

Jubilee Year 2025



Pilgrims of Hope

In Touch

The Baptism of the Lord (Year C)
11th / 12th January 2025
No. 1409



Dear Parishioners

I hope that you all had a good celebration of Christmas and New Year with your families. I send you all my prayers.

At the start of this *Jubilee Year of Hope* Pope Francis has written a message for the Church which bears the title ***Forgive us our trespasses: grant us your peace***. He begins by reminding us that a New Year is a gift from God in which humanity can advance in love and peace. *At the dawn of this New Year given to us by our heavenly Father, a year of Jubilee in the spirit of hope, I offer heartfelt good wishes of peace to every man and woman. I think especially of those who feel downtrodden, burdened by their past mistakes, oppressed by the judgment of others and incapable of perceiving even a glimmer of hope for their own lives. Upon everyone I invoke hope and peace, for this is a Year of Grace born of the Heart of the Redeemer!* He continues to reflect on the Biblical tradition of Jubilee, in which relations of justice are restored by the cancellation of debt and the restoration of property alienated because of debt. He writes: *All of us are brothers and sisters, sons and daughters of the same Father, born to live in freedom, in accordance with the Lord's will. In our day too, the Jubilee is an event that inspires us to seek to establish the liberating justice of God in our world...At the beginning of this year, then, we desire to heed the plea of suffering humankind in order to feel called, together and as individuals, to break the bonds of injustice and to proclaim God's justice. Sporadic acts of philanthropy are not enough. Cultural and structural changes are necessary, so that enduring change may come about.*

He reminds us that all of us owe everything to God our Father, but, *without gratitude, we are unable to recognize God's gifts*. He insists that we need to recover our relationship with God as our Father. This alone can help resolve the burdens of international debt and “ecological debt”, recognising that His gifts must be shared to sustain the life of everyone equally.

He ends by setting three goals for humanity. First, the cancellation of international debt and the recognition by industrialised countries of our ecological debt to poorer countries. Second, respect for human life, *from conception to natural death, so that each person can cherish his or her own life and all may look with hope to a future of prosperity and happiness for themselves and for their children*. Finally, to dedicate a percentage of the wealth spent on armaments to eradicate hunger and to promote development and combat climate change.

He appeals for a “disarming of hearts” to bring about peace: *At times, something quite simple will do, such as “a smile, a small gesture of friendship, a kind look, a ready ear, a good deed”. With such gestures, we progress towards the goal of peace.*

Forgive us our trespasses, Lord, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

In this cycle of forgiveness, grant us your peace, the peace that you alone can give to those who let themselves be disarmed in heart, to those who choose in hope to forgive the debts of their brothers

and sisters, to those who are unafraid to confess their debt to you, and to those who do not close their ears to the cry of the poor.

Please see the full message: <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/world-day-of-peace> Please see details below about the CAFOD webinar concerning the Jubilee Year.

I send my best wishes to you all. Fr Paul

Prayers

Congratulations to Joe and Lizzy Huntley on the birth of their daughter, Olivia, on 22nd December and to Duncan and Emily Pugh, on the birth of their son, Jesse, on 24th December.

Please pray for the babies and their families.

Please also pray for Stella and Joe Russell, who expect the birth of twins very soon.

Please continue to pray for our parishioners Jenny Chapman, Gillian Maher, Krysia Smith, Maureen Evans, Joan Wells, Pamela Bagwell, Terry and Susan Scoble, Sue Pearson, John and Sue Rutherford, Demelza Waring, Liz Hicklin, Helen Sweetman, Jill Carter and Laura Rawlinson.

Jubilee Year of Hope

*God of all people, by the light of a star, you called seekers from afar,
revealing your Son to all nations.*

May the light of your love open our hearts to the whole human family.

*God of compassion, we recall how the questions of the Magi,
were met with Herod's violence and Rachel's inconsolable grief.*

May the light of your peace illuminate our world so full of conflict.

*God of grace, the wise ones found the child, the Light of the World,
and travelled home by another way.*

May your guiding light lead us to Jesus and the new ways of your kingdom.

*In this Holy Year, as we journey as pilgrims of hope,
may we walk together in constant trust and faithful sharing of our gifts,
seeking the wisdom of your word, and following the light of Christ.*

Prayer for Creation

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

*O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.*

*Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.*

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

*Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature*

as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

Amen

Please pray for Peace around the World

God of peace, who are peace itself.

