

Parish of Seale, Puttenham & Wanborough

SUNDAY Supplement

www.spw.org.uk

rector@spw.org.uk

Sunday 10th January – Baptism of Christ

Today's Services

10.30 am Holy Communion at St John the Baptist, Puttenham

6.00 pm [Virtual Evening Prayer](#).

Or by phone - dial one of the following:

0203 901 7895 ; 0208 080 6591 ; 0208 080 6592

Meeting ID: 919 1083 2717

[Download Order of Service here](#).

Today's Readings:

Morning: Acts 19.1-7 ; Mark 1.4-11

Evening: Isaiah 42.1-9 ; Ephesians 2.1-10

Prayer for this week

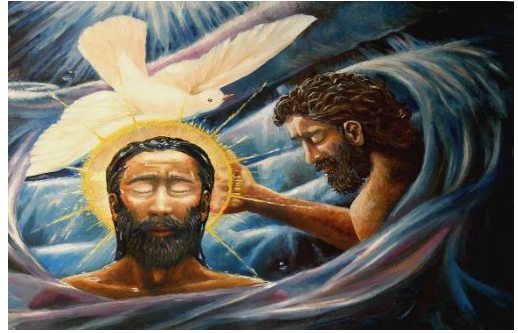
Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FROM THE RECTORY DESK

Dear friends,

The gospel of Mark records the great event of the Baptism of Jesus. Baptism is a beginning an entry point into the Christian faith, one reason why fonts belong at the

entrance of the church. It is important to nurture and educate the baptised in the Christian faith and to worship regularly in the fellowship of the church congregation if that child or adult is to grow as a Christian believer.



Sadly, so many people view baptism as a social get together, a quick splash of water followed by a bigger splash of prosecco.. This approach does nothing for the infant baptised who may never attend church again or only on red letter days. The promises made at Baptism by parents and godparents are too often quickly forgotten and this amounts to spiritual negligence. It is very revealing if not disingenuous when years later parents wish to send their child to a church school and attempt to justify membership of a church on the strength of a baptism and or nominal attendance since.

Many churches compromise on baptism policy preferring to undermine this significant sacrament in favour of being popular or making the church more accessible to a people of limited spiritual commitment. I do not see any evidence of that in the Baptism preaching of John nor do I see Jesus yielding to the prevailing opinions of the crowds by devaluing the rituals of the Torah. Baptism should be taken very seriously, and churches must act more responsibly, biblically, and graciously when administering this outward and visible sign of an inward and invisible grace. A service of thanksgiving for the birth of a child may be more appropriate for those who have little or no intention of fulfilling their baptismal vows.

The united Parish of SPW sends out a card on the anniversary of every baptism that has taken place in the 4 churches including wedding anniversary cards. This vitally important pastoral outreach is carried out

quietly and punctiliously by Philippa Tuckwell and we commend her good work and prayers in this labour of love.

Baptism Blessings

Rector



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



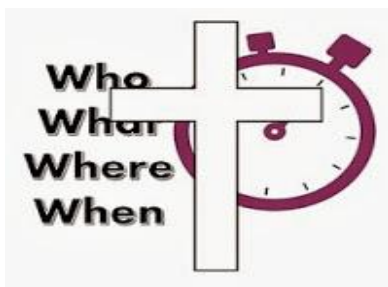
The current lockdown allows the churches to remain open for public worship on Sunday and private prayer on selected days but the regulations surrounding worship remain binding. Anyone thinking of worshipping in person must consider whether it is right to do so based on several factors that include travelling to and from church and one's own vulnerability to infection or the possibility of infecting others. We have put in place rules that will keep you safe, but we ask that you adhere to them and follow the instructions of the Churchwardens. If you have concerns about attending Sunday worship then there is always the virtual service which you can join, using the telephone connections if you do not have a computer.

REMEMBER HELP US TO HELP YOU WHEN ATTENDING CHURCH IN PERSON BY OBSERVING 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 even if tempted to do so you will spread the virus if you are contagious and will not be aware of that if you are asymptomatic.
- 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 10th January (Baptism of Christ)

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

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

Sunday 17th January (Second Sunday after Epiphany)

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

6:00pm Compline by Zoom (Home hosted)

CHURCH OPENING TIMINGS FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

Seale and Puttenham churches every Wednesday 12-3:00pm

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



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 MINISTRY TEAM



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