

Parish of Seale, Puttenham & Wanborough

SUNDAY Supplement

www.spw.org.uk

rector@spw.org.uk

Sunday 3rd January – Christmas 2

Today's Services

10.30 am Holy Communion at St Laurence, Seale

6.00 pm [Virtual Compline](#).

[Download Order of Service here](#).

Wednesday 6 January - Feast of the Epiphany

6.00 pm [ZOOM service](#) Acclamation of gifts with lighting of Christingles (please make a Christingle and join us for this Epiphany service of light.)

[Download Order of Service here](#).

Today's Readings:

Morning: John 1,1-18 ; Ephesians 1.3-14

Evening: Isaiah 46.3-13

Prayer for this week

Almighty God,
in the birth of your Son
you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word,
and shown us the fullness of your love:
help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love
that we may know the fullness of his joy;
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,

A great biblical text for the start of a new year is recorded in Hebrews 11:8 “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called.....and he went out, not knowing where he was going” The challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic have shaken the social, financial, religious, communal, cultural and emotional foundations of many people and left them fearing the future. Many people simply do not know where they are going next. Vaccines are offering some hope but the way ahead is still uncertain.



Abraham is a great example of someone who was willing to walk with God into an uncertain future. He stepped out in faith when he was quite old and obeyed God’s call to travel to an unknown place where he would receive an inheritance that would change the world.

Abraham knew that God had called him and given him a promise and that was enough. He was willing to entrust the future to the Lord. One of the greatest obstacles we face in following Christ is fear of the unknown. We long to know in advance the outcome of our obedience and where God is taking us. Yet like Abraham we are only given the assurance that God is with us, he is in control and we must enter the unknown with him. As we stand on the threshold of a New Year, we step out in faith and anticipation that the Lord is with us. The very same Emmanuel no less whose birth we have celebrated over Christmas.

*O Lord God, who has called us, Your servants,
to ventures of which we cannot see the ending,
By paths as yet untrodden,
And through perils unknown,
Give us faith to go out with good courage,*

*Not knowing where to go
But only that Your hand is leading us
And your love is supporting us. Amen*

New Year Blessings,

Rector

REMEMBERING EPIPHANY

Stars cross the sky, wise men journey from pagan lands, earth receives its saviour in a cave. Let there be no one without a gift to offer, no one without gratitude as we celebrate



the salvation of the world, the birthday of the human race. Now it is no longer, "dust you are and to dust you shall return", but, "you are joined to heaven and into heaven you shall be taken up".

Basil the Great (AD 330 - 379)



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 3rd January (Second Sunday of Christmas)

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

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

Wednesday 6th January (Feast of the Epiphany)

6:00 pm ZOOM service, Acclamation of gifts with lighting of Christingles (please make a Christingle and join us for this Epiphany service of light.)

Sunday 10th January (Baptism of Christ)

10:30 am HC (CW) St. John the Baptist Puttenham

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

CHURCH OPENING TIMINGS FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

Seale church open every Wednesday 12-3:00pm

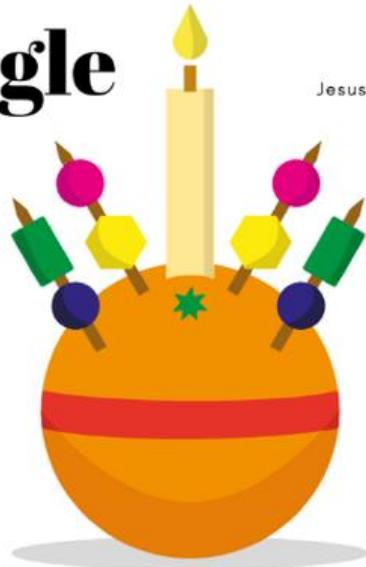
Puttenham Church every Wednesday 12-3:00pm

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

Christingle

ORANGE
the world

RED TAPE
God's love for the world



CANDLE

Jesus - he shows us what God is like

4 COCKTAIL STICKS

4 corners of the world

SWEETS

the good gifts God gives us

There will be a meeting of the SPW PCC by Zoom on 27th January at 6:30pm. Please commit your Church representatives to prayer.



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



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



**THANK YOU FOR CARDS AND GIFTS RECEIVED OVER CHRISTMAS,
YOUR KINDNESS AND THOUGHTS ARE MUCH APPRECIATED. GOD
BLESS YOU**

FROM THE RECTOR AND MINISTRY TEAM