

# In Touch

14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)  
5<sup>th</sup> /6<sup>th</sup> July 2025  
No. 1433



Dear Parishioners,

Next week, we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Dedication of our Abbey Church—the physical and spiritual heart of our Worth Abbey Parish. It's a wonderful moment to give thanks for the community that has grown around this sacred space over the last half-century.

In place of my usual message, I'm delighted to share with you a short history of our parish over the past 60 years. It's a story rooted faith, and lovingly sustained by so many of you. A warm thank you to our volunteer In Touch editor, Hazel Galang-Folli, for crafting the piece you'll find below.

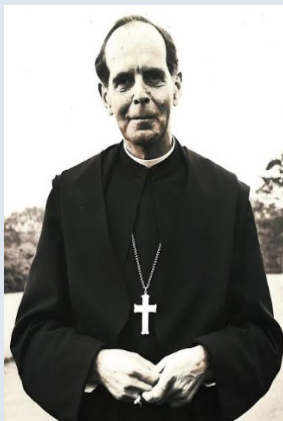
We're blessed with committed parishioners who quietly keep everything running: altar servers, readers, welcomers, flower arrangers, stitchers, singers, Eucharistic Ministers, Fair Trade and environmental sustainability champions, children's liturgy and Family Formation catechists—the list goes on. Come experience a renewal of faith. I invite you to step forward and share your time and talents to serve God through one (or more!) of the parish ministries. Encounter God through this warm, welcoming, and caring community, and take active part in Parish Life.

I send you all my very best wishes, **Fr Paul**

*P.S. Please don't forget to sign up for next week's Parish Picnic! You will find the sign-up sheets at the narthex, or you could also email Emily Coughlan. We very much look forward to enjoying an international pot luck lunch with you all.*

## A Parish with Deep Roots and Wide Branches: A Stroll Through Worth's Parish Story

The Worth Abbey Parish didn't begin with a grand announcement or shiny new building—it started with a simple question. In 1965, Abbot Victor Farwell asked Archbishop Cyril Cowderoy of Southwark whether the monks at Worth might lend a hand in serving the local faithful. The answer was yes—and so our parish was born.



Carved out from the countryside between the town parishes of East Grinstead, Crawley, and mainly the Parish of St. Paul's at Haywards Heath, whose priests had been celebrating there from 1957.



The new parish gathered in villages like Crawley Down, Turners Hill, Balcombe and West Hoathly, as well as the growing community at Worth Abbey itself.

Our first Parish Priest was Abbot Victor Farwell, followed shortly by Fr Jerome Tomlins, whose first ministry to place in Redditch, an industrial town in the West Midlands. Fr. Jerome celebrated mass in the chapel of St. Dunstan's in West Hoathly, and he was parish priest from 1965 until 1978.

*[Continued on page 2, after Prayers and Mass Readings]*

Abbot Victor Farwell

### MASS TIMES at Worth Abbey:

**Sundays-** 9.30am (family Mass, with choir)

**Mondays to Fridays-** 5.30 pm

**Saturdays-** 9am & 5pm (First Mass of Sunday),

Feast Days 5.30pm Days of Obligation, *see website*

**Next weekend** we will have a **Second Collection** for *Stella Maris* (Star of the Sea), to support the work with seafarers and fisher folk.

### Inside this week's **In Touch**...

- ✓ **New!** A Stroll Through Worth's Parish Story, pp. 1-3
- ✓ Parish Activities and Announcements, pages. 4-6
- ✓ Social Action Activities for Parishioners, page 6
- ✓ Other Activities including **St. Benedict week**, pp. 7, 8
- ✓ Worth Parish Community Billboard, pages 8-10

## Prayers

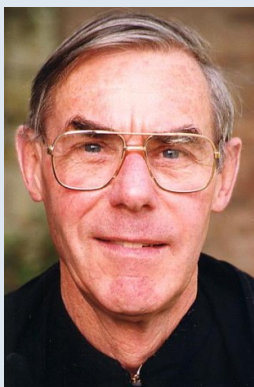
Please continue praying for the sick of our parish: Elfriede Huckstep, Severina D'Souza, Rowena Leaney, Beryl McNulty, Lin Eade, Jelly Labto, Sheila Charman, Hal Clarke, Gillian Maher, Krysia Smith, Pamela Bagwell, Terry and Susan Scoble, Sue Pearson, John and Sue Rutherford, Demelza Waring, Liz Hicklin, Jill Carter and Laura Rawlinson. Please also pray for Fr. Kevin Taggart.