*and whom a spirit of discord cannot grasp, nor a violent mind receive,
grant that those who are one in heart may persevere in what is good,
and that those in conflict may forget evil and so be healed.*

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen

(Prayer: Roman Missal, p.1361)

Anniversaries

Please pray for the Souls of – Max Morris, Geoffrey Seager-Berry, Adolphe Morice, Lilian Cottrell, Jimmy Law, Margaret Harrison, Leo Leroux, Nazarine Chaplin, Keith Ellison, Albert (Davy) Davis, Revd Norman Print, Evelyn Garvan, Louise Dobson, Tim McShane, Kenneth Huggins and Cynthia Haynes.
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen.

Daily Readings –

Monday – Heb 1:1-6 Mark 1:14-20

Tuesday – Heb 2:5-12 Mark 1:21-28

Wednesday – Heb 2:14-18 Mark 1:29-39 **(SS Maurus & Placid)**

Thursday – Heb 3:7-14 Mark 1:40-45

Friday – Heb 4:1-5, 11 Mark 2:1-12 **(St Antony of Egypt)**

Saturday – Heb 4:12-16 Mark 2:13-17

Next Sunday's Readings: **Second Sunday in OT (Year C)**

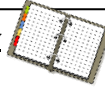
1st Reading – Isaiah 62:1-5 2nd Reading – 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Gospel: John 2:1-11

This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee

Parish Events

Dates for your Diary



This Saturday, 11th January – Refreshments in the Unity Room after mass.

This Sunday, 12th January – Parish Brunch in Compass House after mass.

Sunday 19th January – Family Formation continues.

20th September 2025 - Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the Diocese and the Universal Jubilee Year, for families and friends, on the Ardingly Showground. Free tickets will be distributed through parishes in the New Year.

Charlie and Mark Tibble's House Group Gathering

A very informal house group gathering in Balcombe on the last Friday of each month. All Worth parishioners are very welcome to come, socialise, relax, have a drink and some snacks and get to know your community better.

Please contact Charlie Tibble at c.tibble@stwilfrids.com

Next Date: **Friday 31st January 2025 at 7.30pm**

Would anyone be able to help with the Baby Saints group in Family Formation? The children are aged from three to five years old, and the method followed comes from the Catechesis of The Good Shepherd.

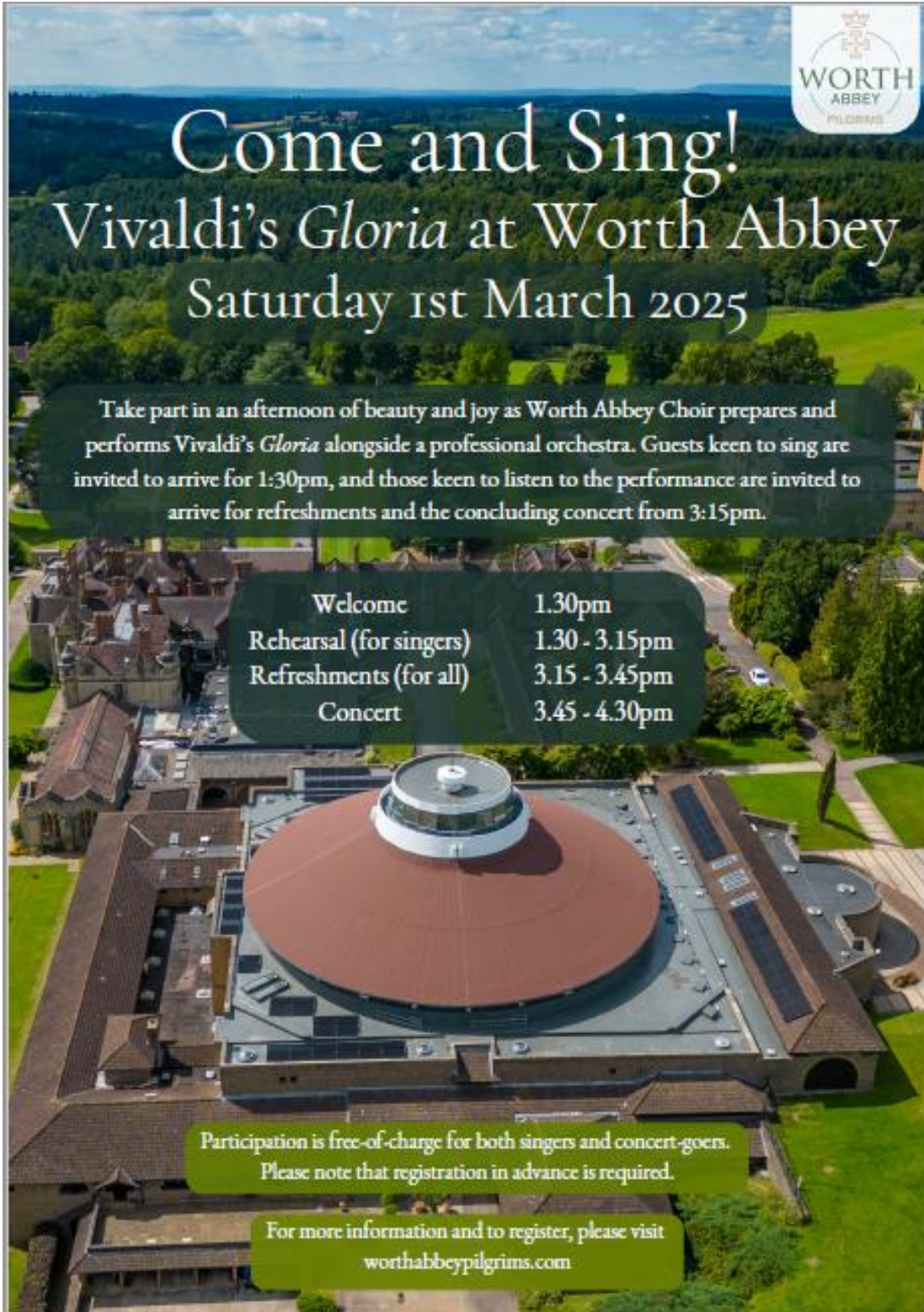
All training will be provided. All you need is enthusiasm and a gift for small children!


