

# In Touch

23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)  
6<sup>th</sup> /7<sup>th</sup> September 2025  
No. 1437



Dear Parishioners,

I hope that you and your families are all well, and that over the summer you have been able to enjoy some relaxing time together. You will see below our editor's appeal for photos of your time away and activities which you have shared, and I look forward to seeing the places which you have visited.

You will also see an appeal for volunteers for the many different activities which are needed to make our parish flourish. Do please look carefully at all these, and see which one, or maybe several, you might like to join. Our community will grow only if you can be generous with your time and energy, for taking part and playing an active role in the life of the community is what will attract new members to join us. An active community projects a sense of life and of love, and newcomers will naturally feel drawn to join us, and we will be able to make them welcome more easily. These activities are generally termed *ministries* – that is, acts of service which we offer to one another; and I would like to take this opportunity to thank very sincerely all those of you who are already engaged in some, or several, ministries for our community.

St Paul, writing to the Corinthians, (1 Co 12) tells them : *There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord...Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.* Paul affirms that each of us has received gifts from God's Holy Spirit so that we can all play our part in building up the Body of Christ, the community of the Church. Do please reflect on the gifts which He has given you, and how you can use them in the service of the community. By doing this we come to belong more deeply to the community and to Christ.

Meanwhile the Season of Creation begins on September 1<sup>st</sup>. This is a time to thank God for His Creation and to reflect on all it means to us. On Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate this at our 5pm mass. Do please join us. Do please consider whether you could join our ecology group, Worth Pro Earth. Please see <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/>

Finally, do please note the talk by Jenny Finlayson, of CAFOD, about the Jubilee. This will take place on Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup>, after mass, in the Unity Room.

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

☀️☀️☀️ **Fellow Parishioners, Take Us on Holiday With You!** ☀️☀️☀️

***"We are people of God, invited to live the faith not individually or in isolation, but in community, as a people that is loved and dear to God."* – Pope Francis, on living the faith together**

**How about a light-hearted activity to inspire each other?** This summer, many of us headed off to explore summer hotspots across the UK or farther afield. If you find yourselves visiting a church or going to Mass somewhere different, we'd love to come along... vicariously, of course!

📷 Snap a family selfie in front of the church you visit, or any memorable photo from your trip 📝 **By Sept. 8,** send us this photo and a few lines about where you were and what the experience was like. Email us at [worthabbeyparish@gmail.com](mailto:worthabbeyparish@gmail.com) and we'll share them in In Touch. **We've extended the deadline, because we'd love to hear from you!**

**MASS TIMES at Worth Abbey:**

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

**Mondays to Fridays-** 5.30 pm

**This Saturday-** 11am & 5pm (First Mass of Sunday),

Feast Days 5.30pm Days of Obligation, see [website](#)

**Summer Schedule for Daily Liturgy:** Matins: 7:00am, Lauds: 8:00am and 6:45pm. These will be temporarily held at the Unity Rm

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

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✓ **New!** *Back to School Prayers, page 2*

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## MASS READINGS: (7 - 14 September)

**Sunday, 7 September** - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading – *Wisdom 9:13-18b* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading - *Philemon 9-10, 12-17* Gospel – *Luke 14:25-33*  
**Mon Nativity of Mary**– Micah 5:1-4a; Matt 1:1-16,18-23 **Thu** – Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 6:27-38  
**Tue** – Colossians 2:6-15; Luke 6:12-19 **Fri** – 1 Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14; Luke 6:39-42  
**Wed** – Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 6:20-26 **Sat** – 1 Timothy 1:15-17; Luke 6:43-49  
**Sunday, 13 September:** 1<sup>st</sup> Reading – *Numbers 21:4b-9* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – *Philippians 2:6-11* Gospel – *John 3:13-17*

## Prayers

**Please pray 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. And, please pray for the healing of our Diocese Youth Adviser Lizzie Wakeling.