Please pray for *Pope Francis*. Please pray for the souls of Setna McQuillan, Anthony Holland, Mitch Rozum, Charles Thompson, Roy Robinson, Stephen Ray, Jeannine Hall, and William Gittins, whose anniversaries are this week. ***Eternal rest grant unto them, oh Lord. May they rest in peace.***

## MASS READINGS: (6 -13 July)

**This Sunday** - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading - *Isa 66:10-14c*    2<sup>nd</sup> Reading - *Gal 6:14-18*    Gospel - *Luke 10:1-12, 17-30*  
**Mon** - Gen 28:10-22a & Matt 9:18-26    **Thu** - Gen 44:18-21, 23b-29, 45:1-5 & Matt 10:7-15  
**Tue** - Gen 32:23-33 & Matt 9:32-38    **Fri (St. Benedict)** - Prov 2:1-9 & Matt 19:27-29  
**Wed** - Gen 41:55-57, 42:5-7a & Matt 10:1-7    **Sat** - Gen 49:29-32, 50:15-26a & Matt 10:24-33  
**Next Sunday:** 1<sup>st</sup> Reading - *Deut 30:10-14*    2<sup>nd</sup> Reading - *Col 1:15-20*    Gospel - *Luke 10:25-37*

## A Parish with Deep Roots and Wide Branches: A Stroll Through Worth's Parish Story [continued]



Fr. Richard

In those early years, several monks helped shape the parish. Fr Richard Wilson, a former civil engineer, launched the Mass Centre in Balcombe in 1965 at the URC Hall, before joining the mission in Peru in 1968. He would go on to serve as parish priest in Lima from 1978 to 1988.

Meanwhile, Fr Charles Hallinan opened the Mass Centre in Turners Hill in 1965 at St Leonard's parish church.



St. Leonard's, Turners' Hill



Fr. Charles



Old chapel in the mansion, used as the abbey church

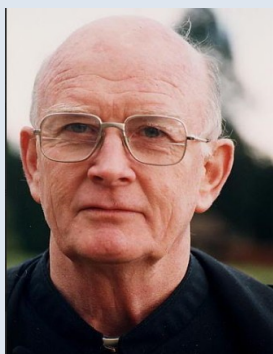


Fr. Charles, speaking to parish children in the old chapel

In 1975, the new Abbey Church was consecrated and became the Parish church. Before this, the original Abbey church was a chapel which has now become part of the monastery.



For many years, weekend Masses also took place in Mass Centres, borrowed spaces: churches kindly lent by our Anglican friends in Turners Hill and Crawley Down, and the URC in Balcombe. An early example of ecumenism in action—before the word was fashionable!



*Fr. Bede*

The next Parish Priest was Fr Bede Hill, who served as Worth parish priest from 1979 to 1988. Fr. Bede's roots were in farming before he felt the call to monastic life. He, too, joined the Peru mission in 1968, staying for ten years before returning to Worth. He opened the Mass Centre in Crawley Down—first in the village hall, then in All Saints Church.

Then came Fr Kevin Taggart, who was Parish Priest from 1988 to 1993. Fr. Kevin was originally part of the Downside Abbey community, and volunteered to join Worth Priory when it became independent in 1957. Those who know him well fondly remember Fr. Kevin as a gentle pastor with a twinkle in his eyes and a great sense of humour. He who would come out on many occasions, usually in the middle of the night, to sit and talk with sick parishioners.



*Fr. Kevin*



*Fr. Paul*

Our dear Fr Paul Fleetwood's parish leadership 1.0 was from 1993 to 1996. Fr. Paul, originally from North Yorkshire, studied Latin, Greek, the Classics, Anglo-Saxon and Old Norse. He joined the Worth Abbey Novitiate 50 years ago, and was ordained in 1979 alongside Fr. James Cutts and Fr. Alex Da Costa Fernandes. Like Benedictines before him, Fr. Paul worked in a very large and poor parish in the outskirts of Lima, Peru.

In 1996, Fr Roderick Jones became parish priest. Fr. Rod, who first felt a calling to priesthood at age 10, visited Worth Abbey as a young man, where he encountered a vibrant and devout community, deepened his spiritual connection, leading him to return regularly for monastic liturgies. He joined the Novitiate in 1980, and was ordained in 1985. He was Parish Priest until 2003, and will return to serving the parish with Fr. Paul soon.



*Fr. Rod*



*St. Dunstan's chapel*

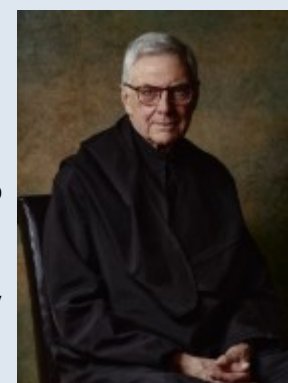
At one time in the earlier years, four priests served across the parish, with each village having its own dedicated monk, but by 2003, things had shifted. Abbot Christopher Jamison asked the Parish Pastoral Council to help shape a sustainable future. The decision was made to close the Mass Centres in Crawley Down, Balcombe and Turners Hill, while continuing at West Hoathly. In 2023, St Dunstan's in West Hoathly was closed too, marking the end of an era.

Meanwhile, back to our Parish Priests: Fr James Cutts became the next Worth Parish priest, serving from 2003-2014. Originally from Barnsley in Yorkshire, Fr. James was a teacher when by God's design he encountered Worth Abbey in 1972, and entered monastic life alongside Fr. Paul and Fr. Alex in 1974, and was ordained with them. Under his parish leadership, the parish House Groups was born – up to nearly a dozen at some point– meeting weekly to reflect on the next Sunday's gospel, and a series of lively monthly Parish formation sessions exploring theological, spiritual, and ecclesiological themes.