Please get in touch with Maria Welch - marialarawelch@gmail.com

Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Pastoral Letter

Please see link to Bishop Richard's Pastoral Letter [Pastoral Letter January 2025](#)



WORTH
ABBEY
PIGRIMS

Come and Sing! Vivaldi's *Gloria* at Worth Abbey Saturday 1st March 2025

Take part in an afternoon of beauty and joy as Worth Abbey Choir prepares and performs Vivaldi's *Gloria* alongside a professional orchestra. Guests keen to sing are invited to arrive for 1:30pm, and those keen to listen to the performance are invited to arrive for refreshments and the concluding concert from 3:15pm.

Welcome	1.30pm
Rehearsal (for singers)	1.30 - 3.15pm
Refreshments (for all)	3.15 - 3.45pm
Concert	3.45 - 4.30pm

Participation is free-of-charge for both singers and concert-goers.
Please note that registration in advance is required.

For more information and to register, please visit
worthabbeypilgrims.com

Bishop Richard writes concerning the New Lectionary

The new Lectionary will use the English Standard Version – Catholic Edition of the Bible and the Abbey Psalter. The changes are intended to make the biblical translations more faithful to the original languages, biblical scholarship, and to provide a text for use in a liturgical setting that is easier to proclaim, and, where appropriate, more inclusive.

The *God Who Speaks* project has produced a new *Lectionary-Scripture Formation Resource* to help parishes and schools deepen their love of Mass, the Bible, and living the Gospel in daily life.

You can find the resource [here](#).

I commend this resource to you all for your study, and most especially to those of you who serve as Readers in church, and those who take part in Bible study.

Worth Pro Earth

Try vegan with Veganuary and Greenpeace, read on to find out more information.

As the new year begins, you may be asking – how can I live a more planet and people friendly life in 2025? Well, you're in luck! Apart from being delicious, eating more plant-based meals is one of the most [effective ways](#) to have a positive impact on the climate, help stop deforestation, show solidarity with Indigenous Peoples and restore nature too.

How then? In January, millions of people will be taking part in [Veganuary](#), a month-long opportunity to explore plant-based food, with recipes, meal plans and helpful tips by email along the way.

So why exactly is eating more plant-based foods better for our climate and nature?

You could slow down temperature increases and protect future generations - industrial meat and dairy production is responsible for a massive 19% of global greenhouse gas emissions and cows belching out methane is [the invisible gas that is cooking our climate](#) - so let's pull this 'climate handbrake'!

You could rewild and let nature flourish - Cows and sheep are hogging massive amounts of land - both globally and here in the UK. Some of it could be freed up to be rewilded with climate-friendly forests - one of our best defences against the climate crisis and brilliant for boosting biodiversity.

