

Jubilee Year 2025



Pilgrims of Hope

In Touch

Christ the King (C)
22nd / 23rd November 2025
No. 1448



Dear Parishioners,

I hope that you and your families are well. I send you all my prayers.

This weekend, the last Sunday of the Church's year, we celebrate the Feast of **Christ, King of the Universe** – i.e. King of all Creation on behalf of God his Father. Writing about the end of times, Paul writes: *Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must reign, till he has put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.* (1 Co 15.24 ff) With this Paul reminds us of the destiny of each one of us, God's gift of His Kingdom to us and to all Creation, so giving us our goal and meaning in life. Next Sunday we begin our celebration of Advent, looking forward to the Return of Jesus at the end of time.

The liturgy gives us an excellent context in which to mark the 60th anniversary of our parish, reminding us all of our calling and destination as a Christian community. It is a good moment to look back and to thank God for all He has given us over these years. We thank Him for the inspiration of Abbot Victor, who, in 1965, inaugurated the Worth parish in four small local villages, where we were able to cultivate close ecumenical relationships. We thank God too for the construction of the Abbey church, again the inspiration of Abbot Victor, which was opened fifty years ago, in 1975, when, for the first time, we were able to welcome a congregation from far and wide, now hosting families from all over Sussex, Surrey and Kent. This is all the gift of God's grace, and the hard work of our pastors – Frs Jerome, Charles, Bede and Kevin, who have gone to their reward, and Fr James. I particularly wish to take this opportunity to thank those very many members of our parish, both past and present, who gave, and give, yourselves so generously to build our community. Truly, this is *your* parish, and, by God's grace and your continued hard work, we will continue to grow and to welcome more members. For me, the most significant development in recent years has been the arrival of young families. May this long continue! You bring us new life and energy and joy in abundance. Thank you all so much! I especially enjoy the monthly brunches, with so many young children hurtling around and happily enjoying their bacon sandwiches. Many thanks to those who make these possible. And I deeply admire those who run the Family Faith Formation, where I meet groups of tiny children in silent contemplation, and others launching paper planes. (How wrong is the spiritual *You'll never get to heaven in a jumbo jet*).

Do please pray for Fr Rod, who prepares to take over in January. (In the meantime, he assures me, he is building up his energy for the moment.) Thanks to your kindness and generosity I have enjoyed my "time in office" immensely over the past ten years; though I will still be lurking in the undergrowth, to help where I can, and especially to offer my successor good ideas about what he should be doing.

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

MASS TIMES at Worth Abbey:

Sundays - 9.30am (family Mass, with choir)

Mondays to Fridays- 5.30 pm

Saturdays: 9am and 5pm (First Mass of Sunday), Feast Days 5.30pm Days of Obligation, *see website*

Second Collection: Arundel Cathedral Maintenance Fund

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MASS READINGS: (23 November – 30 November)

Sunday, 23 November - 1st Reading – 2 Samuel 5:1-3

2nd Reading – Colossians 1:12-20

Gospel – Luke 23:35-43

Mon – Daniel 1:1-6,8-20; Luke 21:1-4

Thu – Daniel 6:12-28; Luke 21:20-28

Tue – Daniel 2:31-45; Luke 21:5-11

Fri – Daniel 7:2-14; Luke 21:29-33

Wed – Daniel 5:1-6,13-14,16-17,23-28; Luke 21:12-19

Sat – Daniel 7:15-27; Luke 21:34-36

Sunday, 30 Nov (1st Sunday of Advent): 1st Reading – Isaiah 2:1-5

2nd Reading – Romans 13:11-14

Gospel – Matthew 24:37-44

Prayers

Please pray for Aurelia Montagu, and for her parents, Anouska and Freddie. Aurelia will be baptised at mass on Sunday.