*Fr. Aidan*

Fr. Aidan Murray then served the parish for a year in 2015. Previously a student of chemistry at Imperial College, a transformative visit to the Worth Abbey sparked a calling that eventually led him to monastic life. Fr. Aidan now lives in Kemptown, Brighton, where he openly expresses his faith by wearing his habit around town, which often invites conversations about faith and the Benedictine lifestyle. His role at St. John the Baptist's Church and Community Hub, "The Fitz," extends this outreach, where he and two other "Monks in the City" provide opportunities for prayer and reflection, engaging the wider community.



*Fr. James*

We have been blessed in the last decade by the return of Fr. Paul Fleetwood to parish leadership starting 2016. We continue to flourish as a parish community. Rooted in monastic prayer and rural beginnings, the Worth Abbey Parish is still very much a living, breathing part of our wider community. Today, our 350 regular parishioners travel from far and wide—from Croydon to Brighton, from Kent to Surrey—gathering around the Abbey Church as one worshipping community.

## Parish Activities & Announcements

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES...

Wednesday, 9 July – **Worth Pro-Earth meeting** at St. Benedict's, 2pm. All are invited. New members welcome!

Saturday, 12 July – **Celebrations for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dedication of our Abbey church** [RSVP Link](#)

Sunday, 13 July – **Worth Abbey Parish Picnic filled with food, fun, and community spirit.**

Sunday, 20 July – **Last day of Jr. Church** (Children's Liturgy during Sunday Mass). This will resume on 7 September.

### AND OUR REGULAR ACTIVITIES...

**Sacrament of Reconciliation** – Sundays 08.45–09.15am in the church, or by appointment with Fr. Paul.

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** – Sundays 6.30pm, after vespers. ***Wednesdays temporarily suspended.***

**Rosary Group** – Mondays 7:10-8pm in the church after vespers. Please contact Rachel Davies: 07801 696354.

**Lectio Divina** – Tuesdays at 8pm via Zoom. Please contact Jenny Chapman [jenny\\_chapman@sky.com](mailto:jenny_chapman@sky.com).

**Christian Meditation**, at the Unity Room, 6:30-8pm. Contact Richard [rbrownd1@gmail.com](mailto:rbrownd1@gmail.com). Next one on 11th June.

**Vigil for Vocations** – Every first Friday of the month at 8.30-9pm, after compline.

**Bible Study Group** – Mondays, 11am at St Benedict's (Parish Office). Please contact the Parish Office.

### Fr. Paul's dates off-work in the coming weeks...

Fr Paul will be away from **28 July – 10 August**. If there is an emergency while Fr Paul is away it might be best to get in touch with your nearest parish. Haywards Heath 01444 450139 [haywardsheath@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:haywardsheath@abdiocese.org.uk); Horsham: 01403 253667 [horsham@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:horsham@abdiocese.org.uk); Horley (also for East Surrey Hospital) 01293 431703 [horley@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:horley@abdiocese.org.uk); East Grinstead & Lingfield 01342 325705 [eastgrinstead@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:eastgrinstead@abdiocese.org.uk); Crawley Tel – 01293 524176 Email – [crawley@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:crawley@abdiocese.org.uk)

### **CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ABBEY CHURCH CONSECRATION on SATURDAY 12TH JULY**

We are delighted to invite you to join us in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Consecration of the Abbey Church on Saturday, 12 July. This significant milestone marks five decades of faith, hope, and unity, during which the Abbey Church has served as a spiritual home for countless individuals. These years have also been a period of remarkable achievement and growth in Worth's mission. This celebration is an opportunity to reflect on our journey and look forward to the future with renewed inspiration. We've planned a day of prayer and celebration, and hope you'll join us for this special occasion.

#### **SCHEDULE OF THE DAY**

10:30am Arrival and welcome  
 11:00am 50th Anniversary Mass  
 12:00pm Refreshments in the Narthex  
 1:00pm Midday Prayer  
 1:15pm Lunchtime: Bring a picnic or purchase refreshments  
 2:30pm An Address by Rt Rev. Jeremias Schröder OSB, Abbot Primate of the Benedictine Confederation.  
 3:15pm Vespers  
 4:00-4:45pm Afternoon Tea

Kindly RSVP to help us plan our event effectively by using the form on our website, <https://worthabbey.net/>

### **Logistical Note: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dedication of the Abbey Church, July 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>**

We look forward to welcoming you to the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Consecration of Worth Abbey Church at our **9.30am Mass on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July**. This special occasion will be a joyful gathering of our Parish community, and we hope you will be part of it. We are very much looking forward to welcoming you and celebrating this milestone with you.

