

## Opened up to go!

So now the authorities want to get rid of Paul and Silas. But Paul demands an apology because they are Roman citizens. He was prepared to use his privileged background in the service of the Gospel to give some protection to those that were left behind. Then they did leave but a group of Christian believers had stayed behind and so, it seems, had Luke. They didn't have an easy time of it but the door that the Lord had opened was not to be closed. (For further reading read Paul's letter to the Philippians when once more he is locked up).

## Collect

Almighty God,  
send down upon your Church  
the riches of your Spirit,  
and kindle in all who minister the gospel  
your countless gifts of grace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## New Testament Reading

**Acts 16. 19-end. NT Pg: 145**

But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market-place before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, 'These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.' The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, 'Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.' The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' They answered, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.' They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God. When morning came, the magistrates sent the police, saying, 'Let those men go.' And the jailer reported the message to Paul, saying, 'The magistrates sent word to let you go; therefore come out now and go in peace.' But Paul replied, 'They have beaten us in public, uncondemned, men who are Roman citizens, and have thrown us into prison; and now are they going to discharge us in secret?

Certainly not! Let them come and take us out themselves.' The police reported these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Roman citizens; so they came and apologized to them. And they took them out and asked them to leave the city. After leaving the prison they went to Lydia's home; and when they had seen and encouraged the brothers and sisters there, they departed.

## Gospel Reading

**Matthew 13. 1-9, 18-23 NT Pg: 14**

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen! Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

## News

**The July issue of the St Martin's Parish Magazine is now available online.** If you, or someone you know cannot access this please contact Peter Bunn on 889008 <https://stmartinsdorking.org/magazine>

**Church Open for Private Prayer – Monday and Thursday mornings.** We have deliberately divided each morning into two slots with two people helping for each of 9.30am to 10.30am and 10.30am to 11.30am. Please email the Church Office or leave a phone message on 884229 if you are able to help. Briefing guidance will be given and you of course will be at least 2m distanced from visitors at all time, and more than that for most of it.

**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 [stmartinsdorkingpastoral@gmail.com](mailto:stmartinsdorkingpastoral@gmail.com).

As you know the magazine is available on the **St Martin's Church web site**. If you know anyone who is unable to access the magazine and would like a copy, please let us know and we can print them a copy in the church office. You can however print a copy yourself by downloading the pdf file to your computer and selecting booklet from your printer menu. It prints half size and looks very good and only uses six A4 sheets of paper. If you have any thoughts, stories, photographs or articles that can be included in the August Mag please let us know. It can be any format, computer file or handwritten. Christine Francis.

**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. 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: Pasta Sauce, Tinned Veg, Biscuits and Boxes of Cereal.

**News and Notices for the next issue** of the Weekly News Sheet need to be submitted by the close of business on Wednesday. Please email [smartinsdorkingchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:smartinsdorkingchurchoffice@gmail.com) or call 884229. The Church Office is closed. However, Vicki and Michelle can still be contacted by email or by leaving a telephone message which are picked up regularly.

**Please remember in your prayers:** Paul Berning, Pamela Kerslake, John Sutherland, Rosie Pegram, Renate MacLennan.



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** will be available from 10am. Click on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuzOsRDiRJE8Y3Zjr3fj0g>

**St Barnabas "Live" Sunday Service** of Holy Communion via Zoom at 10.45am for 11am. The Preacher will be the Revd Mike Stewart, who will also officiate. If you would like a Zoom invitation, please email [carolandmikestewart@outlook.com](mailto:carolandmikestewart@outlook.com). If you can't join live, a recording of the Service will be available to watch on Rev'd Mike Stewart's YouTube channel. (Services are on 1st, 2nd and 4th Sunday).

**Bishop Jo's Sunday Sermon** is available on the Diocese of Guildford's [website](#).

**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 11.45am. **Songs of Praise** on BBC One at 1.15pm.

# st martin's DORKING

WITH ST. MARY'S PIXHAM

**Sunday 12th July**  
**Trinity 5**

## Reflection from David Cowan

**Back to lockdown! (Acts 16 v 19-40)**

**Locked up!**

Just imagine how the people of Leicester are feeling seeing most of the rest of us enjoy some freedom and they are locked up again. In our reading from Acts 16 last week we looked at the way that the Lord opened the door to Europe, opened the door of Lydia's heart and opened the door for all the evil in the slave girl's life to be taken out in the name of the Lord Jesus. But of course, that meant the slave owners lost their ill gotten gains of income through the same exit door. Not surprisingly they were going to fight back. It can be the same with us. If we are making an impact, we must expect that the response we get from some will not be friendly. Paul and Silas were treated atrociously and harshly imprisoned on trumped up charges. How easy it is for a collection of individuals to be badly misled when they are in a crowd and sadly how often the authorities fail to protect those spreading the Gospel; just like Paul and Silas did and just like that happens so often in so many countries today, and even at times in our own.

Imagine how it felt for Paul and Silas locked away with their feet in stocks. How easy for them to start playing the blame game! Instead we see them testifying to their faith in Christ in the middle of the night, in prayer and in song. And then comes that miraculous opening of the jail and their stocks because no lockdown is immune to the Lord's intervention. But then look at a door that was even more miraculously opened, the door to the jailer's heart!

**The jail and the jailer opened up!**

Just imagine how this poor man felt. All of a sudden in the middle of the night the bottom had dropped out of his world, the game was up, and he might as well take his own life before it was taken from him. But then he listens to Paul as we should. They were all still there. Such was the effect these two had had on their fellow prisoners. And then the man asks the most important question any of us can ever ask, "What must I do to be saved?". We can't be sure how deep his question was, but it seems he knew that they had the answer, and what an answer it was! Quite simply they pointed this man to put his trust in the Lord Jesus. In no time at all he was understanding the Good News of Jesus and so were his family and we see his behaviour totally changed. No longer fastening these men in the stocks but now washing their wounds and feeding them. Once we belong to Christ, He challenges us to change radically!