You could help end a destructive industry - Banks and financiers like Barclays are greedily bankrolling deforestation and climate disruption ([watch here](#)), pushing the Amazon rainforest to its [Catastrophic tipping point](#), where it could soon collapse.

You could stand in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples - they are being murdered and forced off their ancestral lands as the industrial meat and dairy industry drives deforestation in South America to make space to grow animal feed for factory farms raising chickens and pigs here in the UK.

You could eat more efficiently - using land to grow crops, to then feed the animals for meat and dairy products is wasteful. Amazingly, enough food to feed billions of people globally could be produced on that land instead.

It's a lot of information to take in, I know, so we've gone through it [point by point in this helpful blog](#). So, are you ready to give it a go? Join me, and millions of others this January in trying plant-based meals, it takes only two minutes to sign up. [Veganuary](#)

A Prayer for Our Earth

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

*O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this Earth,
so precious in your eyes.*

*Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.*

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain

*at the expense of the poor and the Earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.*

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

Amen.

(Pope Francis published this prayer in Laudato Si' and is meant for sharing with all who believe in our Creator God.)

We hope that this prayer serves as a north star for you in the new year, guiding your heart and actions as much as it guides us in our work at Laudato Si Movement.

WPE welcome new members. We meet once a month on a Wednesday at 2pm in St Benedict's. Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 29th January at 2pm**. Please get in touch if you would like to attend.

Creator God, we thank you for the wondrous gifts of creation.

*Inspire us to take only what we need, so that your people may
benefit equally from the gifts you give us all.*

Amen

Jubilee Year

CAFOD write: *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.” Luke 4:18*

The Year of Jubilee, 'Pilgrims of Hope' - This special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, invites us to return to a right relationship with God, one another, and all of creation. CAFOD have many resources and opportunities to get involved on our [Jubilee webpage](#). I wanted to draw your attention to:

Introducing Jubilee online session – 18th January 2025: 10:30am-12 noon.

Join us for [An introduction to the Jubilee Year](#) with special guests **Fr Jan Nowotnik**, Director of Mission for the Catholic Bishop's Conference, **Christine Allen**, CAFOD Director, and **Kayode Akintola**, CAFOD's Head of Africa Programmes. Hear how we're celebrating Jubilee as a global Church and how we can be tangible signs of hope, building a better world together throughout this holy year.

[Our Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of hope reflection guide](#) is ideal for groups and individuals deepening faith and renewing hope in Jubilee through four reflection sessions. Guides can be ordered free from the above webpage, (downloadable Leaders' Guide also available).

Non-Parish Events

Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Word

25th January, 11am-4pm, St Wilfrid's Parish Centre, Burgess Hill.

Join Bishop Richard for talks on the Scriptures, the Lectionary, the Liturgy of the Word and preparing to minister as a reader; includes Lectio Divina & the celebration of Mass. Reserve your place [Here](#)

You Can Help Your Marriage

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse?

Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long'i') helps couples through difficult times in their marriages.

There is no group therapy or group work.

This programme has helped 10s of 1000s of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about Retrouvaille', or to register for the next programme commencing via Zoom on **27th February to 2nd March**

Call or text 0788 7296983 Email info@retrouvaille.org.uk www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Rethinking Abortion

Saturday 8th February 10am-5pm at The St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley (no cost)

The Diocese is hosting an event organised by Rethinking Abortion, a national pro-life organisation. Rethinking Abortion will provide educational sessions looking at the lived experience and reality of women that lead them to choose abortion. The aim is to help build understanding and explore how to tactfully and empathetically talk about abortion with those around you in a meaningful way. Attendees will increase their understanding of the full reality of the pro-life agenda, becoming more articulate and effective in holding conversations with those considering this pathway. The day begins with Mass at 10am, followed by a programme of discussion and talks. Please bring a packed lunch. Register your place [Here](#)

If you have questions about the event please contact Formation Advisers,

Tessa; E: tessa.ricketts@abdiocese.org.uk or Simon E: simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk.

You can find out more about the day here: <http://www.marchforlife.co.uk/rethink-abortion/>

Abortion affects men too

It's a heartbreaking truth that while many of us celebrate new life and family with joy at Christmas time, others are experiencing life changing fear and grief.