The morning Mass at **11.00am on Saturday, 12th July** will also form part of the weekend's celebrations. Parishioners are most welcome to attend. We will have many outside guests on the 12<sup>th</sup> so to help us plan and ensure everyone is accommodated **please RSVP** as soon as possible using the link above. Details here: [50th Anniversary of the Abbey Church's Consecration](#)

**Important Parking Information: Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July.** Due to very limited parking at the Abbey, we kindly ask **all guests** to park at Handcross Park School. A complimentary coach service will run from 9:30 to 10:45am to transport guests to the Abbey. A return shuttle service will operate from 12:30 to 5:30pm. Drivers are welcome to drop off passengers at the Abbey before parking at Handcross Park School. The distance between Worth Abbey and Handcross Park School is 4.5 miles (10- 12 minutes to drive), so please allow extra time in your travel plans to accommodate the transfer. [Here](#) is a link to the Handcross School location. It is

very important that visitors access Handcross School from the London Road entrance, opposite Handcross Primary School.

These arrangements are in place to ensure that everyone can attend our celebrations safely and comfortably. A limited number of parking spaces for Blue Badge holders will be available within the Abbey grounds, allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. For those unable to attend in person, the Mass will be livestreamed via the Worth Abbey website.

### **Save the Date: Sunday 13 July – Worth Abbey Picnic!**



Celebratory Mass at 9:30am \* Family Games and Sports at St. Bruno's \*  
International Potluck Parish Picnic

Please let us know if you'll be celebrating with us! It will help us plan better, and know how much food and games we'll need to prepare. With everyone's active participation, we'll all have great fun as a community!

1. We invite you to **bring a dish from your country of origin, or from a country (or UK county!) you've lived in or loved.** Whether it's a Polish pierogi, a Filipino lumpia or a Victoria sponge – let's break bread (or naan or brioche) together!

We have put a sign-up list giving suggestions and quantities in the Narthex on the Parish Community Board (to the left hand side as you face the bookshop) - **please do sign up to bring something along.**

2. **Do you have a gazebo/ marquee/ party tent that we could use?** Please get in touch!

3. **To make the day a success, we're looking for enthusiastic volunteers.** We'll also be collecting names of those attending and the dishes you'd like to bring. Please email Emily Coughlan at [emily\\_mary@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:emily_mary@hotmail.co.uk).



## **PARISH GIVING**

Parish costs have increased by some £15,000 since we last made an appeal for parishioners to review their giving in 2023 (when many of you responded very generously) and so we need to ask parishioners to consider whether they could increase their giving again please.

Our budget income for the current financial year is just £2,000 above 2023, so **we are looking at a £13,000 deficit.**

Repairs, maintenance, staff costs, utilities, Parish Priest and Church costs and diocesan levies have all gone up. We ask for your support. if you are able to increase your standing order please contact Maria Emmerton at [memmerton@worth.org.uk](mailto:memmerton@worth.org.uk) If you have any questions, please feel free to contact George Fitzsimons at [gfitz62246@aol.com](mailto:gfitz62246@aol.com) or see him after the 5 pm mass on Saturday, 5 July, and after the Sunday mass on 6 July.

## **The Worth Abbey Parish 60th Anniversary Quilt**

Would you like to contribute a square to a special celebratory quilt for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Parish?

We can provide the squares. Feel free to embellish them with appliqué, embroidery, buttons, felt, fabric paints etc... No advanced sewing knowledge needed! The theme is 'What does Worth Abbey Parish mean to you?' We need to have the squares back by the end of September so that we can make them up into the quilt in time for the Feast of Christ the King. We would be delighted to have contributions from parishioners of all ages. For more information please contact: Carol Morice ([carolmorice251@btinternet.com](mailto:carolmorice251@btinternet.com)) or Christina Fitzsimons ([cfitzs3287@aol.com](mailto:cfitzs3287@aol.com)).

**In Touch.** If you have anything you'd like published in In Touch this summer, please send by 8 July at the latest to [worthabbeyparish@gmail.com](mailto:worthabbeyparish@gmail.com) so we can include them in the 13 July edition.

We will send out a *lite* version of In Touch on 27 July and 17 August with parish prayers, mass readings and key announcements only. Full edition back on 7 September.

**We would love to hear from you!** If you have any feedback about In Touch, and/or would like to contribute to future editions (great ideas, photo essays, articles), please *get in touch* via [worthabbeyparish@gmail.com](mailto:worthabbeyparish@gmail.com)

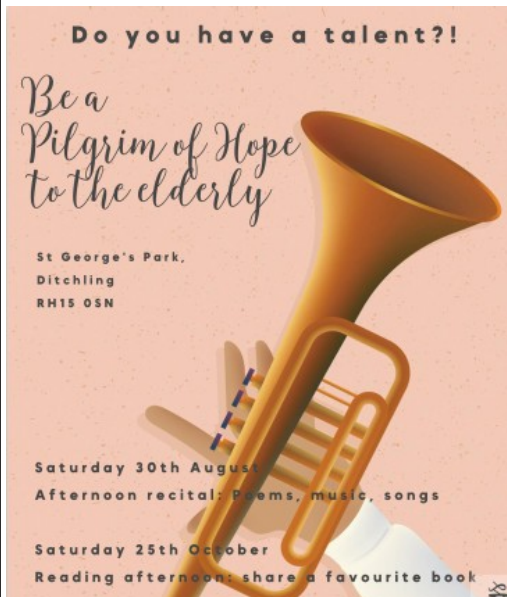


## Urgent Call for Helpers – FAITH ALIVE @ Family Formation Needs You!



We're looking ahead to September and are urgently in need of new volunteers to support our Family Formation program — especially our lively Faith Alive group (for children aged roughly 9–12). This group is all about putting our faith into action — helping young people explore what it means to live out their faith in everyday life, through engaging activities, reflection, and fun.