Please pray for the soul of Worth parishioner **Paul Kibble**, who died on August 20. Please continue praying for the soul of *Pope Francis*, and the souls of Peter Grace, Margaret Owers, David Carter, Reg Parker, Rorie Duncan, Bridget Cheal Snelling, Norman Maddock, Alexandra Church, Charles Hurdman, Michael Burke, Matthew Lovell, John Blake, Anton Wasykiw, Georgette Groombridge, and Rosemary Albert whose anniversaries are in September. ***Eternal rest grant unto them, oh Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.***



**BACK TO SCHOOL PRAYERS:** We encourage parishioners to pray these with your children or grandchildren throughout the week as we start another school year.

**Monday (Help us to Learn):** God of grace and love, be with us this year as we change and learn and grow. Open our hearts and minds to the beauty and wisdom of those around us. Guide us to see and celebrate our differences as opportunities for learning and understanding. Help us to make our school a place of warmth, welcome and acceptance, where each person is valued and heard. Teach us to appreciate the many gifts we can offer to each other in class. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Tuesday (Help us to See):** Jesus, You showed us how to see those who are blind, those who are small, those who are fearful... We can see with our eyes. More importantly, we can see with our hearts. You invite us to see with our hearts, to see deeper than the surface. Guide us this year. When our attention is called to someone or something, remind us to be loving, compassionate and kind. Then we will see the way you see, and we will be one. Amen.

**Wednesday (Help us to Listen):** Loving God, You have created us with hearts for listening and caring for others. Help us to remember that everyone needs to be heard, and have their story honoured. Give us the spirit of patience and compassion to listen to others. Help us to understand that the path to peace and unity is through listening. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, who listens to our every need. Amen.

**Thursday (Help us to Reflect):** God of grace and goodness, You gather us together as a community of faith, to pray and give thanks for the gift of a new day. Help us reflect on who we are and who You created us to be. Give us the wisdom to recognize You in our relationships with others. Guide us to be understanding and thoughtful in our actions. May our actions help us bring peace to our school, families, and the world. Touch our hearts as we approach this new day with respect and kindness. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Friday (Help us to Act):** Jesus, thank you for always being part of our lives, showing us your love everyday. Help us to use our words and actions to care for others, and for the earth and all its creatures. When we talk about our faith, show us how to also put those words into practice, by being caring and forgiving, by being generous and by including others. Help us to make loving choices, and to help your family to grow stronger everyday. We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.  
*(Based on prayers from St Basil Catholic School, Canada)*



**Worth Intercessory Team:** Are you looking for a **new** way to serve God through our parish, even with a busy schedule? Are you a young adult (or any age, really) finding it difficult to pray regularly? Or a busy mum with a young family with very little time? Are you one of our older or less mobile parishioners, who wants to do something for others? Do you believe in the power of prayer? You are all welcome! Everyone is welcome!

*"For where two or more are gathered in my name, there I am in their midst."* – Mt 18:20

We're starting a new prayer group: the Worth Intercessory Team (WIT). We'll meet on Zoom once a month, midweek, for about 45 minutes, creating a welcoming space to pray together for our parish community, and the wider world. We hope to structure each Intercession Session with: (1) Praying the News: for world events and the people affected, (2) Praying for the Church: for the Pope and our wider faith family, (3) Prayers for the Parish: for the sick, the dead, and our parish prayers.

This is a chance to grow in prayer, deepen parish connection, and make a difference—without leaving your home. If you'd like to join please email [worthabbeyparish@gmail.com](mailto:worthabbeyparish@gmail.com). We look forward to praying with you!

# 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. We hope you've been enjoying getting to know some of your fellow parishioners.

As we reach the second half of our 60 faith journeys, we would like to do an *open call to other parishioners who would be happy to also put themselves forward and share their story*. You might not know it yet, but your journey of faith will inspire your fellow parishioners, and give glory to God. Please get in touch with us via [worthabbeyparish@gmail.com](mailto:worthabbeyparish@gmail.com) and we'll send you the list of questions to help us write your testimony.

**#27 Mary Best**



Mary was born in Grayshott in Hampshire, in a Catholic home for unmarried mothers. "I was very fortunate to be adopted by the most loving catholic parents who then welcomed two more adopted children into the family," she remembers. When Mary was five, the family moved to East Grinstead as her father took up a new Headship at Imberhome School, which was just opening.

