

Parish of Seale, Puttenham & Wanborough

SUNDAY Supplement

www.spw.org.uk

rector@spw.org.uk

Sunday 7th March – Lent 3

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: 1 Corinthians 1.18-25 ; John 2.13-22

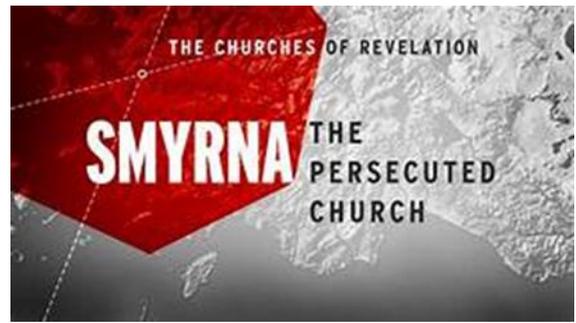
Prayer for this week

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
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,

Christopher provided a comprehensive introduction to the second church in our Lenten Studies last week. The letter



addressed to the congregation at Smyrna was one of commendation and empathy for the suffering and persecution they endured. Not only were the Smyrnaean Christians enduring appalling suffering under the cult of Emperor worship, but they were also being slandered by charlatans who claimed to be Jews and who hated Jesus and all Christians.

Many false accusations were made to the authorities about the Christian community including charges of cannibalism, a clear misunderstanding of the Eucharistic feast. These pernicious antagonists are called by Jesus a synagogue of satan. The consequences of persecution and rejection meant the Christians at Smyrna were unable to work or trade they became extremely poor and struggled to live. Jesus wonderfully affirms these faithful people with the promise that they would be rich in heaven when their reward would vindicate all that they experienced for the sake of Christ in this life.

There is much to take forward from the letter to the church at Smyrna.

- The Christian church will suffer persecution in every age and there are many church communities all over the world today that suffer for their faith in Christ in similar ways to the Christians at Smyrna.
- The persecuted church needs our prayers and support and where possible Christians should lobby their governments to boycott those countries that cause people to suffer because of their religion.
- The Barnabas Fund exists to bring aid and practical help to persecuted Christians who are left impoverished. Please support them and underpin their good work with prayer.
- The futurists believe that persecution of the Christian church will intensify before Christ's return.

Our next Lent Study will be led by Helen who will focus on the Compromising Church at Pergamos. The text is below.

Lenten Blessings,

Rector

To the Church in Pergamum

¹² “To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:

These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. ¹³ I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.

¹⁴ Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. ¹⁵ Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. ¹⁶ Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

¹⁷ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.



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



7th March (The Third Sunday of Lent)

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

9th March 6pm Lent Study Zoom Hosted

14th March (Mothering Sunday, 4th in Lent)

10:30am HC with Blessing of flowers (CW) Zoom 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 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

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.

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