

Parish of Seale, Puttenham & Wanborough

SUNDAY Supplement

www.spw.org.uk

rector@spw.org.uk

Sunday 27th December – John, Apostle and Evangelist (Christmas 1)

Today's Services

10.30 am Holy Communion at St John the Baptist, Puttenham

6.00 pm [Virtual Evening Prayer.](#)
[Download Order of Service here.](#)

Today's Readings: 1 John 1 ; John 21.19b-25

Prayer for this week

Merciful Lord,
cast your bright beams of light upon the Church:
that, being enlightened by the teaching
of your blessed apostle and evangelist Saint John,
we may so walk in the light of your truth
that we may at last attain to the light of everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ your incarnate Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FROM THE RECTORY DESK



Dear Friends,

The sudden switch to Tier 4 for most of the United Parish created a problem for availability of ministry support on Christmas Day. Regrettably, we had to cancel the Christmas Day service at Puttenham with only one minister available to take the service at Seale. Since the Eventbrite booking system indicated at the time 17 booked places at Seale and 5 at Puttenham then it made sense to keep the service at Seale. We provided a virtual service at 10:30am as well as the physical church service to enable as many as possible to worship on Christmas day. Having rested the church at Puttenham for 72 hours, we are now able to meet in person there today to celebrate the feast of Saint John the Apostle.

John was one of the inner circle of disciples and may have been the John whom Jesus loved, Polycrates, the second century bishop of Ephesus confidently links him with the beloved disciple and adds that he was a priest, martyr and teacher. The idea of martyrdom however conflicts with the teaching of scripture in that John suffered persecution under the emperor Domitian (who is said to have boiled him in oil) and exile to the island of Patmos but we must not forget that Jesus committed his mother to John's care at the cross, tradition has it that he lived to a grand age looking after her in Ephesus.

The fact that John outlived all the other disciples confirms the prophetic words of Jesus (John 21:20-23) that he would only die after he had seen the eschatological kingdom. On Patmos John saw visions of heaven and of the end times and the restoration of the new Jerusalem.

The bishop of Lyon, the great Irenaeus (C180) claimed John the Evangelist as the author of the gospel that bears his name and the author of the apocryphal book of Revelation. In Christian art his symbology includes a pen and book however the most typical is the mighty Eagle, which marks out the heavenly primacy of his writings. Not surprisingly he is the patron saint of book sellers, printers, and artists to name a few.

With prayers for a safe and healthy New Year,

Rector



THE LATEST TIGHTENING OF RESTRICTIONS UNDER THE TIER 4 BANDING SHOULD ALERT US ALL TO BE MUCH MORE DISCERNING ABOUT WHETHER WE SHOULD PHYSICALLY ATTEND CHURCH OR FOLLOW THE SERVICES ON ZOOM. IF IN DOUBT LEAVE PHYSICAL ATTENDANCE OUT. THE RISK OF

INFECTION IS INCREASING AND WE ADVISE OUR OLDER MEMBERS OF OUR CONGREGATIONS AND THOSE MORE VULNERABLE TO INFECTION TO JOIN US INSTEAD ON ZOOM OR BY TELEPHONE.

We welcome you to any of our church services but please help us to keep you safe if you decide to physically attend by doing the following:

- Sanitise on arrival and departure
- Always wear a mask
- Give your contact details when asked
- Sit in the areas marked with red and white tape as directed by the Churchwardens and stay there until the service ends
- Do not gather in groups before, during or after worship
- Do not gather outside the churches for social conversation
- Do not sing or hum with the music
- When you make your responses do not shout or speak loudly
- Wear warm clothing because doors and windows will be kept open
- Take your service sheet away with you
- Drop your offering in the church plate on departure
- Keep to the maximum of thirty attendance rules

THE CHURCHES OF ST. LAURENCE SEALE AND ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PUTTENHAM ARE OPEN FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE ALTERNATING EACH SUNDAY. SERVICES ARE AT 10:30am. PLEASE NOTE THE TIMES WHEN THE CHURCHES ARE OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER AND FOLLOW ALL THE GUIDELINES: KEEP YOUR DISTANCE AND SANITISE ACCORDING TO THE DIRECTIONS WHEN YOU ARE PRAYING IN ANY OF OUR CHURCHES. PLEASE SIT IN THE MARKED AREAS AND DON'T WANDER AROUND THE CHURCH BUILDING. IF YOU ARE SYMPTOMATIC OR FEEL UNWELL THEN STAY AT HOME. PLEASE DON'T ASSEMBLE IN CROWDS OUTSIDE OF YOUR BUBBLE WHEN VISITING THE CHURCH FOR PRIVATE PRAYER.



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 27th (First Sunday of Christmas, ferial John Apostle and Evangelist)

10:30am HC (CW) in one kind, Saint John the Baptist Church Puttenham

6:30pm EP Virtual Zoom service (Home hosted)

Sunday 3rd January (Second Sunday of Christmas)

10:30am HC (CW) St. Laurence Church Seale

6:00pm EP Virtual Zoom Service (Home hosted)

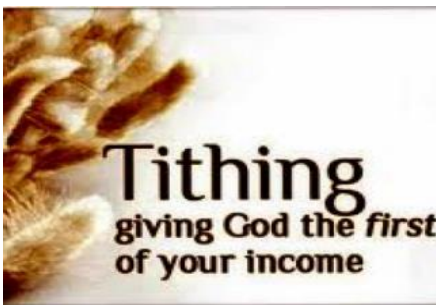
CHURCH OPENING TIMINGS FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

Seale church open every Wednesday 12-3:00pm

Puttenham Church every Wednesday 12-3:00pm

Sands and Wanborough churches open every Tuesday 2 - 4pm and every Saturday 10 am - 12 noon

PARISH GIVING



Covid 19 has reduced our church services but not our parish expenses so we would encourage you to keep your giving at a regular level so that we do not fall into debts. Anything extra you wish to give over and above your existing generosity would be gratefully received and considerably help our church finances.

There are three ways in which you can do this:

1. Send the money electronically to the Seale, Puttenham and Wanborough bank account, which is at Lloyds Bank, Farnham, sort code 30 93 20, account number 02210758 (it would be very helpful if you could add your name as a reference)
2. Send the money by post to Michael Thorpe, Treasurer, Delamere House, Greenacres, Runfold, GU10 1QH
3. Set up a monthly standing order to the above bank account. Michael will supply you with a Gift Aid form for any payments which you are kind enough to make

PARISH GIVING SCHEME

If you would like to change your regular Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) giving please write to: Parish Giving Scheme, 76 Kingsholm Road, Gloucester GL1 3BD
Or email to info@parishgiving.org.uk Or phone 0333 002 1260.

It helps if the PGS reference number, which can be found below your address on PGS correspondence, is quoted. If you would like to start your regular Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), or have any questions about it, please contact Mike Cloughley, our PGS coordinator:

Telephone number: 01252 782304

Email: cloughley@btinternet.com

PASTORAL CARE



Please contact any of the ministry team if you are anxious, lonely or would like a spiritual or social chat.

THE RECTOR: 01252 783057 or Rector@spw.org.uk

REVD. PHILIP ROCHE: 01483 423028

CHRISTOPHER TUCKWELL LLM: 01252 718676

HELEN ROCHE LLM: 01483 423028

MARCUS BATEMAN LLM: 01483 812057