If you think you might be able to help please speak to Fr Paul or get in touch with Emily Coughlan at 07854 482461. We'd love to hear from you!



### Would you like to take part in a Parish-Led Local Social Action Activity?

As part of the Jubilee Year, the late Pope Francis asked that the worldwide catholic community reached out to six particular groups in their local community: the sick, the elderly, refugees, the young, the poor and prisoners.

We hope to run two events at a local nursing home (St Geroge's, Ditchling). We have provisionally set two dates - **30th August for a family recital and 25th October for a reading afternoon.**

**These events can only run if there is enough sign up and so we ask those who are interested to sign up on the community board** (to the left hand side as you face the bookshop).

The recital is for those able to play an instrument, sing or recite poetry. We particularly hope children will sign up.

The reading afternoon would involve children (with a parent) taking a favourite book and reading sections to a resident (or a parent reading it for them). If you have questions please contact Emily Coughlan via [emily\\_mary@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:emily_mary@hotmail.co.uk)

## Social Action Activities for Parishioners

Two of the most air-polluted villages in West Sussex are asking for your help. Storrington and Cowfold both struggle with air pollution caused by heavy traffic. Although they sit in the heart of our beautiful county, the air residents breathe is not always safe. It doesn't just affect these communities. Pollution from vehicles doesn't stay put. Fine particles from exhaust fumes and particulate matter from tyres and braking drift across towns and countryside and they get into our lungs, our blood and even the food we grow. The health impacts are serious – asthma, heart disease and even dementia have been linked to poor air quality.

Storrington has just been named the UK's first European Stork Village, just up the road from Knepp. It should be a beacon of nature recovery and instead it's still struggling with dangerously high levels of traffic and air pollution. An estimated 6 million vehicles pass through Storrington each year, roughly 40% of them are speeding. Cowfold sees even higher levels of traffic and has suffered serious road traffic accidents. Both communities have been designated Air Quality Management Areas due to persistent nitrogen dioxide pollution from vehicles. Two petitions have been launched to slow traffic through Storrington and Cowfold, making the roads safer and the air cleaner. Quieter roads also help protect local wildlife. Fewer vehicles and lower speeds reduce roadkill and allow birds and other animals to thrive, especially in areas close to important nature corridors. The deadline is midnight on Sunday 6 July, so if you live, work or study in West Sussex, please:

Sign the Storrington petition <https://westsussex.moderngov.co.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?ID=45>

Sign the Cowfold petition <https://westsussex.moderngov.co.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?ID=47>

### Pedalling with Purpose: Alek's 1,000-Mile Ride for Bone Cancer Research

This summer, one of our own parishioners, Alek, will embark on an extraordinary cycling journey across Europe—all in aid of a cause close to their hearts. Their route will take them over 1,000 miles through France, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, and Belgium, as they raise funds for the Bone Cancer Research Trust—a charity dedicated to supporting patients and funding vital research.

"It's a big challenge," Alek says, "but we're motivated by the impact this charity has. We want to spread the word, and we're hoping to reach our goal of raising £5,000. So far, we've raised just over £3,000, and we're so grateful for the support." All donations go directly to the charity via their Thanksgiving fundraising page, and every contribution, big or small, brings them closer to their target—and brings hope to those affected by bone cancer.

Let's rally behind Alek as he takes on mountains, long roads, and summer heat with faith and purpose. As a parish community, we can help them cross both the fundraising finish line. Please consider giving: [https://www.justgiving.com/page/bruno-grima-1746647928272?utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=WA&utm\\_campaign=015](https://www.justgiving.com/page/bruno-grima-1746647928272?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=WA&utm_campaign=015)

## Other Announcements & Activities

### St Benedict Week 5-13 July 2025

**Hope begins in silence**

Come and pray where monks pray

**St Benedict Week**  
5<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> July 2025

In this Jubilee Year, discover where hope begins, in the peace and silence of your local monastery.

We are blessed in the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton with three Benedictine communities, praying for us every day. During the week of St Benedict's feast, the communities invite you to pray with them and share in their silence at any time, and in the rhythm and peace of their prayer times (details can be found on their websites).