Please pray for persecuted Christians around the world. This week we mark "Red Wednesday". Aid To The Church In Need (ACN) request prayers especially for Burkina Faso, which has been partly overrun by Islamist groups, who especially target Christians for destruction. Please see their video: acnuk.org/bfappealvideo

Please pray for the sick of our parish: Ann Wise, Mandy Horton, Patricia Horsman, Stella Higham, Jim Tierney, Krysia Smith, Catherine Elia, Patrick Cambridge, Barry Wingrove, Rowena Leaney, Beryl McNulty, Lin Eade, Jelly Labto, Sheila Charman, Hal Clarke, Gillian Maher, Pamela Bagwell, Terry and Susan Scoble, Sue Pearson, John and Sue Rutherford, Demelza Waring, Liz Hicklin, Mike and Jill Carter and Laura Rawlinson. And also please pray for the healing of our Diocese Youth Adviser Lizzie Wakeling.

Please continue praying for the souls of Pope Francis, and also for Fr. Kevin Taggart and parishioners Tony Hicklin and Peter Annabring, who died recently. Please pray for the souls of Maud Enscoe, Anne Carter, Mrs Malton, Dr Ivor Haire, Susan Law, Andy Girdwood, William Avery Wright and Cynthia O'Neil whose anniversaries are this week. ***Eternal rest grant unto them, oh Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.***

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 are still doing an **open call to 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 and we'll send you the list of questions to help us write your testimony.*

#52 Jerry Lehane

Jerry is a calm and grounded presence within the parish, someone whose faith has grown steadily through family life, prayer, and community. His journey—from childhood experiences in Ireland to raising his own children at Worth—gives him a quiet clarity that enriches those around him.

Jerry and his wife Sandra have been married for seventeen years, having first met through work nearly two decades ago—he an engineer, she an architect. Together they have built a lively, loving home with their two children, Finn and Erin, who keep them both very busy and very happy.

Jerry and his family have been part of the parish for almost ten years. When they first moved to the area, they attended St Bernard's in Lingfield, but they kept hearing about Worth Abbey. One Sunday, curiosity led them to visit—and they never looked back. Worth quickly became a supportive and uplifting spiritual home, enriching their life as a Catholic family.

Raised in an Irish Catholic household, faith has long been woven into Jerry's daily life. He recalls fond memories of time spent in Ireland—family rosaries, the closeness of parish life, and the sense that faith was something lived and shared. Those early experiences, he says, have returned in new and deeper ways as his own family has grown.

Today, Jerry serves the parish as a reader, including leading the Universal Prayers, and is an active Eucharistic Minister. Though life is full—with two children, a house renovation, and a business in London—he finds it a privilege to offer what time he can and remains open to helping further, especially in ways that involve families.

Jerry reflects that his faith has matured steadily over the years. Like many people, his practice rose and dipped during early adulthood, though prayer and Sunday Mass were always anchors. Meeting Sandra was a turning point, giving him a renewed sense of shared faith at home. Raising Finn and Erin deepened this further, inspiring him to think more intentionally about what the faith means so he can guide them as they grow. *"It rings true that while we teach, we learn,"* he says. *"They teach me loads."*

Worth Abbey has supported that growth, especially through Family Formation, which the whole family enjoys. It has become a place where Jerry continues to learn, reflect, and be reminded of the richness still to explore.

When asked how faith has helped him through life's challenges, Jerry speaks with quiet clarity. Prayer, he says, brings comfort and perspective—helping him think things through, settle himself, and bring whatever is happening into light. He trusts that prayers are answered, sometimes in expected ways, sometimes understood only with time. He also sees strong links between faith and well-being: pausing, reflecting, practising gratitude, and trusting that he is not carrying things alone. In difficult moments, this has made all the difference.



