

Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you, David, that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

New Testament Reading **Romans 16. 25-27**

To God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith – to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever!

Gospel Reading **Luke 1. 26-38**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

“Christmas at Meadowbank” & “Nine Lessons and Carols”. Sadly, as a result of the move to Tier 3 regulations on Saturday morning, Mole Valley District Council have confirmed that we cannot go ahead with this 'Churches Together in Dorking' Carols Service at the stadium this Sunday. This is hugely disappointing to be honest; but let's not forget that God is in control and still on His throne and we trust in Him. However, St Paul's will, instead, livestream from church at 5pm (shown again at 7pm). Everyone is very welcome to join from other churches, for songs and bible readings, contemporary and traditional.

[5pm Service](https://youtu.be/xLYsTKgbo6w) (<https://youtu.be/xLYsTKgbo6w>)

[7pm Service](https://youtu.be/ak5tqChibtQ) (<https://youtu.be/ak5tqChibtQ>)

It may be that your worship style draws you to a more traditional format and - again, sadly - we at St Martin's have determined that we do not currently have the resources to mount such a service in a fully Covid-compliant way, and that does justice to the canon. So you might like to know that the Whyte effect Choir will be singing a service of Nine Lessons and Carols up on Ranmore Common, at St Barnabas' Church on Sunday at 11am. This service is open to anyone and everyone; but, due to Covid-19 restrictions, attendance capacity has to be greatly reduced. If you would like to attend, please let the Revd. Mike Stewart know ASAP on 01306 884153 or email carolandmikestewart@outlook.com It will help immensely if you can arrive early to be registered and seated. Parking may be tricky owing to the muddy conditions, so please take care! And, if you can't make it, not to worry... Mike's intention is to record the service and to put it on his personal YouTube channel after the event.

Boxing Day Social at the Christian Centre - sadly under new Tier 3 restrictions, the Centre will probably have to cancel this event. Anyone who has signed up will be contacted in the next few days. Elizabeth.

Christmas Decorations. Pop into church to have a look at the beautiful decorations, on either Wednesday from 9.30-12pm or Saturday from 9.30-3pm. We are also opening on Christmas Eve 12-4pm. Veronica.

Christmas Day Family Communion at St Martin's. 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

Christmas Day at St Barnabas. There will be a service of BCP Holy Communion at **10am** (please note the earlier time). Members of the Whyte Effect Choir will also be joining us to sing parts of the Communion Setting (Byrd Mass in 4 Parts) as well as an Introit, an Anthem and, of course, the Hymns. You are most welcome to come to this service, do please let the Revd. Mike Stewart know as soon as possible (on 01306 884153 or email at carolandmikestewart@outlook.com).

There will be a service of Celtic Morning Prayer on Sunday 27th December at 10am at St Martins. A short reflective service using a Celtic liturgy. If you are thinking of coming and would like to sing as part of a choir, please let me know, Elizabeth 881479. (emddh7@hotmail.com).

Christmas Cards. As we are not able to put out Christmas card boxes 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 me your cards - 5 Priory Close, RH4 3BG. I will peg your card on the tree, Veronica.

Traidcraft. I am happy to take orders and deliver in Dorking. Elizabeth - 881479, emddh7@hotmail.com

Dorking Foodbank: This week we particularly need: Bottles of Squash, Tinned Vegetables (carrots, peas and sweetcorn), Tinned meat meals, 500g Bags of Dried Pasta and Single adult toothbrushes.

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 or call 884229. Messages are picked up 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 Church Methodist and Christian Centre.

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

Please pray for those who have recently died: Alma Morris, June Arther, Pamela Kerslake, Stuart Ryland, Betty Smith.



Betty Smith's Funeral will be held at St Martin's Church on Thursday 7th January at 11am.

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

Being corporate at a distance. Whether you have a radio or the latest smartphone, find 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 Jo's Sunday Sermon- "The Ordinary and the Extraordinary" available here: [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 and **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.

Sunday 20th December Advent 4

Today there is on only room for sixty words... that's not a lot to work with. But, on this 4th Sunday of advent, these spring to mind: Ave Maria, gratia plena... Hail Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Every blessing, Derek.

Live Services at St Martin's

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 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 20th @ 10.30am Christmas Pixham Praise
Friday 25th @ 10am Christmas Day Family Communion

Collect

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Old Testament Reading 2 Samuel 7. 1-11, 16

Now when David, the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.' But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle.