

piece on just this topic, and I would heartily recommend it to you. I will get it put on the St Martin's website to make it easier for you to find.

In the meanwhile, the sun is shining... some social interaction is now permissible. Please forgive me if I sign off now in favour of that sunshine. Please stay safe.

With every blessing,

Derek.

Collect, Special Prayer for today

Risen Christ,
by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples:
help your Church to obey your command
and draw the nations to the fire of your love,
to the glory of God the Father.

New Testament Reading

Acts 17.22-31

NT Pg: 147

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we too are his offspring."

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'

New Testament Reading

1 Peter 3:13-22

NT Pg: 251

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when

you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Gospel Reading

John 14:15-21

NT Pg: 117

'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. 'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

News

Eco Church (message from Judy Peace). Our eco warriors are very happy to report that we have achieved our bronze award at St Martin's. (We are still trying to work out how to assess St Mary's at present.) We will be sent a certificate in due course which will be displayed on church porch noticeboard for everyone to see when the church is open again. This has been a joint venture and thank you to all who have helped in this. We are now hoping to work towards a silver award. If you would like more information about this award, please contact me on 883002.

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.

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.

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

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: single adult toothbrushes, shampoo, tinned meat, packs of muesli bars, pasta sauce, packs of four toilet rolls.

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, Paul Berning, Mike Kendrick.

And those who have recently died: Brian Carr, Jacqueline Lloyd, Richard Watson Williams (Curate at St Martin's 1959-63).



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/UCuzOsRDjIRJE8Y3Zjr3fj0g>

St Barnabas Sunday Service via Zoom & YouTube There will be no service this Sunday but the service on "Spire of Dorking" will be taken from the Book of Common Prayer and gently focused on St Barnabas.

Bishop Andrew's Sunday Sermon Click on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4GTYPpMkqyQ>

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.

Live Stream Event St Paul's Dorking are streaming Sunday services live via their website.

st martin's DORKING

WITH ST. MARY'S PIXHAM

Sunday 17th May
Easter 6

Message From Derek

With apologies, I have reverted to my tediously familiar, "Hello from the Vicarage Study" ... perhaps next week the muse will flutter this way and perch on my shoulder awhile!

You may recall that, Last week, there was this real feeling in the air of, "This isn't how it was meant to be." This week our readings, particularly the report of Paul's verbal dust-up with the Athenians, suggest an overturning of things... especially of the cosy ways of the past. They suggest a need to revisit much that is important in our lives... things to do with the way that we live our lives. Once again, I find this to be a strand running in complete parallel with our current situation.

We have, just this week, seen a slight relaxation in this country in the approach to 'lockdown'... and, no, I am still no more comfortable now with that description than I was back in March... hey ho. But, as we contemplate the beginnings of just a little more personal freedom, in the face of a virus that could easily still get out of hand, we too are beginning to be directed to consider just how might those things in our lives that we have for so long taken for granted need to change.

I would suggest that this very same thinking ought to be applied to our approach to faith and religious life... to examine the balance of our faith life... to grow our faith and not just to be content with things as they have always been. With the need to reach people by electronic means, things have already begun to change, and those things that have changed should not, after this is all over, revert to the way that they used to be.

For those already possessing a faith there has had to be a greater reliance on doing the work of theological reflection for oneself—this is a good thing!

For those who are 'searching' there is now such an abundance of worship and teaching—with great variety—available online!

I think that there is also a growing sense of just what we can actually achieve... when we have to. As an example of this I would say that seven weeks ago, I had no idea that I would have to become a competent editor of video and video post-production.

Now is the time, I believe, to embrace the opportunities being presented to us as a by-product of the strategies necessary to fight the spread of this awful virus. To trot out the old saying, "Every cloud has a silver lining" seems extraordinarily crass in the light of the death and suffering that this pandemic is causing. Nevertheless, there are positives coming out of the situation in which we find ourselves. I don't have space here to go into this. However, Pete Greig, of the 24-7 Prayer Movement has written an excellent