Mary and her sisters attended Notre Dame Worth School, and she later trained as a teacher at Digby Stuart College (now part of Roehampton University). She found her true calling in teaching, spending thirty-three happy years working with Reception-age children — a career she describes as deeply rewarding and joyful.

A 'Cradle Catholic', the Church and faith has "always been an integral part of my life", Mary says with a smile. Her connection to Worth Abbey is rooted in family history: during the Second World War, due to the bombings, Mary's mother was evacuated to Worth from her teacher training college in Liverpool. Her father used to walk from Three Bridges station to Worth to visit her. With her parents' fond memories of Worth, many years later, Mary joined her parents in becoming parishioners at Worth Abbey, when her husband retired from the army and they settled in East Grinstead.

Years ago, when Father Rod called for volunteers to help with Junior Church, Mary stepped up. She says, "it felt it was something I could help with. That was back in 1999 and here I still am!" She loves sharing her faith with the community: "I enjoy sharing my knowledge and beliefs with the children, plus we have a very happy community who share this commitment. I have benefited from the support of Worth parish and made new friends. It is lovely to see the children grow and develop in their own beliefs."

Mary describes her faith as her "cornerstone in life." She finds great comfort and strength in prayer, especially the rosary, which helps her navigate life's ups and downs with a smile.

<p><b>A prayer, saint, or bible verse that inspires you?</b> Being named after Our Lady has felt special to me. The Hail Mary, Salve Regina and hymns to Mary have always been an inspiration. Visiting Lourdes and Fatima hold a special place I'm my heart.</p>	<p><b>What activities do you enjoy?</b> I enjoy gardening, walking with our dog, reading, visiting galleries, the theatre and my favourite treat of all the Royal Ballet at the Opera House. I am fortunate to have family and friends who share my interests!</p>	<p><b>What plate of food brings the best memories?</b> Fish and chips with my cousins when we visited them in Yorkshire! The treat at the end of a long journey. Always delicious!</p>
<p><b>A cherished memory of being part of this parish?</b> My parents had their funerals at Worth. On both occasions Father Kevin officiated and made each Mass so special. I always think of them when I walk into Worth on a Sunday morning, such a cherished and joyful memory.</p>	<p><b>What are your hopes and prayers for the future of our parish?</b> I hope our Parish continues to grow, as it is such a welcoming community. I hope younger men will feel called to join the Benedictine order.</p>	



**#28 ROWENA LEANEY**

Rowena's story began in Bushey, Hertfordshire, where she was born and later attended Loreto College in St Albans. Life brought her to Brighton in the early 1970s, and it was there that she met her husband, Peter. Together, they raised three sons—Chris, Jon, and Alex—while building a family life full of love and shared memories.

For more than 30 years, Rowena dedicated her career to education, working one-to-one with children with special needs at Cottesmore St Mary in Hove. "I loved my job. It didn't feel like work," she says, though she admits that "some days were very challenging." Two years ago, she retired—a well-earned pause after decades of making a difference in the lives of God's children.

Rowena's connection to Worth began in the late 1990s when her son Alex joined Worth School. "When I first came to Worth, I joined the choir and helped on the Fair Trade stall," she recalls. Today, her energy is focused on the Junior Church team—something she says she really enjoys.

And the team has grown too: "There used to be about six of us, but now we're twelve, so it's much more manageable!" About thirteen years ago, curiosity about her roots sparked a journey that changed everything. "I had always wanted to discover more about my Irish roots," Rowena shares. Taking an Ancestry DNA test opened the door to a family she had long wondered about. "I was fortunate and very happy to find them." That single test led to new connections: a cousin in Scotland,

her brother in Lancaster, and her sister and cousin in Ireland—the ancestral home of her family. “I now have regular contact with my extended family and, when I look in the mirror, I finally know who I look like.”

Life has brought its share of joy and heartbreak. Rowena speaks movingly of her youngest son, Alex, who had a rare allergy to antibiotics that damaged his lungs. “We were waiting for a heart and lung transplant, but, tragically, this did not happen,” she says quietly. Through that deep sadness, the Worth community became a source of strength. “We were very grateful that at that difficult time, the monks here at Worth gave permission for him to be buried in their cemetery. Knowing that he is at Worth has made my grief journey more bearable.” Faith continues to sustain her through life’s challenges. “My personal journey has again been particularly difficult over the past eight months,” she reflects, adding how being on the parish prayer list has been “especially comforting.”