<p>A prayer, saint, or bible verse that inspires you? ‘When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.’ It speaks to me about taking ownership, accepting responsibility and growing into what is asked of you.</p>	<p>What activities do you enjoy? Family Formation has been a great addition for all of us. Each session sparks conversations on the way home and over Sunday lunch. Outside of church: family time; motor racing - I have always been a petrol head; food - eating together as a family; and simply being outdoors.</p>	<p>What plate of food brings the best memories? Seafood. It reminds me of many wonderful meals and holidays with Sandra over the years.</p>
<p>A cherished memory of being part of this parish? There are many. Finn’s First Holy Communion and Confirmation are very special memories, as are Erin’s baptism and her First Holy Communion. In truth, watching the children receive their sacraments has been one of the great joys of our time at Worth. I also smile every Sunday seeing Erin go off to, and return from, Junior Church with such enthusiasm. And watching Finn sing in the school choir or serve at school Masses is moving every time. More recently, Sandra has begun helping with the flowers in the Abbey. I had not realised how much care and quiet organisation goes into them. Now I find myself sitting for a moment each Sunday, taking them in with new appreciation. It has reminded me how much is done behind the scenes by people we may not notice.</p>	<p>What are your hopes and prayers for the future of our parish? That Worth continues to grow, evolve and progress. Like many people, I worry about falling priest numbers, yet Worth seems blessed in attracting seminarians. I pray that more may hear the calling.</p>	

#53 Erin Lehane



Erin, whose bright curiosity and kind heart bring a lovely sense of wonder to our parish family is the sort of child who notices the little things — a bird in the trees, a new idea in science class, a funny moment with her dogs — and treasures them.

At just eight years old, Erin brings a bright, thoughtful presence to our parish community. Now in Year 4 at Handcross Park, she is someone who loves to discover how things work—especially in DT and science. When she’s not building or experimenting, you’ll often find her outside on long walks or bike rides with her brother Finn and two dogs, Lexi the German Shepherd and Lana the fox-red Labrador. Animals are very much part of Erin’s world: she also helps look after a blind cat called Lottie and no fewer than fifteen chickens! It’s no surprise that she dreams of becoming an animal scientist one day—“maybe even having a zoo or an animal sanctuary”—and hopes to help protect the environment as she grows up.

Though sometimes a little shy, Erin has a creative streak that comes alive on stage; she enjoys performing in plays at school. She also plays both the piano and the guitar, weaving music into her everyday life. Her

family background is beautifully rich—part Irish through her dad, and part Belgian and British through her mum—and languages have become one of her favourite adventures. She is learning Mandarin and Spanish at school and French at home. Travel is another source of joy: Erin loves exploring new places, trying local foods, and listening to different languages. So far she has visited France, Belgium, Corsica, Malta, the Maldives, Turkey, and even Lapland.

A much-loved part of Erin’s life is her involvement in the parish life at Worth. She’s an active participant at Junior Church, All Saints, and Faith Alive. Preparing for her First Holy Communion was a highlight of Erin’s past year. She remembers it clearly: *“It was a bit nerve-wracking going in front with lots of people. But after I received Communion I felt proud and very happy. It was lovely to have some of my family around too.”*

Erin has found a sense of belonging at Worth—she loves seeing Fr Paul, joining Family Formation, and even staying for tea after Mass. She says, “I am friends with Father Paul and the children from Junior Church and the Faith Alive/ All Saints groups too,” and it’s clear that these friendships and moments of faith shared together mean a great deal to her.

With her love of nature, her kind heart, her curiosity, and her gentle desire to care for God’s creation, Erin adds a bright thread to our parish tapestry—one filled with promise, enthusiasm, and a quiet but growing faith.

<p>A prayer, saint, or bible verse that inspires you? Saint Francis (He’s into the environment and animals and I’d like to be an animal scientist when I grow up) and Saint Patrick (He’s an Irish Saint and I’m Irish)</p>	<p>What activities do you enjoy? Baking with Maman, playing with my dogs and cat in the garden, and going on holiday!</p>	<p>What plate of food brings the best memories? Sushi and I’d like to visit Japan</p>
<p>A cherished memory of being part of this parish? My baptism - though I don’t remember much of it.</p>	<p>What are your hopes and prayers for the future of our parish? I hope it will get more amazing than it is.</p>	

#54 Finn Lehane

Full of energy, curiosity, and a great love for cars, Finn approaches life with enthusiasm and an open heart. Whether he's helping at church at Worth School, or racing around a go-kart track, he brings a smile and a sense of adventure to both Worth School and our parish. Finn reminds us of the hope and promise growing in the next generation.