- Bishop Richard Mather

Worth Abbey, West Sussex  
worthabbey.net

St John the Baptist, Brighton (Monks in the City)  
monksinthecity.uk

Chilworth Abbey, Surrey  
chilworth.benedictines.com

The Lay Community of Saint Benedict (LCSB)  
lcsb.uk/st-benedictweek



As we approach St Benedict Week, we warmly invite your parishioners to spend time in prayer and stillness at your local Benedictine monastery, Worth Abbey. The theme for this special week is: "Hope begins in Silence."

In this Jubilee year, we pray that people may find renewal in the rhythm of monastic prayer and that hope may be born in the silence shared with these dedicated communities. This invitation comes personally from Abbot Mark, who writes: *"The monks of Worth Abbey warmly invite you to visit our Abbey Church and grounds during this special week. Whether you wish to join us in the Divine Office, attend the celebration of the Eucharist, walk the woodland paths in silence, or simply sit in the quiet beauty of the Abbey Church, all are welcome. The Rule of St Benedict offers a deep rhythm of life in a noisy and hurried world. Come and experience something of the peace, hospitality and prayer that have shaped this place and those who dwell here. You are most welcome."*

We give thanks for 1,500 years of the Rule of St Benedict—a living tradition of prayer, hospitality and stability that continues to speak powerfully to our restless and distracted age. You can also take the opportunity to visit **St Augustine's Abbey, Chilworth, near Guildford**. Doors are open every day of the year, from before dawn to after dusk, for members of the public who wish to share in the beauty of Divine Office often sung in Latin, attend Holy Mass or simply find stillness in sacred space. Similarly, **the monks in Brighton (Monks in the City)** invite you to join in their daily offices in St John the Baptist Church, to enjoy the peace of this prayerful oasis for the city of Brighton. There will be a Saturday Sanctuary talk during St Benedict Week with Abbot Mark, with the church open for prayer each morning.

**The Climate Coalition Mass Lobby - On 9 July**, thousands will come to Westminster to tell our MPs: this is a moment for leadership that protects what matters most — our health, our nature, our communities, our climate, and our future. See: <https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/act-now-change-forever>

The Climate Coalition are asking MPs to back bold, practical action by committing to: (1) Deliver vital funding to communities hit hardest by climate change here and around the world, (2) Cut bills, back UK jobs, and secure a greener fairer future for all, (3) Restore nature to create a safer, healthier future.

**NATIONAL JUSTICE & PEACE NETWORK Conference 2025** 25-27 July, Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire

This year's conference will be focussing on the spirituality and practice of non-violence. Various speakers will be sharing their experiences, coming from different angles, calling people to reclaim our Spirituality and praxis of Gospel non-violence.

Keynote Speakers: Dr Rowan Williams: former Archbishop of Canterbury AND Dr. Joanna Frew: Rethinking Security 'Is Violence and War Inevitable?'

An incredible and prayerful weekend of interesting speakers, workshops, exhibitions, good food, company and a Ceilidh!

Please contact Sharon Chambers; Email: [admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk](mailto:admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk) or 02079014864 [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk)

### Diocese Jubilee Pilgrimage of Hope

This is a reminder about the Arundel & Brighton Ecumenical Walking Pilgrimage from the **9 - 23 August**. Walking across the Surrey Hills and along the Sussex coast, this year's route will visit every deanery in the Diocese. All are welcome to join the group for a day, a few days, or the whole 2 weeks. To learn more, [click here](#)

### Walk the Augustine Camino for Mary's Meals 1-8 Sept.

#### Join us for the whole pilgrimage or walk with us for a day!

Join us as Pilgrims of Hope on the Augustine Camino, starting at Rochester Cathedral and finishing at the Shrine of St Augustine. The pilgrimage will take us to four designated Jubilee churches: The Friars, at Aylesford + St Jude's Shrine, in Faversham + St Thomas of Canterbury, in Canterbury + St Augustine's Shrine, in Ramsgate. To book your place, email [roy.peachey@marysmeals.org.uk](mailto:roy.peachey@marysmeals.org.uk).

### A Worth Community Pilgrimage to Vézelay, France

This is a reminder about the Worth Community Pilgrimage to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of La Basilique de Vézelay in Burgundy, **from October 26th to 30th, 2025**.

This trip is supported by Worth Abbey Pilgrims, Worth Society, and Worth Parish. Please see previous **In Touch** editions for more details.



## Fancy a relaxed, fun, faith time away as a family or a Parish community?

Join us at the CELEBRATE festival to you this summer at Worth School, in the beautiful West Sussex countryside on **16-20 August 2025**.



It's going to be a fun, family and faith-filled event with a Festival Big Top! There will be 8 children's and youth groups for all ages from babies creche to the Joel's Bar youth (16-22 years). There's on-site full board accommodation or camping on the field. CELEBRATE this Jubilee year as a parish family! Amazing speakers include Fr Roberto Pasolini, the Papal Preacher! Fr Columba Jordan CFR (Called to More Podcasts), Rachel Turner (Parenting for Faith) - Loads of family activities - Worship with One Hope Project - Prayer times and Adoration in the Abbey - Café Tent - Storytelling - Drama with Rise Theatre - Bedtime Bible Stories and much more. Book via <https://www.celebratetrust.org/festival>

**We are INVITED to the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Jubilee Celebrations of our Diocese.** A Festival of Hope will be celebrated by the Catholic faithful from all over the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton on **20 September at the Ardingly Show grounds**. Our parish has a limited number of tickets for this joyful event. If you would like to attend please get in touch with Fr. Paul.