From the joy of finding her birth family to the comfort of a caring community, Rowena’s story is one of resilience, faith, and love—woven together by deep roots and open-hearted connections.

<p><b>A prayer, saint, or bible verse that inspires you?</b> St. Anthony. Whenever I lose something he is my first port of call.</p>	<p><b>What activities do you enjoy?</b> I go to paracise classes weekly and am a member of Brighton Rock Choir. We are fortunate to have sung at the Royal Albert Hall, Wembley, Notre Dame, 4 weeks before the fire, and many other places too.</p>	<p><b>What plate of food brings the best memories?</b> Christmas lunch with all the family.</p>
<p><b>A cherished memory of being part of this parish?</b> My My husband and I celebrated our Golden Wedding Anniversary in May. Unbeknown to me, Erica Ballard sent a request to Rome and Fr. Paul presented me with an Apostolic Blessing from Pope Francis. Thank you Erica!</p>	<p><b>What are your hopes and prayers for the future of our parish?</b> I hope that the number of families coming to Worth continues to both increase and flourish as they are our and the church’s future.</p>	

**#29 Susan Pearson**



Sue was born in Barrow-in-Furness, where her early days included attending a Church of England infant and junior school—complete with morning visits from the Vicar. She fondly recalls going to church with her grandfather and growing up alongside her younger brother. She was confirmed into the Anglican Church in her early teens.

Training as a radiographer at the local General Hospital was Sue’s first step into the working world. In her early twenties, she ventured down to London, working first in a small local hospital and later in a large teaching hospital—all the while finding community and support through the local Anglican churches she attended.

Eventually, Sue moved back north to Manchester, where she met George. They’ve now been happily married for nearly 53 years—a wonderful journey filled with love, family, and plenty of memories. You might spot George making sure Sue gets to Mass on time, which she takes in good humour! Together they have two daughters, one granddaughter, and three grandsons.

Their eldest daughter’s international adventures, living in places like northeast China and Manila in the Philippines, brought rich experiences of attending churches abroad. Sue recalls, “Going to Churches in both of the countries, made a big impact on me!”

Sue and George settled in Crawley Down, and have been living there now for 40 years. Sue was deeply involved with All Saints Church there until nearly 30 years ago, when a profound faith journey, sparked in part by her experience with breast cancer, led her to become a Catholic. She first discovered Worth Abbey during “Mission ‘88 in Crawley Down,” and it wasn’t long before she fell for the calm, welcoming atmosphere of the Abbey church. “The moment I walk in, especially during Mass, I feel a peace that’s hard to explain,” she says.

Sue has worn many hats at Worth Abbey over the years: Reader, member of the original Mass Choir, helper at the Worth Day Centre, and now part of the Junior Church team and a keen “Stitcher.” For her, being able to connect face-to-face with others is truly important—a sentiment many will warm to. Her faith has deepened beautifully over the years. “In the Anglican Church, sometimes I felt a bit of a wall come up,” she reflects, “but at Mass, there’s none of that. It’s very hard to explain.”

Facing health challenges in recent years, Sue credits her faith—and perhaps her medical training too—with helping her stay strong. Do say “hello”, she will welcome your chat with a lovely smile.

<p><b>A prayer, saint, or bible verse that inspires you?</b> Psalm 121 is a favourite. We had it at our Wedding. <i>“I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven &amp; earth. He will not let your foot be moved, he who keeps you will not slumber... The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not smite you by day nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth &amp; forevermore.”</i></p>	<p><b>What activities do you enjoy?</b> Going out with George, seeing family and friends. Volunteering with Breast Cancer Now. I’m a textile artist, working in wet-felting, needle-felting and embroidery. I enjoy going to craft fairs with my stall of wet-felted onto silk chiffon scarves, small pictures and bags.</p>	<p><b>What plate of food brings the best memories?</b> Roast Turkey with all the trimmings, no brussel sprouts! Brings back bitter sweet memories, but I do like everything about Christmas.</p>
<p><b>A cherished memory of being part of this parish?</b> Vigil Mass at Easter, esp. the one when I became a Catholic.</p>	<p><b>What are your hopes and prayers for the future of our parish?</b> I hope children and young people continue to come to Worth Abbey Parish.</p>	

## Parish Activities & Announcements

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES...