At thirteen, and now in Year 9 at Worth School, Finn brings an enthusiastic, thoughtful energy to both school life and parish life. He has a wide set of interests—DT, science, music and history are among his favourite subjects—and he enjoys the rhythm of busy days filled with learning, creativity, and curiosity. Outside the classroom, he loves go-karting and heading out on family outings, something he names as one of the highlights of his week: *"I enjoy go-karting and going on outings as a family."*

Faith is woven deeply into Finn's time at Worth School. There, he is one of the main altar servers and regularly leads the Rosary, offering a quiet but dedicated witness to prayer among his peers. Each year his involvement seems to grow: he has recently been asked to serve as a Forerunner rep, helping to promote the school's spiritual life, and he has received the Worship Prize for two years in a row—a recognition of the sincerity and commitment he brings to the life of faith.

Anyone who knows Finn will quickly learn about his greatest passion: cars—cars, and more cars. He loves everything from vintage classics to modern Formula 1 racing. As a family, the annual trip to Goodwood Revival is a treasured tradition, and Finn has already been to several Grand Prix in both the UK and Belgium. His dream is bold and clear: to become a Formula 1 driver. Finn is also adventurous when it comes to food—always choosing dishes he has never tried before—and he loves meeting new people of all ages, especially those who share memories and stories "from years ago." His openness, curiosity, and warmth help him connect easily with others.

Within the parish, Finn is part of the Inspired group at Family Formation. He says, *"I like the friendships and the praying, and sharing thoughts on philosophical subjects."*

His Confirmation is a moment he remembers vividly: *"The moment I was being confirmed and reading... and thanking all who supported us. The most meaningful part was me standing up at the cathedral and reading in front a full congregation. And the bishop thanking me for my reading and shaking my hand."* And the apple does not fall far from the tree; his parents are also regular readers during Sunday Mass. About coming to Worth Abbey, he shares, *"I enjoy meeting new people, I enjoy the gospel and seeing my parents read the liturgy of the word."*

Finn has made strong friendships in the parish community—with Kornel, James, Adam, John and Christofer. *"We have been doing family formation together and have become good friends,"* he says, highlighting how faith shared in community often becomes the foundation for lasting friendship.

With his sense of adventure, his deepening faith, and his willingness to serve and lead, Finn adds a vibrant, generous thread to our parish tapestry—one full of energy, hope, and the promise of a young life unfolding in God's grace.



A prayer, saint, or bible verse that inspires you?

Saint Christopher - I chose him for my confirmation because he's a Saint for travelers and motorists which are things I enjoy

What activities do you enjoy? I Go karting, going to church , going out as a family, going on holiday

What plate of food brings the best memories?

Irish stew as I'm half Irish

A cherished memory of being part of this parish?

Getting confirmed and getting in to Worth School

What are your hopes and prayers for the future of our parish?

To get more young people to get into church

Tapestry of Faith: 60 Years, 60 Faces, One Parish Community – Happy 60th Anniversary, Parishioners!

What a joy it has been to celebrate the 54 (and counting!) parishioners who have shared their journeys of faith — stories that have made us smile, reflect, and give thanks to God for this wonderful community of ours.

Here's a look back at our tapestry so far.

