parents Matthew and Elizabeth and his family.

Please do come and welcome him.

Plate Collection

Gift Aided - **£341.67**
Non Gift Aided - **£229.26**
2nd Collection - **£121.85**

CAFOD

This weekend after mass, there will be a sale of handmade Christmas decorations in aid of CAFOD.

Confirmation Classes

The 1st session for the confirmation course will take place on **15th January**.
If you are year 10 or above and would like to be confirmed, please contact the parish office as soon as you can for an application form.



December Calendar



Sunday 2nd December 7.30pm – Handel’s Messiah in the Abbey.

Sunday 16th December 7.30pm – Organ concert with D’Arcy Trinkwon.

Monday 17th December 7.45pm – Parish Reconciliation Service in the Abbey.

During Advent - The launch campaign of Alpha for all.

Sunday 23rd December 4.00pm - Carol Service – In the Abbey for our Parish, friends, families and neighbours.

24th December 10.30pm – Carols and Organ Service to prepare for Midnight mass at **11pm**. (Refreshments in the Narthex after mass).

25th December 10.00am – Concelebrated Christmas Day Mass in the Abbey.

11.30am – Christmas Day Parish Mass at St Dunstan’s, West Hoathly.

Family Carol Service

As you will see from the December calendar on **Sunday 23rd December** at 4 pm the Carol service is back (there was a break last year due to the 4th Sunday of Advent being on 24th of December). We would like to offer the warm hospitality of Worth to all visitors and parishioners so please do bring your family and friends to this special service.

We have the pleasure of having Lewis, the new Director of Music for Worth School, leading the choir. If you could bake a tray bake, mince pieces or cakes that would be wonderful. They can be brought along on the day (either at the 9.30 am Mass or at the Carol Service).

For more details please contact: Christina Fitzsimons, cfitzs3287@aol.com.

Diocesan Pastoral Plan

The presentation by Bishop Richard for this deanery will be in the Friary Hall on

Tuesday 11th December at 7.00pm.

The meeting will be fully open. There will be refreshments from 6.30pm

Good Counsel Network

On **Friday 7th December**, the Vigil of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this Country. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed, and it really does save lives.

Love in a box

Make up a shoe box of gifts for a young person staying in supported housing over Christmas. Show them that somebody cares. They ask *“if you can use the term male and female rather than girl and boy to label the boxes”* and they ask *“that you think about the boys too. We have proportionately more boys at the centres and they often get forgotten because they are not as easy to buy for. The boys she says, love their fancy mugs!! Scarves, hats and vouchers”*.

DROP OFF POINTS

Horsham – The Y Centre, Albion Way RH12 1AH,

Crawley – YMCA Crawley Foyer RH11 7AQ and Ewhurst Road,

3 - 5 Ewhurst Rd, RH11 7JH,

Burgess Hill - 12 Mill Rd, RH15 8DR

Chilworth Abbey

You are warmly invited to a presentation of the fourth episode of ‘Catholicism - a journey to the heart of the faith’, by the acclaimed author and speaker Bishop Barron, on Saturday December the 15th, 2018. This is a Chilworth Abbey Study Day given by Fr John Seddon OSB, who will contextualise the episode and then teach and lead discussion about its subject matter. The day begins with Mass at 9.00 am, followed by coffee. The fourth film investigates ‘Mary, the Mother of God’ and will be shown, chapter by chapter followed by teaching and discussion. Midday prayer and lunch will divide the day and concludes at 4.00 pm. Come to part, or all of the day, as it suits you. Bring a packed lunch and a friend. Tea and coffee is provided. St Augustine’s Abbey, Sample Oak Lane, Chilworth, Near Guildford. GU4 8QR Online information: www.chilworthbenedictines.com

Crib Offering 2018

This Christmas our Crib Offering will be donated to the Catholic Children’s Society’s A&B Crisis Fund.