**14 September, Sun.** – Parish Brunch resumes. All members of the parish are welcome! **New volunteers also most welcome!**

**20 September, Sat.** - **60th Anniversary and Jubilee Celebrations of our Diocese.** Please contact Fr Paul if interested.

**27 September, Sat.,** – Mass for Altar Servers (12 noon, Arundel Cathedral)

**4 October, Sat.,** - Celebrating the Vision: 50 Years of Francis Pollen's Worth Abbey Church, 10:30am at the Abbey Church

**1 November, Sat.** – Day of Reflection for Ministers of The Eucharist (11am-4pm, Christ the Prince of Peace, Weybridge)

### 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 resuming 17 Sept. 2:30-3:30pm.**

**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). All are welcome!

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

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

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

**Update on the Move to a 'Moderated Parish' Model:** The new Parish of North West Sussex is currently being established as a new canonical parish, bringing together Churches from what is currently the Deanery of Crawley.

**Why?** Given the falling number of ordained priests, in order to continue to carry out our mission effectively, we must adapt our structures and better support our clergy. Bishop Richard's hope is that by linking our existing communities in one new 'canonical parish', we can create more integrated, collaborative and flexible ways of working across our current deanery.

**What does this transition represent?** (1) Greater pastoral cooperation among our Church communities, with a shared identity rooted in prayer and worship, (2) A freeing up of clergy to focus on their responsibilities to preach the Word, celebrate the Sacraments, and provide pastoral care by rationalising administrative demands, (3) Providing formation and training, so to enable all our people to engage in the local mission as baptised members of the Church. Bishop Richard says, *"it will give us the flexibility to respond to current challenges in a way that is resilient, sustainable and adaptable. Without such a bold step, the pressure on the priests that we do have will become impossible for them to bear."*

**What has happened so far?** (1) The clergy have come together, prayed, and started to outline a structure and plan. They have met and shared out responsibilities in the new parish. (2) Areas that can start to benefit from mutual support have been identified, including schools, care of the poor and sick, and sacramental preparation. (3) Clergy and heads of the individual parish finance committees have met to discuss the future. (4) Bishop Richard has appointed Canon Tim Madeley to serve as Moderator for the new parish. As Moderator, Canon Tim will lead the clergy and a dedicated Leadership Team, ensuring the vision of the pastoral plan meets local needs and priorities. (5) The individual churches have been allocated into two geographical hubs—(a) **Horsham Hub:** St John the Evangelist Horsham, Corpus Christi Henfield, St. Gabriel Billingshurst, and the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation and St. Francis West Grinstead. (b) **Crawley Hub:** St. Francis & St. Anthony Crawley, St. Bernadette Tilgate, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Langley Green, St Edward the Confessor Pound Hill, Christ the Lord Broadfield, St. Theodore of Canterbury Gossops Green, Our Lady & St. Peter East Grinstead, English Martyrs Horley, St Bernard Lingfield, and **Our Lady Help of Christians Worth Abbey.**

**What will continue in the new 'canonical parish'?** Priests will continue to celebrate the Eucharist and other Sacraments, but the greater sharing of pastoral ministry should enable priests to call more easily on each others' expertise to allow priests with particular gifts to share them more readily across the local Church in support of our mission. Deacons will continue to officiate baptisms, weddings, and funerals. Priests will continue living in the same house, with the same administrative support. Individual church names will remain the same, and there is no immediate effect on the use of our buildings.

**What will change? What will happen next?** (1) A leadership team made up of clergy and parishioners will be established, (2) a proposal to establish the new parish will be sent to the Council of Priests in October 2025, (3) A new finance committee will be established on the establishment of the new parish, and existing finance committees will continue as "Stewardship Committees", (4) a new enhanced website will be developed using a platform proposed by the Diocese, alongside other communication and data-management tools. It is important that as plans develop, we continue to listen to and support each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. For any questions, please email our parish moderator: [tim.madeley@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:tim.madeley@abdiocese.org.uk)

Our Parish is committed to safeguarding all children and vulnerable groups within its community. Parish safeguarding reps are Charles and Ann McCarthy, with email [sg1.worth@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:sg1.worth@abdiocese.org.uk) Please report safeguarding concerns to the Diocese T: 01293 651148.



