

*Parish of Seale, Puttenham & Wanborough*

# SUNDAY Supplement

[www.spw.org.uk](http://www.spw.org.uk)

[rector@spw.org.uk](mailto:rector@spw.org.uk)

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February – Lent 2**

## Today's Services

**10.30 am** Holy Communion by Zoom

For all zoom services please use this link: [Church Services](#)

Or by phone - dial one of the following:

0203 901 7895 ; 0208 080 6591 or [Find your local number](#)

Meeting ID: 987 5792 9381 – Passcode 981857

Download Order of Service here:

[Zoom Communion Lent and Holy Week](#)

## Today's Readings:

**Morning:** Romans 4.13-25 ; Mark 8.31-38

## Prayer for this week

Almighty God,  
you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,  
that they may return to the way of righteousness:  
grant to all those who are admitted  
into the fellowship of Christ's religion,  
that they may reject those things  
that are contrary to their profession,  
and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;  
through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
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,

Our Lenten studies began last week with an examination of the mega church at Ephesus as recorded in the book of Revelation. A church set in a cosmopolitan port region where one of the seven wonders of the ancient world was located, a massive temple to the goddess Diana (Artemis). There was also a vast trade centre known as the Agora, multiple temples to Roman Gods including one to the Emperor Domitian, a library and a temple for oracles and divinations of all kinds. Ephesus was a free city and loyal to the Roman Empire it had no garrison with permanent soldiers and enjoyed freedom of movement as well as religious practice though everyone was required to honour the deification of the Emperor by sprinkling incense on the altars situated at the entrance to the Agora. Refusal to make the incense offering meant no trade, no social interaction, no banking, no commerce etc. Ephesus may have been the Las Vegas of its day but it was not good news for the Churches there.



Despite the many challenges the Ephesian Christians faced living in Ephesus, they had been well trained in what was expected of them as a church. Paul taught there for two years plus, Apollos, Priscila and Aquilas, Timothy and now John the Evangelist what a pedigree of great Christian witness. A faith built on such a strong platform of Christian orthodoxy was not easily shaken and, in the letter, sent to the church at Ephesus, Jesus commends them for their soundness of doctrine and steadfastness in mission. They even managed to combat the influences of the gnostic inspired Nicolaitans.

But? And there is always a, “but” Jesus also rebukes the Ephesians for losing their first love, becoming hard hearted in the judgment of others. The Ephesian church was a church under stress and living with the threat of destruction and persecution, they had become over-protective and defensive and that seems to have taken its toll on the way they received newcomers into the church.

Still? And there is always a “still” with Jesus, there was room for repentance and time for the Ephesian Christians to return to the love they once shared with great exuberance and joy in the gospel they proclaimed.

What can we learn from this divine message to the church at Ephesus?

- We are called to be discerning and not compromise on the orthodox teachings of the Christian faith
- We are called to confront heresy and false doctrines with firmness and love

- We are called to pray for one another and support one another as we live out our Christianity in a fallen world.
- We are called to be patient and loving with those who do not always understand why we live our lives as Christian disciples
- We are called to share our faith with respect and grace always following the example of Christ.

We look forward to our next Lent study when Christopher Tuckwell will take us to Smyrna the “Flower of Asia” whose church came under the authority of the saintly bishop Polycarp.

Lenten Blessings,

Rector

### **To the Church in Smyrna (LENT STUDY TEXT)**

<sup>8</sup> “To the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. <sup>9</sup> I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not but are a synagogue of Satan. <sup>10</sup> Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown.

<sup>11</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.



At a recent meeting of the United SPWPCC it was decided by majority vote to close the churches for the foreseeable future until the Covid 19 infection rate has significantly declined. Surrey has one of the highest infection rates in the county of the new strain of the virus. The closure will take affect from Sunday 7th February. Instead, there will

be a Zoom service at 10:30am of Holy Communion. The Opening of all four churches for private prayer remain unchanged. Please follow the usual regulations for attendance.

**CHURCH OPENING TIMINGS FOR PRIVATE PRAYER** Seale and Puttenham churches every Wednesday 12.00 – 3.00 pm Sands and Wanborough churches open every Tuesday 2.00 – 4.00pm and every Saturday 10.00 am - 12 noon



### **28<sup>th</sup> February (The Second Sunday of Lent)**

10:30am HC (CW) Zoom Home Hosted

**2<sup>nd</sup> March 6:00 pm** Lent Studies “Seven Churches of the Apocalypse” Zoom Home Hosted

### **7<sup>th</sup> March (The Third Sunday of Lent)**

10:30am HC (CW) Zoom Home Hosted)



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, account name SPWPCC (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](mailto: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](mailto:cloughley@btinternet.com)

## Lent Appeal 2021



This

year Bishop Andrew is making a Lent Appeal, asking parishes and individuals to make the Bishop of Guildford's Communities Fund the focus of our Lent giving. The Fund provides support to projects which reach out to the most vulnerable and marginalised in the diocese. The Coronavirus pandemic has meant that most fundraising events have been cancelled, so the Fund needs your support more than ever before. Find out more <http://ow.ly/92sY50DAmdA>



Please contact any member 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](mailto:Rector@spw.org.uk)

REVD. PHILIP ROCHE: 01483 423028

CHRISTOPHER TUCKWELL LLM: 01252 718676

HELEN ROCHE LLM: 01483 423028

MARCUS BATEMAN LLM: 01483 812057