

Parish of Seale, Puttenham & Wanborough

# SUNDAY Supplement

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

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**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December – The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

## Today's Services

- 9.00 am** Holy Communion at St Bartholomew, Wanborough  
**10.30 am** Carol and Gift Service at St John the Baptist, Puttenham  
**10.30 am** Holy Communion at St Laurence, Seale  
**6.00 pm** Virtual Evening Prayer, by Zoom

For all zoom services please use this link: [Church Services](#), then enter Passcode: 2022

Or by phone - dial one of the following: 0203 901 7895 ; 0208 080 6591

Meeting ID: 81259506242 – then enter Passcode 2022, followed by # when asked (you may need to repeat the last step)

Download Order of Service here: [Virtual Evening Prayer](#)

## Today's Readings

- Morning:** HC: Romans 1.1-7 ; Matthew 1.18-25  
MP: Psalm 80.1-8 ; Micah 5.2-5a ; Luke 1.26-38
- Evening:** EP: 1 Samuel 1.1-20 ; Luke 1.39-45

## Prayer for this week

God our redeemer,  
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of your Son:  
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,  
so we may be ready to greet him  
when he comes again as our judge;  
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,

Jan Richardson presents an interesting reflection (Gabriel's Annunciation) for this 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent as we light the candle for LOVE



For a moment  
I hesitated  
on the threshold.  
For the space  
of a breath  
I paused,  
unwilling to disturb  
her last ordinary moment,  
knowing that the next step  
would cleave her life:  
that this day  
would slice her story  
in two,  
dividing all the days before  
from all the ones  
to come.

The artists would later  
depict the scene:  
Mary dazzled  
by the archangel,  
her head bowed  
in humble assent,  
awed by the messenger  
who condescended  
to leave paradise  
to bestow such an honor  
upon a woman, and mortal.

Yet I tell you  
it was I who was dazzled,  
I who found myself agape  
when I came upon her—  
reading, at the loom, in the kitchen,  
I cannot now recall;  
only that the woman before me—  
blessed and full of grace  
long before I called her so—  
shimmered with how completely  
she inhabited herself,

inhabited the space around her,  
inhabited the moment  
that hung between us.

I wanted to save her  
from what I had been sent  
to say.

Yet when the time came,  
when I had stammered  
the invitation  
(history would not record  
the sweat on my brow,  
the pounding of my heart;  
would not note  
that I said

*Do not be afraid*  
to myself as much as  
to her)  
it was she  
who saved me—  
her first deliverance—  
her *Let it be*  
not just declaration  
to the Divine  
but a word of solace,  
of soothing,  
of benediction

for the angel  
in the doorway  
who would hesitate  
one last time—  
just for the space  
of a breath  
torn from his chest—  
before wrenching himself away  
from her radiant consent,  
her beautiful and  
awful *yes*.

Advent Blessings,

Rector

## THANKS, AND APPRECIATIONS

To the Tower Café team for a splendid afternoon tea and for the impromptu carollers: Helen, Phil, Linda accompanied by Geoff on the keyboard. A magnificent welcome back lunch was shared at the Sands church with the new kitchen in working order. Well done and team for organising this most convivial of events. Both events were strongly attended.

*In Our  
Thoughts  
and Prayers*



Brian Tout, recovering in hospital  
Ann Payne, recovering from surgery at home  
Susie Felix, recovering from surgery in respite care  
Marion Thorpe, recovering from surgery  
All our friends in hospital

*Under GDPR rules we need permission to name verbally or in print anyone who is ill and needs our prayers, so please let us know if we can pray for you.*

**STAY  
SAFE!**

**Please feel free to do the following if you are vulnerable or concerned about possible infection in a gathered community:**

- *Continue to use the sanitising gel*
- *Wear a mask if it feels safer to do so*
- *Sit at a sensible distance from others, especially at larger gatherings*



## CHRISTMAS SERVICES in Seale, Puttenham & Wanborough



### Christmas Eve

3.00 pm - Nativity service at St. John the Baptist, Puttenham

4.30 pm - Nativity service at St. Lawrence, Seale

6.00 pm Christmas Reflection, by Zoom

11.30 pm - Midnight Mass at St. John the Baptist, Puttenham,

11.30 pm - Midnight Mass at at St. Lawrence, Seale

### Christmas Day

9.00 am Carol Praise at The Good Shepherd, The Sands

9.00 am - Christmas Communion at St. Bartholomew, Wanborough

10.30 am - Christmas Communion at St. John the Baptist, Puttenham

10.30 am - Christmas Communion at St. Lawrence, Seale



Please contact the Rector if you are unable to attend church and would like communion at Home.

### GIFTING TO THE CHURCH

**BY BANK TRANSFER OR STANDING ORDER:** to the SPWPCC bank account, which is at Lloyds Bank, Farnham, sort code 30 93 20, account number 02210758, (do include your name for reference).

**BY CHEQUE:** Send to the Treasurer, c/o The Rectory, Elstead Road, Seale, Farnham, GU10 1JA. Contact the Churchwardens for Gift Aid forms and increase the value of your giving.

**CONTACTLESS:** now available at Seale, Puttenham and Wanborough.

**ONLINE:** once or monthly [by following this link](#), where you will find a Gift Aid option.

**PARISH GIVING SCHEME** To change your regular Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) donation, please write to: Parish Giving Scheme, 76 Kingsholm Road, Gloucester GL1 3BD, email to [info@parishgiving.org.uk](mailto:info@parishgiving.org.uk) or phone 0333 002 1260. It helps to include the PGS reference number, which can be found below your address on PGS correspondence. If you would like to start a regular PGS donation, or have any questions, please contact Mike Cloughley, our PGS coordinator: Telephone number: 01252 782304 Email: [cloughley@btinternet.com](mailto:cloughley@btinternet.com)



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

REVD. STEPHEN THATCHER - RECTOR: 01252 783057 or [Rector@spw.org.uk](mailto:Rector@spw.org.uk)

REVD. PHILIP ROCHE – ASST. CURATE: 01483 423028

CHRISTOPHER TUCKWELL - LLM: 01252 718676

HELEN ROCHE - LLM: 01483 423028



We take the safety of all our worshippers very seriously and would encourage you to report any kind of abuse that you are concerned about. You can contact our Safeguarding Officer below or contact the Rector directly. All conversations are confidential. Unless required to be shared by statutory law.

SAFEGUARDING AND DBS OFFICER

ANNE CONCANEN: 01483 811017