## All are Called to Serve

*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10)*

This month, we are opening a new round of sign-ups for our parish ministries.

Our parish is much more alive when each parishioner shares their unique gifts. Whether it is proclaiming the Word, welcoming people at the door, singing in the choir, helping with the altar, working with our children and young people, or supporting our hospitality ministries — there is a place for you. The bible reminds us:

*"Do not neglect your gift, which was given you." (1 Timothy 4:14)*

As our Parish continues to grow and evolve on our 60th year, we are calling for a renewal of active participation to keep the momentum. *"The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few."* (Matthew 9:37) Here is a list of ministries you can get involved with:

- 1. Liturgy and Sacraments:** **Altar servers** (children and adults welcomed), **readers of the Word**, writers who draft the Universal Prayers, **Eucharistic Ministers**, **Abbey Choir**, **Junior Church**, **flower arrangements** group, and the **Welcome Ministry**. There are rotas for all these services so parishioners are not serving every week, except for the choir which does not use a rota system but instead allows members its members to join whenever they are available.
- 2. Family Faith Formation:** **Mustard Seed Group** (3-5), **All Saints** (aged 6-8), **Faith Alive** (9-12), **Inspired** (13-15), **parents' group**. These groups meet monthly every 3rd Sunday, and volunteers are encouraged to help the group leaders in facilitating the lessons and activities, with the aim of helping our youngest parishioners and their families grow in faith through community.
- 3. Hospitality and Parish Socials:** **Hosting House Group/s**, **Sunday Refreshments Team**, **Fair Trade stall**, monthly **Parish Brunch Social** team (2nd Sundays of the month, after Mass), and **Parish Wine and Cheese Social** team (one Saturday a month, after Mass)
- 4. Prayers and Adoration:** **Bible Study Group** (Mondays), **Rosary Group** (Mondays), **Lectio Divina** (Tuesdays), **Eucharistic Adoration** (Wednesdays and Sundays, including immediately after Sunday Mass), **Vigil for Vocations** (first Fridays), the new **Worth Intercessory Team**, and **Christian Meditation** (monthly).
- 5. Community and Communications:** writers and contributors for our **In Touch newsletter**, online parish interface (website and socials), the **Worth Pro-Earth**, **RCIA** and **Alpha courses**, **food bank and giving to charities**.

Ministry is not just about "helping out." It is discipleship in action — a way to live out our baptismal calling and to bring Christ's love into the heart of our parish. God calls each one of us to *"serve one another humbly in love."*(Galatians 5:13)

We invite you to prayerfully consider where—not whether or not—God may be calling you to serve. Let your answer be: *"Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will."* (Psalm 40:8–9) Take this opportunity to step forward, grow in faith, and strengthen our parish family.

To learn more about a particular ministry you are interested in, please speak with Fr. Paul. If you already have an idea of where you might bring your talents, skills and time to good use, and wish to be connected with the leader of that group/ministry, please email [worthabbeyparish@gmail.com](mailto:worthabbeyparish@gmail.com) and we will point you to the right direction.

May God bless your discernment and your service. And, **THANK YOU** to all parishioners who are already serving!

**Is your son or daughter a Confirmation Candidate? Are they attending or will be attending the Family Formation group Inspired?** Bishop Richard will be hosting Evenings of Reflection for teenagers, including Confirmation Candidates, between January and March in different churches across the diocese. Young people will have the chance to meet each other, enjoy some fun and games, and experience Lectio Divina led by Bishop Richard. Attendance will be done by organised groups. Do reach out to Fr. Paul or our Family Formation leads if you would like your son or daughter to be part of an organised group, or email [formation@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:formation@abdiocese.org.uk) if you would like to attend independently.