## Worth Parish Community Billboard

### **Tapestry of Faith: 60 Years, 60 Faces, One Parish Community**

Marking Worth's 60 years we're featuring members whose stories are threads in the rich tapestry of our shared journey.

#### **#22 Stella Russell**

Stella was born in London but grew up in a small Welsh town surrounded by mountains. The eldest of four siblings, she comes from a remarkable line of women doctors—her grandmother was one of the first women to attend her medical school—and despite her GP mother's best efforts to dissuade her, at age 15, Stella chose to pursue a career in medicine.

She studied at Cardiff University and UCL, and found her path in haematology. "In view of multiple maternity leaves," she jokes, "I am a rather long-standing trainee." Life has since taken a different turn: "My university self would be shocked to find that I now have seven children who have somewhat derailed my plans for a high-flying career."

Stella and her husband Joe, also a doctor, first met as teenagers during an Easter Triduum celebration at Worth Abbey. They were married at Worth in 2013, and all their children have been baptised here. Just like Stella and Joe, her parents met at Worth. Stella's father was once a novice monk in the early 1980s. Worth has been a spiritual home to her since childhood. "I grew up attending Easter gatherings with the Worth Abbey Lay Community... I had formative experiences attending the daily offices as a teenager while on retreat, praying in the Abbey church at night and on cross-walks to Worth during Holy Week."

A few years ago, Stella helped initiate the parish's Family Formation programme, drawing on her training in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, which she described as "a rich opportunity for children to encounter God."

With other parishioners and Fr Paul, they developed the **Mustard Seed** catechesis group for our youngest parishioners. Stella reflects on family life: "Since having children I have become increasingly mindful of our family being the 'domestic church'... Participating in the Church's seasons helps us to make our faith present in ordinary moments of everyday life."

"The Worth Parish has been my first experience of being rooted in a parish in my own right. Moving around at medical school and going through early postgraduate medical training with night shifts and weekend work made it very difficult to ever feel fully involved in a parish. The vocation of motherhood has made me all too aware of my failings and limitations," she says, "and being part of a wider church community has been a source of great encouragement and joy."



**A prayer, saint, or bible verse that inspires you?** *I am named after Our Lady – Stella Maris – and the rosary has been an increasingly significant prayer for me. I find 1 Corinthians 13, which I have hung on our kitchen wall, highlights my shortcomings (I like to substitute my name for "love" and they are all too visible!) and challenges me to be more Christ-like. As a mother and doctor I have also found St Gianna Molla to be a source of inspiration and a great intercessor.*

**What activities do you enjoy?** *I love spending time outside with my family, be it in the garden, at a park or wood. I also love reading and tend to have several books on the go at any one moment!*

**What plate of food brings the best memories?** *French bouillabaisse reminds me of many happy times spent in France.*

**A cherished memory of being part of this parish?** *The Baptisms of all our children have been times of great joy. Having our twins baptised on Easter Sunday was a particularly poignant moment.*

**What are your hopes and prayers for the future of our parish?** *It's been a blessing to see the number of families grow over the years; I pray that the parish continues to draw in families and those in other stages of life, and that all may walk alongside each other as we journey in faith.*



## #23 Anna Russell



Anna, Stella's eldest daughter, is ten years old, full of energy, and clearly has a deep love for both faith and fun. A Year 5 pupil at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Haywards Heath, she says her favourite subjects are maths, humanities, and PE. Outside the classroom, she enjoys reading and writing, playing the violin and piano, building Lego creations, swimming, and being active in football and cricket.

Anna grew up in the peaceful community at Worth, where she serves at the altar and takes part in the Faith Alive catechesis group for children her age who have done their First Holy Communion. Her First Holy Communion is a treasured memory: *"I especially remember feeling a sense of being chosen by God,"* she says. One detail that stuck with her: *"I had to come away from a family gathering to get to the practice with unconsecrated hosts!"*

Later this year, Anna looks forward to receiving her **bronze serving medal**—a well-earned milestone in her altar serving journey. *"I also enjoy altar serving as it allows me to play a part during the Mass and gives me a greater understanding of what happens at Mass."* Among the many liturgies she has served at, a few stand out. *"There have been some very special Masses,"* she reflects, *"like Father Stephen's funeral and Maundy Thursday. It made me feel very honoured and relied-on."*

When asked what she loves most about Worth, Anna's answer is immediate and heartfelt: *"It's a very different church to many other churches—not just in architecture, but in how Mass happens, with all the monks rather than just one priest. I really like all the monks; they are very friendly and fun. I also love the peace in the Abbey Church at night."*

Sundays at Worth are about more than Mass—there's also football on the grass after church with her church friends Zita, Patrick, Peter, Charles, John, Luken, and Nicky. Whether on the pitch, behind the altar, or seated quietly in prayer, Anna is learning to live her faith with joy, friendship, and a sense of belonging. And in her own way, she's already helping shape the future of our parish.