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| 1. Fr. Paul Fleetwood – 13 April | 20. Leonora Van Assche –29 June | 39. Fr. Martin McGee – 5 October |
| 2. Charles McCarthy – 20 April | 21. Fr. Kevin Taggart | 40. Philippe Davies |
| 3. Ann McCarthy | 22. Stella Russell – 6 July | 41. Abigail Profit – 12 October |
| 4. Rachel Davies – 4 May | 23. Anna Russell | 42. Patrick Coughlan |
| 5. Kornel Klapczynski | 24. Max Russell | 43. Charles Coughlan |
| 6. Cinzia Hatch – 11 May | 25. Enrico Folli – 13 July | 44. Mary Hughes – 26 October |
| 7. Yvonne Solloway | 26. Hazel Galang-Folli | 45. Vincent Hughes |
| 8. Christie Grieve – 18 May | 27. Mary Best – 7 September | 46. Shaun Thompson – 2 Nov. |
| 9. Gabriela Filip | 28. Susan Pearson | 47. Anna Sulowska Thompson |
| 10. Charlie Tibble – 25 May | 29. Rowena Leaney | 48. Fr. Luke Jolly – 9 November |
| 11. Mark Tibble | 30. Paul Mallinder –14 September | 49. Fr. Aidan Murray |
| 12. Billie Robson – 1 June | 31. Jackie Mallinder | 50. Lesley Bailey – 16 Nov. |
| 13. Edward Dean | 32. Mark Bearman | 51. Jenny Chapman |
| 14. Fr. James Cutts – 8 June | 33. Rosa Varey – 21 September | 52. Jerry Lehane – 23 November |

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| 15. Bob Eade | 34. Catherine Bullen | 53. Erin Lehane |
| 16. Emily Coughlan – 15 June | 35. Nicholas Bullen | 54. Finn Lehane |
| 17. Melody Savoy | 36. Sue Rutherford –28 Sept. | |
| 18. Sandra Lehane – 22 June | 37. Giancarlo Elia | 55-60, coming soon! |
| 19. Sue Kirby | 38. Catherine Elia | |



Here are some lovely excerpts, which continue to inspire us:

Sue Rutherford had long been active in parish life, but when she and John sold their company, she felt called to offer more of herself: *“When we sold our company, I went to Fr James and told him I now had a lot more free time and how could I get more involved with the parish.”* This led to six years editing *In Touch* and serving as a Eucharistic Minister... Reflecting on the serious accident she and John survived in 2024, Sue shares how profoundly she felt held by God and the community: *“Fr Aidan was a regular visitor and a great source of strength... Fr Paul was a regular visitor and a great comfort.”*

Abigail Profit is new to Worth School and Worth Abbey Parish and has been volunteering with Junior Church. Having lived across continents, Abi treasures the friendships and communities she has encountered: *“I have experienced many amazing cultures where I have built so many friendships... in places like Denmark, Taiwan and Slovakia.”* Having grown up in a Catholic family that prioritised attending Mass on Sundays *“no matter the country,”* becoming part of the parish helped her feel grounded again. Her confirmation at Worth Abbey in May was a milestone: *“I have definitely grown a lot in my faith and am feeling the closest I have felt to God, which is so wonderful.”*

Reflecting on the path that led him to Worth, Fr Martin McGee explains: *“I was looking for a Benedictine monastery where I could lead a life based on prayer and community living.”* He speaks of the profound way ministry reveals Christ in the people he meets: *“In meeting other people we meet Christ. And that is the most precious gift of all.”* In an age of pressures and distractions, he reminds us where our true worth lies: *“Our value comes from being loved by God. Building our lives on the rock of Christ enables us to find this enduring meaning and love.”*

These are only three of the over 50 stories that demonstrate God’s hand at work in our lives. Our goal in writing this limited series is for people in our parish to both see the human side of each other and to inspire each other in our shared journeys of faith. Our intention is not to elevate ourselves, but to give witness to God’s grace by reflecting on the steps of our own journey. To each of you who have participated in this endeavour— a heartfelt thank you for helping weave our parish’s Tapestry of Faith. Your stories have given life and colour to our 60th anniversary year.

You can still catch some of them in the archive at our parish website, <https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/in-touch-newsletters/> They truly are **Worth** a read!

Parish Activities and Announcements

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES...

22 & 23 November, Sat & Sun – Culmination of Parish 60 Years Celebrations

29 November, Sat – Advent Talk with Abbot Mark Barrett, Abbey Church, 10.30am

21 December, Sun – Worth Abbey Pilgrims Advent Carol Service, Abbey Church, 3.30pm

24 December, Wed – Crib Mass - Abbey Church, 3.30pm - Children are invited to come dressed as a character in the crib, and to bring a gift for a child in need.