### **Bible Study Group: new study**

During the past year the Bible Study Group looked at “The Acts Of The Apostles”, led by Stephen Horsman, and very much valued the insights and understandings we gained through that study. We learnt about the historical context to the narrative; gained a clearer understanding of St Paul’s personal background and character; and glimpsed the beginnings of important Church rites, such as Confirmation, that are still practised today. From September we will be working through “The Gospel Of St John”, which is a theological work rather than a narrative. We are looking forward to engaging with this very different kind of literature and would welcome anyone who would like to join us. We meet on Monday mornings, at St Benedict’s (the Parish Office), between 11:00 and 12:30. For further information please contact Cathy Agius [euphemia.cs@gmail.com](mailto:euphemia.cs@gmail.com).

### **Supporting Our Parish Family**

Our parish is a place where faith is nurtured, friendships are formed, and God’s presence is encountered. It is a place many of us turn to for strength, consolation, or simply the rhythm of prayer in the week. But like every household, our parish has practical needs too. We currently have a **£13,000 shortfall**. Rising expenses for maintenance, utilities, staff, the Church, diocesan levies all contribute to this growing gap. **So, we continue to call on your generosity.**

***If you’re able to increase your regular giving, we would be deeply grateful.***

Even a small increase in your standing order makes a real difference. To adjust your giving, please contact Maria Emmerton at [memmerton@worth.org.uk](mailto:memmerton@worth.org.uk). If you have questions, George Fitzsimons ([gfitz62246@aol.com](mailto:gfitz62246@aol.com)) can help.

If you’re a UK taxpayer, **Gift Aid** allows our Parish to claim an additional **25p for every £1 you give**, at no cost to you. And, if you are a **higher-rate (40%) or additional-rate (45%) taxpayer**, your giving can go even further. And finally—have you ever thought about the **legacy you might leave**? A gift in your will, however modest, is a lasting act of faith. **To explore this in confidence, pls contact Fr Paul, Maria, or George.** Whatever you are able to give—through time, prayer, or financial support—thank you. Your generosity helps keep the doors of our parish open, our ministries flourishing, and the love of Christ alive for the next generation, sustaining our parish life in more ways than you know. Thank you!

## **Social Action Activities for Parishioners**



Life (<https://lifecharity.org.uk/>) is a pregnancy support charity supporting women and families facing unexpected pregnancy and pregnancy loss. A woman who comes to Life finds a safe space to explore her feelings and make her own choices, and they support her in every way we can to overcome challenges and thrive. They do not refer women for abortion.

They are currently looking for “**Life Community Ambassadors**”, volunteers who could play a role in supporting women to have children in the toughest of circumstances. Life Community Ambassadors receive a comprehensive training programme from their fundraising team. The minimum commitment is becoming the liaison point for Life and your local community or parish. If you are interested to know more, please email [fundraising@lifecharity.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@lifecharity.org.uk). They are also looking for charity trustees. Please contact [kerrysmart@lifecharity.org.uk](mailto:kerrysmart@lifecharity.org.uk).

### **Take Part in CAFOD’s Gaza Crisis Appeal.**

Starvation is spreading across Gaza. As the Israeli government’s siege starves the people of Gaza, people are being killed at food distribution sites. Supplies are exhausted, and more lives are being lost each day. Pope Leo has appealed for “an immediate halt to the barbarity of the war.” Decisive action is needed now.

This is not just a humanitarian crisis - it’s the systematic erosion of what makes us human. The UK government is right to condemn Israel’s current actions in Gaza and suspend trade negotiations with Israel. But this is far too little. Please tell your MP that the UK government must take more decisive action. Click this link: <https://action.cafod.org.uk/page/174977/action/1>  
You can also donate today via <https://cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-emergencies/gaza-crisis-appeal>

### **Stop assisted suicide - action needed!**

We can still win the fight for life. The assisted suicide bill is expected to have its Second Reading in the House of Lords on Friday, 12 September. Right To Life UK is asking us to write to a few Peers with a tailored message that highlight key concerns with the Bill. By clicking this link, it will take you less than a minute to contact Peers in the House of Lords to oppose assisted suicide. Please act now: [www.righttolife.org.uk/aspeers](http://www.righttolife.org.uk/aspeers)

The assisted suicide Bill passed its Third Reading by just 23 votes (314–291). This now leaves the Bill with a very narrow majority. Because it is neither a Government Bill nor was it part of any manifesto, the Lords are fully entitled to heavily amend, time-out or outright reject this dangerous Bill. This means the assisted suicide Bill can still be defeated. It is therefore vitally important that Peers in the House of Lords are made aware of the many problems with the Bill and how introducing assisted suicide would put vulnerable people at risk. Communication to Peers needs to be prudent, measured and focused.