**A prayer, saint, or bible verse that inspires you?** *St. Joan of Arc because of her immense amounts of trust, bravery and strength. I love her because she was willing to go into battle as a female soldier.*

**What activities do you enjoy?** *I enjoy camping, doing competitive sports events, cross country runs, bike riding, doing extensive maths, water fights, watching football matches, seeing friends and family, (and of course, playing football!)*

**What plate of food brings the best memories?** *My favourite food is Christmas Dinner because it is just literally so good!*

**A cherished memory of being part of this parish?** *Happy events I will remember were: when I did a bake sale and raised £150 for CAFOD, and the baptisms of all my siblings.*

**What are your hopes and prayers for the future of our parish?** *I hope that that the number of families continues to flourish, as with the number of servers! I also hope that more young men will join the monastic community so as to carry the church down to the next generation.*

## #24 Max Russell



Eight-year-old Max is so far the youngest parishioner we are featuring in the Tapestry of Faith! The eldest son of Stella, he is in Year 3 at St Joseph's Catholic School in Haywards Heath, where his favourite subjects are maths, history, and art. Whether he's solving sums, learning about the past, or sketching his latest creation, Max brings both energy and creativity to everything he does.

Outside the classroom, Max keeps busy with a mix of fun and imagination. *"I enjoy playing football, building with Lego, drawing, junk modelling, singing, and reading fact books,"* he says.

Recently, Max began altar serving at Worth Abbey—an experience he's already growing into. *"I enjoy helping with the priest washing his hands,"* he says with quiet pride. One special memory stands out: *"Holding a torch at Mass for the first time."* He's also part of the parish's All Saints catechesis group, where he enjoys the games and company. All Saints caters to children his age and those preparing to receive their First Holy Communion at Worth.

His First Holy Communion is another moment Max remembers clearly. *"I felt a bit nervous beforehand,"* he admits, *"but peaceful after receiving the Eucharist for the first time."* The day was made even more special because his godparents travelled from Bath to be there.

Max has a gentle appreciation for the Abbey's stillness. *"I like the quietness of the church, especially during Adoration,"* he says. One of his most treasured experiences was being at Worth on Maundy Thursday night. *"I loved being there at night time during Mass."*

Max is also part of the parish's Sunday football crowd, playing after Mass with friends Patrick, Charles, Nicky, and Lucan. Whether lighting the way with a torch, helping quietly at the altar, or enjoying a game with friends, Max is discovering that faith can be part of the everyday, woven into both solemn silence and joyful play.

And as he grows in faith, so too does the life of the parish—quietly, brightly, one small torch at a time.

**A prayer, saint, or bible verse that inspires you?** *My favourite saint is St Maximilian Kolbe who I am named after. He is my favourite Saint because he gave his life for someone else and because he was alive during World War II as I am very interested in this part of history.*

**What activities do you enjoy?** *Bermondsey Huts days, camping, making obstacle courses and riding my bike.*

**What plate of food brings the best memories?** *Fish and chips with baked beans because they taste so good*

**A cherished memory of being part of this parish?** *Becoming an altar server*

**What are your hopes and prayers for the future of our parish?** *That more families join so that we can have a parish football team*

# Come to our Parish Picnic

Bring your own:

picnic chairs/rugs

drinks

cups, plates, cutlery

Sunday 13th July

After Mass

On St Bruno's Lawn

Fun games prior to food

Bring a dish for

us to share.

Sign up sheets

on the board



Worth Abbey Parish is committed to safeguarding all children and vulnerable groups within its community. Parish Safeguarding Reps are Charles and Ann McCarthy, email: [sg1.worth@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:sg1.worth@abdiocese.org.uk) Please report concerns about safeguarding directly to the Diocese, or, in an emergency, call the police. Safeguarding Office T: 01293 651148 E: [safeguarding@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@abdiocese.org.uk)

**Parish Priest: Fr. Paul Fleetwood** (Mobile: 07764 260216)

**Parish Office- Secretary:** Maria Stribbling - 01342 710313 (Mon-Fri 9am – 1pm)

Fr Paul - (when Maria unavailable) – 01342 710351

**Parish Office Email:** [parish@worth.org.uk](mailto:parish@worth.org.uk)

**Parish Website:** [www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk](http://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk)

**Nighttime emergencies only:** 01342 710331

**Cheques to be made payable to** Worth Abbey Parish **Online banking payments** -Account 61076892 Sort Code 40-05-20

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

**Safe Spaces:** 0300 303 1056

**Web:** [www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk/](http://www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk/)

**Email:** [safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk](mailto:safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk)

*If you're unable to go to Mass and would like to receive Communion at home, or if you have prayer intentions, pls contact Fr Paul*