

DECEMBER 2024

FROM THE RECTORY DESK

Dear Friends,

The days before Christmas are very important in the Church calendar as a time of preparation. They are not meant to be solemn but rather reflective to allow the beautiful prophetic scripture readings to take root in the heart and to inspire the mind with a sense of excited expectancy of the great feast day of the nativity.



Just as children get over excited at the prospect of unwrapping gifts on Christmas day so we can indulge in that experience as we unwrap the precious gift of Jesus. The heart beats fast at the idea that heaven greets us in the birth of Christ. Come and share this Advent time with us and be ready to unwrap the miracle of Bethlehem in the carols, readings, poems and praise that is available to you at any of our 4 churches. Details in this publication and on our church website.

With prayerful Christmas blessings from the Rector. Ministry Team and Churchwardens.

ZOOM CHURCH

Every Sunday at 6.00 pm Virtual Compline

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



DECEMBER SERVICES

Sunday 1 December – The First Sunday of Advent (Purple)

9.00 am Morning Prayer St Bartholomew, Wanborough.

Readings: Isaiah 51.4-11 ; Romans 13.11-14. Hymns: 35, 24, 31.

10.30 am Holy Communion St Laurence, Seale.

Readings: 1 Thessalonians 3.9-13 ; Luke 21.25-36. Hymns: 35, 24, 39, 31.

Sunday 8 December – The Second Sunday of Advent (Purple)

9.00 am Holy Communion The Good Shepherd, The Sands.

Readings: Philippians 1.3-11 ; Luke 3.1-6. Hymns: 34, 26, 516, 58.

10:30 am Morning Prayer St John the Baptist, Puttenham.

Readings: Isaiah 64.1-7 ; Matthew 11.2-11. Hymns: 34, 26, 516.

Sunday 15 November – The Third Sunday of Advent (Purple)

9.00 am Holy Communion St Bartholomew, Wanborough.

Readings Philippians 4.4-7 ; Luke 3.7-18. Hymns: 32, 563, 607, 165.

10:30 am Carols and Readings St Laurence, Seale.

Saturday 21 December

6.00 pm Carols by Candlelight St Bartholomew, Wanborough.

Readings and Carols: see Order of Service

Sunday 22 December – The Fourth Sunday of Advent (Purple)

9.00 am Carols and Readings The Good Shepherd, The Sands.

Readings and Carols: see Order of Service

10:30 am Nine Lessons and Carols St John the Baptist, Puttenham.

Readings and Carols: see Order of Service

Tuesday 24 December – Christmas Eve (White)

3.00 pm Nativity Service St John the Baptist, Puttenham.

4:30 pm Nativity Service St Laurence, Seale.

11:30 pm Midnight Mass St John the Baptist, Puttenham.

Readings: Isaiah 52.7-10 ; John 1.1-14. Hymns: 61, 63, 56, (60), 53.

11:30 pm Midnight Mass St Laurence, Seale.

Readings: Isaiah 52.7-10 ; John 1.1-14. Hymns: 61, 63, 56, (60), 53.

Wednesday 24 December – Christmas Day (White)

10:30 am Christmas Service St John the Baptist, Puttenham.

Readings and Carols: see Order of Service

10:30 am Christmas Service St Laurence, Seale.

Readings and Carols: see Order of Service

DIARY FOR THE MONTH

Tue 3 Dec	12.00 – 2.00 pm	Shepherd's Rest Café at The Good Shepherd, The Sands.
Wed 4 Dec	2.00 pm	Pilgrim Hub at The Good Shepherd, The Sands.
Tue 10 Dec	12.00 – 2.00 pm	Shepherd's Rest Café at The Good Shepherd, The Sands.
Wed 11 Dec	11.00 am	Fiona Lorimer funeral at St Laurence, Seale
	2.00 – 4.30 pm	Tower Café (with Carols) at St John the Baptist, Puttenham.
Mon 16 Dec	2.00 pm	Carol Singing at Puttenham Hill care home.
Tue 17 Dec	12.30 – 2.00 pm	Shepherd's Rest Café at The Good Shepherd, The Sands. <i>(café closed 24 & 31 Dec, re-opens 7 Jan)</i>
Wed 18 Dec	11.00 am	Pastoral Hub at The Good Shepherd, The Sands.
Thu 19 Dec	2.00 pm	Carol Singing at Springfield Manor care home.

STEWARDSHIP AND GIVING

We rely on the generosity of our worshippers, regular members and visitors to fund the costs of quota, maintaining the buildings and running costs and fulfilling our mission to the churches in the parish.

It costs about £8,000 per month to keep our churches in good order and open for regular services. Apart from rental income from Glebe Cottage, we receive no financial support for operational costs other than what you give. Our giving is always a response to God's unfailing generosity and grace and to the needs of the church.



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 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 793639 Email: cloughley@btinternet.com



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

THE RECTOR: 01252 783057 or Rector@spw.org.uk

PASTORAL TEAM: Linda Thatcher & Kathleen Smith



SAFEGUARDING AND DBS OFFICER

ANNE CONCANEN: 01483 811017

You can contact Anne confidentially if you have any safeguarding concerns.