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 – Wednesdays 2:30-3:30pm; Sundays 6.30pm after vespers, and every first Sunday of the month, 10:30am (right after Mass)–11am

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. All are welcome!

Christian Meditation - Unity Room, 7-8pm, 4th Wednesday of the month: 26 November

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.

Family Faith Formation – Monthly, every 3rd Sunday. **New parishioners, all families welcome!**



As part of the 60th anniversary celebrations of the Worth Abbey Parish, there will be a large selection of fair-trade Christmas cards, gifts and crafts for sale in the Narthex this Sunday after the 09:30 Mass.



Worth Intercessory Team (WIT):

Soon, we hope to be starting a new group of prayer warriors. We'll meet online via Microsoft Teams at 8pm on the first Wednesday of the month (45 min - 1hr), creating a welcoming space to pray together. Would you like to join? Please sign up and we'll get this prayer group started.

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. Come join us. We look forward to praying with you!

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

60th Anniversary of founding of Worth Abbey Parish



On Sunday 23rd November we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the year of the founding of our parish by Abbot Victor.

We would like to have a small celebration after mass. It would be greatly appreciated if everyone could please **bring some cakes or items for a finger buffet to share together?**



The Advent Course 2025

Presented again by Mauro Iannicelli, begins on Wednesday, 26 Nov at 7pm UK Time. You can register here: <https://comeandsee.org/advent-bible-studies>



Advent Reflections Group

We are planning to run a 4 week Advent Reflections small group at St. Benedicts beginning on Friday 28th November, finishing on Friday 19th December. Start time will be 10.30, finishing by 12pm.

If you would be interested in taking part in this group please contact Jenny Chapman, email jenny_chapman@sky.com, or the Parish Office.



Young Adults Advent Retreat: 28th - 30th November 2025

Cost £130 – half price places available (email: retreats@worth.org.uk)

Prepare your heart for the Coming of God this Advent. Step away from the noise of daily life and discover the beauty of this sacred season with a retreat designed especially for young adults.

- Inspiring talks from the monks of Worth Abbey
- Friendship & discussion with other young adults
- Prayer & silence to rest in God's presence
- Join the monastic community in praying the psalms
- Breathe in peace surrounded by the Sussex countryside



At the heart of this retreat is the Benedictine way of life – a balance of prayer and work, silence and conversation, solitude and community. Guided by the rhythm of monastic prayer, you'll find the space to reflect, discern, and allow God to transform your heart as Advent begins.

Advent Talk with Abbot Mark Barrett

Date: Saturday 29th November
Time: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm
Location: Unity Room, Worth Abbey Church
Title: "Watching in Silence: A Benedictine Advent"

Abbot Mark will explore the quiet heart of Advent through the lens of Benedictine spirituality - a wonderful opportunity for reflection and preparation during this sacred season.

Schedule:

- 10:30 am – Arrival and light refreshments
- 11:00 am – Advent Talk and reflection
- 12:30 pm – Light lunch and Midday Prayer (optional)

To register: Contact Kelly at kohara@worth.org.uk



Would anyone like to learn more about the Catholic Faith?

Please get in touch to join a group which meets on Tuesday evenings, from 7.30 pm.
If you know of anyone who might be interested, please pass on this invitation. *Please get in touch with the office.*



Social Action for Parishioners

Standing for Life: The Assisted Suicide Bill and the Battle in the House of Lords

The sanctity and dignity of every human life, from conception to natural end, remains a core tenet of our Catholic faith. This principle is currently at the heart of a crucial legislative debate in the House of Lords regarding the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, which seeks to legalise assisted dying in England and Wales. The Catholic Church, alongside numerous disability rights groups and palliative care providers, holds the firm position that the laws of our country must protect life, preserve human dignity, and promote the common good.

