

to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

### **New Testament Reading** **1 Thessalonians 5. 16-24**

My brothers and sisters, Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

### **Gospel Reading** **John 1. 6-8, 19-28**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

## **News**

**Many thanks to everyone involved in decorating the church for Christmas.** It looks really beautiful! Do pop in to have a look, the church is open Wednesday from 9.30-12pm and on Saturday from 9.30-3pm. We are also opening on Christmas Eve from 12-4pm. Veronica.

**Christmas Cards.** As we are not able to put out boxes for Christmas cards at the back of church this year, if you would like to send just one small card to everyone, there will be a Christmas card 'tree' at the back of church. If you cannot get to church to do this, please send your cards to me at 5 Priory Close, RH4 3BG, and I will peg your card on the tree. Thank you, Veronica Watts.

**Christmas Day Family Communion.** If you are planning to join us on Christmas Morning at church please send an e-mail providing your name(s), numbers and indicate whether you are in 1 family bubble or more, thank you. E-mail: [stmartinsdorkingattendance@btinternet.com](mailto:stmartinsdorkingattendance@btinternet.com)

**Boxing Day at the Christian Centre.** We will be hosting an afternoon's entertainment, 12.30 to 3pm on Saturday 26th December: a light lunch (soup, cheese and pudding) followed by some games and finishing with tea and cake. All welcome (as far as capacity allows) but pre-booking is required. Please contact the Centre Manager on 01306 886830 or e-mail [centremanager@dorkingchristiancentre.org.uk](mailto:centremanager@dorkingchristiancentre.org.uk) by Friday 18th December latest.

**St Barnabas Services.** On Sunday 13th December there will be a live Holy Communion Service, also available to view via Rev'd Mike Stewart's YouTube channel. There will be a Service of 9 Lessons & Carols at 11am on Sunday 20th December (sung by the Whyte Effect Choir).

**Lord's Taverners Virtual Carol Concert:** Monday 14th December @ 6.30pm. To register to watch this free event use this link: <https://www.lordstaverners.org/events/online-events/virtual-carol-concert-with-the-stars-2020/>

**Online Christmas Carols with the National Churches Trust:** Wednesday 16th December at 7.30pm. A programme of uplifting seasonal favourites sung by St Paul's Knightsbridge acclaimed choir. Tickets by donation via Eventbrite. Here is a link to the booking page - [Tickets](#)

**The December magazine** is now available in church. If any of the distributors would like their bundle to be delivered to them please ring Christine Francis 889617.

**Dorking Foodbank** is operating at the usual times ([CLICK HERE](#) for these) from the Christian Centre. Donation points in supermarkets remain in place, and the centre one is positioned in the foyer and can be accessed at the times listed above in the Christian Centre update. This week we particularly need: Christmas Puddings, Christmas Cakes, Jars of Instant coffee, Washing-Up Liquid and 500g Bags of Pasta.

**Samples of the Traidcraft Christmas** card range are available to browse when St Martin's is open for private prayer, along with copies of the Christmas catalogue; or go to [www.traidcraftshop.co.uk](http://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk). I am happy to take orders, and to deliver within Dorking. Elizabeth Dobson (881479, [emddh7@hotmail.com](mailto:emddh7@hotmail.com)).

**Park for Free after Three.** Until 29 Jan 2021 MVDC with Dorking Town Partnership will offer free parking every Friday from 3pm in St Martin's Walk, Wathen Road, Southside and West Street car parks. Also there will be **FREE PARKING all day on weekends in December!**

**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. Messages are picked up regularly.

**Please remember in your prayers:** Brian Smith, Louise Dorrington, Allan Tighe, Angela Cole, Barry and Rosie Pegram, Rowan Nunnerley, Judy Palmer, Renate MacLennan, Steve Taggart, Paul Berning.



**Please pray for those who have recently died:** Kathleen Rosling, Alma Morris, June Arther, Pamela Kerslake, Steve Lane-Allman, Joy Folkard, Stuart Ryland, Betty Smith, Peter Cole.

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

**Churches Together in Dorking Prayers.** Members of CTD all pray for one church, community, congregation or initiative each week. This week we are praying for St Martin's Shared Church Anglican.

**The December edition of the Diocesan Calendar of Prayer** is now available at <https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/about/christian-calendar/calendar-of-prayer>. This month we are praying for parishes in the deaneries of Farnham and Godalming.

**Being corporate at a distance.** Whether you have a basic radio or the latest smartphone, there is something for you:

**Our Sunday Service** will be available to view via this link on our "Spire of Dorking" YouTube Channel from 10am. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuzOsRDdiRJE8Y3Zjr3fj0g>

**Bishop Andrew's Sunday Sermon** - is available at 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.

**BBC Radio 3 Choral Evensong.** Wednesday 3.30pm or Sunday at 3pm.

**Sunday Worship** on BBC Radio 4 at 8.10am.

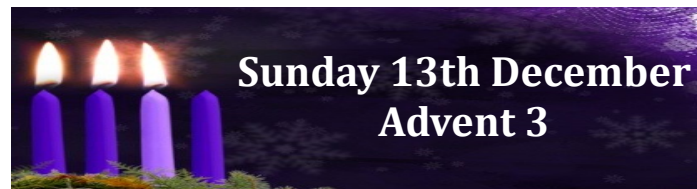
**TV: Sunday Worship** on BBC One at 11.45am.

**Songs of Praise:** on BBC One at 1.15pm.

**Church of England Daily Hope.** **Free** phone line with hymns, reflections and prayers: 0800 804 8044.

# st martin's DORKING

WITH ST. MARY'S PIXHAM



Well, the old song states that "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas..." but not Christmas as we know it - thank you very much Covid-19! No matter... we simply cannot offer our usual variety of services, as you will see below... but we will, nevertheless, adore the Christ Child at Christmas... we will celebrate God's coming into his world to be our Saviour. God bless, Derek.

## *Live Services at St Martin's*

**Sunday 13th @ 10am** Eucharist for Advent 3

**Sunday 20th @ 10am** Eucharist for Advent 4

**Friday 25th @ 10am** Family Communion for Christmas morning

**Sunday 27th @ 10am** Celtic Morning Prayer

## *Online Services (pre-recorded)*

**Sunday 13th** Eucharist for Advent 3

**Sunday 20th** Eucharist for Advent 4

**Thursday 24th** Midnight Mass

## *Private Prayer at St Martin's*

**The church is open to view the Christmas decorations and for Private Prayer on Wednesday 9.30-12pm, Saturday 9.30-3pm and Christmas Eve 12-4pm.**

## *St Mary's Pixham*

**Sunday 13th @ 10.30am** Morning Prayer

**Sunday 20th @ 10.30am** Christmas Pixham Praise

## **Collect**

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

## **Old Testament Reading**

### **Isaiah 61. 1-4, 8-11**

The servant of the Lord said: The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion –