

Issue No 63 Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2018

## Services & events this week

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> Tea & Natter 2.30 pm Charlton  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion 9.30 am HBT  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion 10 am Tangley  
Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> Compline 9.15 pm Charlton

## Services & events next week

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March – Palm Sunday  
9 am Holy Communion Charlton  
10 am All age Worship with Informal Communion – Penton  
10 am Holy Communion Smannell  
10 am Morning Praise Hatherden  
10.30 Village Service Weyhill  
6.30 pm Encounters Charlton  
See Easter poster within church for all Holy Week events.

## Readings This Week

Jer 31 31 – 34      Ps 51 1 – 13  
Heb 5 5 – 10      John 12 20 - 33

## Next Week

Isa 50 4 – 9a      Ps 31 9 – 16  
Phil 2 5 – 11      Mark 14 1 – 15 end.

## In your Prayers please pray for.....

All those who are ill at the present time and receiving treatment.

Our clergy, lay ministers, the PCC's and all our various prayer and house groups across the benefice.

The families and workers who have been affected by the incident in Salisbury.

## Pastrow & Community Diary Dates

**Retreat Day 2018** – Reflection on John's Gospel.  
Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March The Old Dairy Hatherden Tickets £5 to book call Jude on 07999 352585.

**Church Growth** - Lent Course from Sat 10<sup>th</sup> March  
10 am The Rectory Enham please call Revd Val for details 01264 748065

**Tough Questions of Faith** – Lent Course The Rectory Penton 7.30 pm 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

**Buildings Manager** required at St Thomas Charlton  
Please contact Terry Milne on 01264 391504 or [terrymilne62@gmail.com](mailto:terrymilne62@gmail.com) for further details.

## Words of Encouragement

By Alan Evans

*Don't worry – I am with you. Don't be afraid – I am your God. I will make you strong. I will help you. I will support you with my right hand that brings victory. (Isaiah 41:10)*

The world can be a scary place, take the incident with nerve agent in Salisbury recently or the increasing number of apparently random knife or acid attacks or theft of mobile phones by people on mopeds in London. It can seem like nowhere is safe and we become afraid to go about our normal daily lives.

And fear – whatever form it takes – has this way of shaking us to our core. God knows that and that's not how He wants us to live. So time and time again in His Word, He says to His people: "*Do not be afraid!*", almost always just at the time when the people He's talking to have every reason to be afraid.

God spoke the words above to Israel when He was about to set them free after seventy years, three generations, of slavery in Babylon. It sounds great, but the way He planned to do that was through King Cyrus of Persia waging war on the Babylonians and winning. The Israelites were petrified - as powerless slaves, they couldn't even remember what freedom tasted like, let alone dare to hope they could become free. All they could see was that there was a dangerous war brewing, a war in which they could well end up as "collateral damage".

That's human nature, we get in a fearful place and can't see how things can work out well for us. So if you're shaken to the core by fear and you need to hear God speak to you, remember what He said to those Israelites in Isaiah 41:10 and take hold of His promise to help them, support them and bring them through their fear.

## Notes from Pastrow Admin

Call with any of your events. Jude 07999 352585