The Bishops of England and Wales have recently voiced their "**deep sadness**" at the Bill's continued passage, issuing a post-plenary statement that emphasizes:

The Risk to the Vulnerable: Legalizing assisted suicide would **devalue life** and place vulnerable people under immense pressure. This pressure could come from factors like fear of becoming a burden on family or a strain on healthcare resources, leading to a coercive atmosphere.

The Threat to Care: The Bill poses a **threat to the survival of care homes and hospices** whose mission and values prevent them from facilitating assisted suicide. Our focus must always be on ensuring everyone has access to the highest quality palliative care, not legislation to hasten death.

A "Moral Assault": The Bishops stated that **2025 is marked by an "assault on the value of human life,"** arguing that assisted suicide is directly contrary to the aim of protecting life and human dignity.

We are called to accompany the sick and suffering with compassion and excellent care, affirming their inherent worth until the moment of natural death.

Updates from the House of Lords

The Bill, which proposes allowing terminally ill adults with fewer than six months to live to apply for an assisted death, passed its first stage in the Lords in September and is now facing its detailed line-by-line examination (**Committee Stage**).

The process has been marked by significant controversy and delay:

Record Opposition and Scrutiny: An extraordinary number of **almost 1,000 amendments** have been tabled by Peers—a near-record number for a Private Member's Bill. Opponents argue that this volume is necessary because the legislation is "**demonstrably flawed**" and significant changes are required to ensure the vulnerable are protected.

Slow Progress: On the first day of the Committee Stage, Peers spent nearly five hours debating but only managed to cover **seven of the 900+ amendments**, prompting calls for more time for scrutiny.

Human Rights Concerns: The Joint Committee on Human Rights held a special session to discuss the Bill's potential effect on disabled people. Witnesses highlighted the frighteningly blurred boundary between terminal illness and disability, explaining how easy it would be for a vulnerable disabled person to convince a panel of their eligibility to die under such a law.



WORTH ABBEY

ADVENT EVENTS 2025

**ADVENT TALK BY ABBOT MARK BARRETT,
SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER, 10:30am, THE UNITY ROOM, ABBEY CHURCH**

Watching in Silence: A Benedictine Advent
Finding God in the quiet heart of Advent, a Benedictine guide to waiting with hope

Advent is a season of waiting, watchfulness, and hope. We will explore how the Benedictine values of silence, listening, and stability can open our hearts to Christ's coming; past, present, and future. Drawing on Scripture, the Advent liturgy, and the witness of Mary, this talk invites us to discover a deeper way of preparing for Christmas: watching in silence, so that we may recognise the Lord when he comes.
Silence, stillness, and watchfulness for Christ's coming.

Join us from 10:30am for registration and light refreshments, followed by the talk and deeper reflection on our theme. The morning concludes with a light lunch and Midday Prayer at 1:00pm. To register your interest in attending the Advent Talk, please email Kelly at kohara@worth.org.uk

**WORTH ABBEY PILGRIMS ADVENT CAROL SERVICE,
SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER, 3:30pm, ABBEY CHURCH**

Celebrate the Advent season with us at Worth Abbey Pilgrims Advent Carol Service at 3.30pm on Sunday 21st December 2025. Experience the beauty of traditional and contemporary carols performed by the Worth Abbey choir, along with reflections on the meaning of Advent. After the service, enjoy festive refreshments in the Narthex. Families welcome.

For full details of all our events, please see www.worthabbey.net

A photograph of the Worth Abbey building, a large stone structure with a prominent dome, surrounded by snow-covered trees and a fence in the foreground.

The battle in the House of Lords is now critical. Peers who oppose the Bill maintain that they are simply doing the necessary work to ensure that this legislation, which carries such profound implications for life and death, is made safe and workable—a task they argue was not adequately completed by the House of Commons. We are asked by our Bishops to continue **to pray and work to prevent this bill from being passed**. You can find a thought-provoking documentary on assisted suicide by actor and disability rights advocate, Liz Carr here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gEysXRLTG5M&co=1>