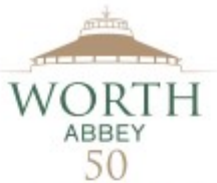
## Other Announcements & Activities



Our Diocese is inviting us to the **Festival of Hope on 20 September**, at Ardingly Showground. Limited tickets are available from Fr. Paul. It will be an amazing opportunity for us to be uplifted and inspired in faith, and equipping us with tools that will enable us to help the Church as we move forward in this era of mission. All are welcome, but special invitations go to parish leaders who have been taking part of the Pastoral Plan processes, catechists, and enthusiastic volunteers in the parish community.

Our Diocese Youth Advisor Lizzie Wakeling says: *"We are also keen to welcome families. There have been a lot of questions raised about a youth stream, we have determined that the talks will be suitable for teenagers as well as adults, and we have family friendly breakout spaces for the little ones if they need a bit of time away from the main event."*

*This is a once in a lifetime opportunity. We find ourselves at a key point in the history of our Church, and this celebration offers the chance to celebrate our journey as a Diocesan family over the last 60 years, whilst looking with hope towards the future at a time when we face great change, challenge and an increasingly secular society."*



### Celebrating the Vision: 50 YEARS OF FRANCIS POLLEN'S WORTH ABBEY CHURCH Saturday, 4th October, 10.30am, Abbey Church

In the Abbey Church's 50th anniversary year, we invite you to join us for a special presentation by architect Fred Manson (Associate Director, Heatherwick Studio) in conversation with Abbot Christopher Jamison, Abbot President of the English Benedictine Congregation, who will help us explore the innovative design and historical significance of this remarkable building. Come and share in an enjoyable and engaging conversation about the Abbey Church's past and future.

The morning will start with coffee and a warm welcome at 10:30am, followed by a presentation and further engagement at 11:00am. The talk will end in time for a light lunch and an opportunity to join the Community for Midday Prayer.

Please visit the news section of our website to register your interest. For more details please visit: [worthabbey.net/latest-news](http://worthabbey.net/latest-news) or scan the QR code.



**Mass for Altar Servers – Saturday, 27 September, 12nn.** Arundel Cathedral - Fr Aaron Spinelli, the Diocesan Director for the Guild of St Stephen, invites diocesan altar servers to a special Mass at Arundel Cathedral led by Bishop Richard. The Mass will offer an opportunity to celebrate and thank servers for their service to our parish communities and is for those who have served, those who are serving, and anybody who would like to serve – everyone is welcome. Please contact Fr Aaron to confirm attendance and numbers - and bring a cassock, cotta or an alb, if possible. Email: [aaron.spinelli@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:aaron.spinelli@abdiocese.org.uk). Mass followed by light refreshments.

**Building the Domestic Church, 4 October, St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley** - The Church teaches that **parents are the primary teachers of the faith**. During baptism, parents are called to promise the Lord that they will teach and pass on the faith to their children. How can we help parents experience a deeper encounter with Christ and build a plan to bring their family into a closer, lifelong relationship with God? Let us explore the concept of the Domestic Church and all it means for our families. We start at 9.30am. Please bring lunch. **Parishioners looking to have their children baptised this year are highly encouraged to attend.** Book via: <https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/og9uwr1i>



**Marriage Mass, 11 October, Christ the Prince of Peace, Weybridge:** Whether you're celebrating a special anniversary or simply giving thanks for your marriage, celebrate the grace of sacramental marriage. Bishop Richard will celebrate Mass at 11.30am. There will be an opportunity to renew your wedding vows. A drinks reception follows. The church is wheelchair-friendly.

**Worth Community Pilgrimage to Vézelay, France.** You're invited to the Worth Community Pilgrimage to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of La Basilique de Vézelay in Burgundy, **from October 26th to 30th.** Pls see previous In Touch editions for more details.

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**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

**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*