This fund provides emergency grants for children and families in our Diocese who are facing a crisis in their lives. Every single penny donated to the Crib will be given out via these grants.

Send a Christmas card to an imprisoned Christian

Connect and encourage someone in prison this Christmas. For more information go to - <https://www.csw.org.uk/connectencourage>

Refugee Tales Newsletter

Please see the below link for the Refugee tales very first Newsletter

<http://refugeetales.org/tag/rt-newsletter/>



REGULAR EVENTS IN THE PARISH

Mass Times - Saturday: 9.00 am (Concelebrated) and 5.00 pm (First Mass of Sunday),

Sunday: 9.30 am, with an 11.30am mass at St Dunstan's West Hoathly

Daily Mass: 8.00 am and 5.30 pm (Concelebrated), Holy Days of Obligation: Vigil Mass: 7.30 pm;

Feast Day: 8.00 am and 5.30 pm

Adoration - Friday evenings 7.00- 8.00pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Reflection, music and silence.

Sunday Adoration - In St Dunstan's Chapel, West Hoathly, every Sunday from 5pm-7pm to support the parish evangelisation programme. Please feel free to come for as long as you wish.

Confessions (Sacrament of Reconciliation) - Sundays 9.10-9.30am before Mass.

Marian Prayer Group - 2nd/4th Monday, 7.30pm, Lady Chapel.

Eucharistic Healing Services - Wednesday 12th Dec at 7.15pm. Contact Fr Rod 01342 710308 for further details.

Lectio Divina - Tuesdays 8.20pm, for 30 mins, Parlour 3 (entry from the Narthex) then Compline.

Sunday Prayers for Healing - Once a month, there is a half hour Service of Prayers for Healing in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel after 0930 Sunday Mass. All welcome! The next date is 6th January.

Christian Meditation Group - Blessed Sacrament Chapel 7.45pm for 8pm start to 8.45pm followed by Compline. Contact Gabrielle 01342 326118/Caterina 01243 554001. **Next date is 12th December.**

Vigil for Vocations - (1st Friday) 9.00pm to midnight in the Abbey Church. **Next date 7th December.**

Children's Mass - 1st Saturday of each month at 5pm. **Next date will be 5th January.**

Bereavement Support - Marian & Clare are available to meet you either at St Benedict's or to visit you at home. Contact the team via the Parish Office or email - clare_harper@hotmail.com or marian.imhasly@gmail.com.

Mothers Prayer Group - in Balcombe every Tuesday 12 noon. Call Marie 07860 845658. All faiths and none are most welcome.

"We descend by self-exaltation and ascend by humility"
(St Benedict)

Next Sunday's Readings: **Second Sunday of Advent**

1st Reading - Baruch 5:1-9 2nd Reading - Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

Daily Readings

Monday - Isa 2:1-5 Matt 8:5-11 (**St Francis Xavier**)

Tuesday - Isa 11:1-10 Luke 10:21-24

Wednesday - Isa 25:6-10a Matt 14:29-37

Thursday - Isa 26:1-6 Matt 7:21, 24-27

Friday - Isa 29:17-24 Matt 9:27-31 (**St Ambrose**)

Saturday - Gen 3:9-15, 20 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Luke 1:26-38 (**The Immaculate Conception of Our Lady**)

Parish Priest: Fr Paul Fleetwood

Mobile: 07764 260216

Parish Office Email: parish@worth.org.uk **Parish Office Tel:** 01342 710313

Parish Website: www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk **Secretary:** Maria Stribbling (Hours: 9.30am-1.30pm)

Night time emergencies only: 07494 484979

Cheques to be made payable to - Worth Abbey Parish

Safeguarding: Rachel Davies (07801 696354) and Maria Stribbling (01342 710313)

In Touch: If you would like anything to appear in 'In Touch', please contact Maria Stribbling at parish@worth.org.uk
(by Thursday 10am)

If you are unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, or if you have any prayer intentions, please let Fr Paul know.