

The shop-owners of Dorking are facing a hard time with a future that no longer looks certain. Families and their children—and the schools that those children attend—are facing a future that just ‘was not meant to be like this’... just as Jesus’ early followers found themselves slowly realising that they too faced a future that wasn’t meant to be like this... it wasn’t what they were expecting.

There is so much that I could write here, but I have already exceeded my usual wordcount. However, I will leave you with this thought: Jesus’ early followers had not always, or even often, understood what exactly was going on; but they had grasped the fact that Jesus had the power to ‘show them the Father’... to show them a better way of being... ‘in this world’...

Can we, in the midst of our uncertainties and hard times ahead, perhaps take this opportunity to consider the possibility that Jesus has the power to show us—here and now—a better way of being... ‘in this world’?

Every blessing,
Derek.

Collect, Special Prayer for today

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father.

New Testament Reading

Acts 7.55-60

NT Pg: 134

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ‘Look,’ he said, ‘I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!’ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’ When he had said this, he died.

New Testament Reading

1 Peter 2:2-10

NT Pg: 250

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: ‘See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.’ To

you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner’, and ‘A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.’ They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Gospel Reading

John 14:1-14

NT Pg: 116

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’

Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father”? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.’

News

Coronavirus - Pastoral Care. If anyone is housebound, for any reason, and especially at this time, the pastoral team can always be contacted and will be pleased to offer assistance in getting any essentials such as food or medicines. Please either call the Church Office on 01306 884229 or for direct support from the Pastoral Team email: smartinspastoral@gmail.com

Message from Citizens Advice Mole Valley, Dorking Office. As face to face services have been suspended until further notice, information and advice can be obtained as follows: by visiting www.citizensadvice.org.uk; emailing dorking@camv.org.uk; telephoning 03 444 111 444 (Advice Line) Mon-Fri 9am-5pm or 01306 732 302 (Dorking Office) Mon-Thurs 10am-4pm, Fri 10am-1pm.

Traidcraft. Please contact Elizabeth Dobson direct on 881479 if you would like items delivered locally.

Dorking Foodbank is operating at the usual times ([CLICK HERE](#) for these) from the Christian Centre. Demand remains high but thank you for the very generous response to recent appeals which has enabled stocks to be somewhat rebuilt. Donation points in supermarkets remain in place even though the one in the Centre is not available in the current lockdown. The most critical donations we need this week are: Tinned meat, tinned veg, shower gel, and tinned pulses.

St Martin's Magazine. The May edition of our parish magazine is now available on our website. [CLICK HERE](#) to read. If you or someone you know cannot access this please contact Peter Bunn on 889008.

News and Notices for the next issue of the Weekly News Sheet need to be with the Church Office by the close of business on Wednesday. Please email smartinsdorkingchurchoffice@gmail.com or call 884229. The Church Office is closed. However, Vicki and Michelle can still be contacted by email or telephone.

Please remember in your prayers: Pamela Kerslake, Betty and Brian Smith, Paul Berning, Mike Kendrick.

And those who have recently died: Brian Carr, Dorothy Rowe (on 5th April), Jacqueline Lloyd.

Those in our congregation who have long term concerns are prayed for regularly.

Being corporate at a distance. In these unprecedented times we are fortunate that there is a wealth of resources in different media available to enable us to be corporate even when not co-located! Whether you have a basic radio or the latest smartphone, there is something for you:

Our Sunday Service on our "Spire of Dorking" YouTube Channel Available from 11am on Sunday. Click on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuzOsRDiIRJE8Y3Zjr3fj0g>

St Barnabas Sunday Service via Zoom & YouTube There will be a live Holy Communion service using Zoom technology at 11am on Sunday. If you would like to be invited to participate, please email Revd Mike Stewart (carolandmikestewart@outlook.com) by latest Saturday morning. Alternatively, go to "The Revd Mike Stewart" YouTube channel ([CLICK HERE](#)) later on Sunday where Mike hopes to make available a video of the service.

Bishop Jo's Sunday Sermon Click on this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_IHuHnHI30&feature=youtu.be

Your 9am Daily Prayer Click on this link: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer> Scroll down and click on the green Morning Prayer box.

Radio Choral Evensong on BBC Radio 3 on Wednesday at 3.30pm, with a repeat on Sunday at 3pm. **Sunday Worship** on BBC Radio 4 at 8.10am.

TV Sunday Worship on BBC One at 10.45am. **Songs of Praise** on BBC One at 1.15pm.

st martin's DORKING

WITH ST. MARY'S PIXHAM

Sunday 10th May
Easter 5

Message From Derek

I promised when I wrote last week to endeavour this week to come up with a different opening to this week's piece: So, Hello from the Vicarage garden... its just after 6am and I have let the ducks out and given them some breakfast; now I'm sat in the garden with a mug of tea and I have been gazing at the beautiful clear blue sky. One of the most striking features—to me, at least, as an aviation enthusiast—is the total absence of aircraft above me in that sky. A constant feature of life here for me has been looking up into the morning skies and seeing the continual flow of long-haul aircraft whose holding patterns, as they await clearance to land, brings them almost directly over Dorking (it feels like directly over the Vicarage) before they peel off from that pattern and head off to one of Heathrow's two runways. A feature of later in the day has been the unmistakable sound of aircraft taking off from Gatwick.

Now? All that has changed. With the vastly reduced air traffic, the relatively few incoming long-haul aircraft do not need to wait in holding patterns over Dorking. I'm now aware of only the occasional aircraft departing from Gatwick. My point is that this aspect of my daily life, along with so many other things, has changed dramatically and unexpectedly. And, like for so many others, there has been for me a slow dawning of the reality that this isn't just going to be cleared up by some miraculous natural or man-made 'silver bullet' ... this isn't going to pan out the way that we imagined at the outset. And that feeling, for me at least, chimes with the sense that I get from this weekend's readings.

The readers of Peter's letters leave their previous identities behind like... well, new-born children in their new family... all, I suspect, with an expectation that their 'silver bullet' for the ills that were then besetting the world (i.e. Jesus) would be quickly (i.e. in their lifetimes) returning to gather them up into heaven, into the new kingdom. But, at this point, the realisation is dawning upon them that this is not the way that it is going to be. They are realising that they are going to have to learn to live with the problems of their world situation for considerably longer than they either expected or hoped for. Is any of this sounding familiar to you?

Those people were facing hard times. And I know people that are facing hard times right now. Very dear friends of mine work for Virgin Atlantic. As I write this it is less than 24 hours since the announcement of some 3000 job losses at Virgin Atlantic and the closure of their operation at Gatwick; and this on the back of last weeks announcement of 12000 job losses at BA, and the distinct possibility that BA will also not return to Gatwick. These people are facing hard times.