Other Activities and Announcements

Talk on Palestine – St John The Evangelist, Horsham

We are all aware of the atrocious news stories that have come out of the Holy Land over recent years. On **Sunday 30th November 2025** St John the Evangelist Justice and Peace Group are hosting a talk by Edmund Adamus from Palestinian Christian charity Friends of the Holy Land. He will describe the current situation on the ground in Gaza and in the West Bank and describe how we as Christians can help. All are welcome! The hall will be open from 12.30pm for teas and coffees and cake with the main talk starting between 13.00pm and 13.30pm. Parking may be limited on the day so please park in Swan Walk car park 7-8 minutes' walk from St John's. Address: - St John the Evangelist, 3 Springfield Road, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 2PJ

Christ Among the Ruins Finding Light in Gaza's Darkness – Hosted by NJPN and Pax Christi England and Wales

You are invited to attend a special evening on December 1 at 7.30pm ONLINE with NJPN UK and Pax Christi England and Wales

A live webinar and conversation of faith, witness, and action - As the people of Gaza face unimaginable suffering amid ongoing bombardment, displacement, and humanitarian crisis — and as Israeli and Jewish communities worldwide grieve, fear, and struggle with the weight of violence and loss - we gather to seek Christ's light among the ruins.

This webinar invites participants to reflect on how the Church understands and responds to this unfolding tragedy: where we find Christ amid the devastation, and how we can bear faithful witness to peace, justice, and compassion in a world so deeply divided. Together, we will listen to diverse voices - including perspectives from Activists both Christians & Jewish - Peace Advocates, and Church Leaders - to explore how followers of Christ can pray, speak, and act with integrity. We will also consider practical steps for **advocacy**, including how to engage elected representatives and support those most affected by the conflict.

You are warmly invited to join this conversation, to share your own thoughts and experiences, and to discern together what it means to be people of light in a time of darkness and to take an action for Advent afterwards.

A recording of the session will be made available afterward for those unable to attend live. You can register [HERE](#)



A Note of Thanks from Cafod

This Advent, as we start a new liturgical year, we are looking back on a Year of Jubilee - of renewal and restoration across our world - with immense gratitude. So, as we turn our thoughts to the coming year, and enter this season of anticipating Christ's coming amongst us, we wanted to write to you to thank you. **Thank you**, from the bottom of our hearts, for all that you and your parish have prayed for, supported, and walked with as Pilgrims of Hope this past year.

For all the justice, all the compassion, all the solidarity, that you have expressed through your giving and your prayers - and for all that you will continue to do in this coming year. Our world faces immense challenges, and we are grateful to be your agency for Catholic compassion and justice. It is an Advent when the Holy Land's suffering, the conflicts in Ukraine and Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo, weigh heavy on our hearts. The support I just described – your support - is enabling Catholic compassion and love to reach out and offer some comfort, some aid, in those places.

We go into the year ahead determined to carry forward, as Pilgrims of Hope, the resolve of this Jubilee Year into the future. Christ is always coming: renewing, restoring, resurrecting us. This Advent let's celebrate his mercy, and join in his love. You can read more about all that your support, the support of the Catholic community of England and Wales, has brought about this year at cafod.org.uk/thankyou



M. J. Kitterick / Jo Kitterick - CAFOD

Our Parish is committed to safeguarding children and vulnerable groups within its community. Safe-guarding reps are Charles and Ann McCarthy.

Report safeguarding concerns to the Diocese 01293 651148 or via Email: sg1.worth@abdiocese.org.uk



At **In Touch**, we'd love to hear from you—what you've enjoyed reading, what you'd like to see more (or even less!) of, and any ideas for improvement. This is our parish community newsletter, and our hope is that it offers both inspiration and a useful service.

If you have any announcements, articles, or activities you would like us to publish in In Touch we need you to send them the Friday before the intended publication date please.

Please do get in touch! worthabbeyparish@gmail.com

Parish Priest: Fr. Paul Fleetwood (Mobile: 07764 260216 or 01342 710351)

Parish Office: Maria Stribbling - 01342 710313

Parish Office Email: parish@worth.org.uk **Parish Website:** 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/ **Email:** 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, please contact Fr Paul