We are very pleased to announce that Life's National Helpline now has a male counsellor available as more and more men ask for support because of an unexpected pregnancy or, devastatingly, because the mother of the child has had an abortion against their wishes.

We recently had a call from a young man who we supported with the news of an unexpected pregnancy and soon after, his mother contacted us:

"I don't need any help, I just wanted to reach out and say thank you to whoever it was my son spoke to this morning. He told me about his call to you, you asked so many questions, not just about his girlfriend and her feelings but also his too and gave him such good support. I have never heard of your site before now but whatever you are teaching your staff, you're doing amazing work. Thank you so much for all of your help for my son and his girlfriend."

This is what we're here for, to support EVERYONE facing unexpected pregnancy and pregnancy loss, so that less and less lives are ripped apart by abortion decisions.

Sadly, not every man is able to reach help for him and the mother of his child before her decision is made, but we're glad to have been there for another man, Joe, as he processed his grief. [Read Joe's Story Here](#)

Jubilee for Youth – Pilgrims of Hope

Rome 28th July – 4th August 2025

A pilgrimage for young adults aged 18-30 to celebrate this special year of forgiveness and reconciliation. Join with other like-minded people, as we travel to the beautiful city of Rome for opportunities to hear from, and pray with, Pope Francis on the theme of Hope. Including flights, half-board hotel and entry to events, the Diocese is offering this trip for only £995. Contact [formation@abdiocese.org.uk] to find out more.

For other regular items, please see the website:

For readings, see Universalis: [Universalis](#)

Parish Leadership Team: [Parish Leadership Team](#)

Our Facebook page: [Parish Facebook](#)

Children's Junior Church liturgy: [Junior Church](#)

Diocesan Family Materials: [Family Materials](#)

Parish Giving: [My Dona Parish Giving](#)

or use our QR code.



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

Parish Office Email: parish@worth.org.uk Parish Office Tel: 01342 710313 Parish Website: www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk

Secretary: Maria Stribbling, available 9am – 1pm Mon-Fri

Nighttime emergencies only: 01342 710331

Any cheques to be made payable to – Worth Abbey Parish

And any payments can be made via online banking - Account – 61076892 Sort Code – 40-05-20

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

Safe Spaces: 0300 303 1056 Web: www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk/ Email: safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk

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

REGULAR EVENTS IN THE PARISH



Mass Times - Saturday: 9.00 am (Concelebrated) and 5.00 pm (First Mass of Sunday),
Sunday: 9.30 am.
Daily Mass: 5.30 pm (Concelebrated), Holy Days of Obligation (Please check Website)
Feast Day: 5.30 pm.

Confessions (Sacrament of Reconciliation) – In the Church, Sundays 08.45am – 09.15am (If anyone cannot come at this time, please make a special appointment with Fr Paul)

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament – Every Sunday at 6.30pm in the Church, after vespers.

Rosary Group – Mondays in the Abbey Church after Vespers – 7:10pm until 8:00pm. Please contact Rachel Davies: 07801 696354.

Lectio Divina – Tuesday evenings at 8pm via Zoom. Please contact Jenny Chapman jenny_chapman@sky.com if you would like to join us, please contact Jenny Chapman by email or speak to her after Mass any weekend.

Christian Meditation Group – 7.00pm in the Unity Room, please contact Richard by email rbrownd1@gmail.com
Next Dates – **22nd January**, 26th February, 26th March and 23rd April.

Vigil for Vocations - (1st Friday). After Compline 8.30pm - 9.00pm.

Bible Study Group – 11am on Mondays in St Benedict's (Parish Office). Please contact the Parish Office

Worth Abbey Parish is committed to safer recruitment. Arundel and Brighton Diocese and Worth Abbey Parish are committed to safeguarding all children and vulnerable groups at risk within its community. The Diocese aims to embed a culture of safeguarding to prevent abuse and to provide support to individuals who have been hurt by abuse, taking the necessary actions to reduce the likelihood of further harm.

Our Worth Abbey Parish Safeguarding Reps are Charles and Ann McCarthy
Email: sg1.worth@abdiocese.org.uk

Please report any concerns about safeguarding directly to the Diocese, or, in an emergency, call the police on 999.

If you are concerned about the welfare of a child or adult at risk, do not delay in contacting the police.

Telephone 999 if a child or an adult is believed to be in immediate danger.

If you need to contact our Safeguarding Office you can do so here:

T: [01293 651148](tel:01293651148) E: safeguarding@abdiocese.org.uk