

There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. Then the Lord God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, 'It would be better for me to die than to live.' But God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?' 'It is,' he said. 'And I'm so angry I wish I were dead.' But the Lord said, 'You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left – and also many animals?'

## Second Reading Philippians 1.21-30

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labour for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me. Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved – and that by God. For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

## Gospel Reading Matthew 20.1-16

'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. 'About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the market-place doing nothing. He told them, "You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. 'He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, "Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?"

"Because no one has hired us," they answered. 'He said to them, "You also go and work in my vineyard." 'When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first." 'The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. "These who were hired last worked only one hour," they said, "and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day." 'But he answered one of them, "I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?" 'So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

## News

**St Mary's Pixham intends to reopen** with a Harvest Service on Sunday 27th September. A maximum of 15 people can be seated with social distancing and face coverings will be required. Harvest gifts will be welcomed for distribution to needy families. Please pray for God's protection and guidance as to how we should continue meeting.

**The September issue of our magazine** is available at the back of church, please ask for a copy: it is also available on our website. If you know anyone who is unable to access the previous issues and would like a copy, please let us know and we can print them at the church office. If you have any thoughts, stories, photographs or articles that can be included in the mag please let us know in any format, Christine Francis.

**Face coverings in a place of worship.** As the wearing of face coverings in church became enforceable by law from 8th August, please comply with this regulation; it is for everyone's protection. Thank you .

**Private Prayer** – Monday and Thursday mornings. 9.30am to 10.30am and 10.30am to 11.30am. Please email the Church Office or leave a 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.

**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 884229, or for direct support from the Pastoral Team email [smartinsdorkingpastoral@gmail.com](mailto:smartinsdorkingpastoral@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. Donation points in supermarkets remain in place, and the centre one is positioned in the foyer. This week we particularly need: Tinned Vegetables, Cartons of Long-Life Fruit Juice, Tinned Soup, Jars of Pasta Sauce, Tinned Rice Pudding and Tinned Vegetarian Meals for One.

**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.

### **Guildford Diocese Cycle of Prayer**

During the month of September the churches of Dorking and Elmley deaneries are prayed for in turn across the Diocese. If you would like to follow the Diocese cycle of prayer (which also contains the Anglican Communion cycle ) it can be downloaded from <https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/life/calendar-of-prayer>.

**Please remember in your prayers:** Allan Tapley, Paul Berning, Pamela Kerslake, Allan Tighe, Rosie Pegram, Renate MacLennan.



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

**Please pray for those who have recently died:** Eileen Tapley, George Hunter.

**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 New Life Church.

**Being corporate at a distance.** 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/UCuzOsRDiIRJE8Y3Zjr3fj0g>

**St Barnabas Sunday Service** This week there is a Choral Evensong (BCP) service on 20th September at 4.00 pm. for Heritage open Days. Everyone is welcome, however please remember your face coverings and social distancing. Please note that there is no service on Sunday 27th September.

**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 20th September Fifteenth After Trinity

The gospel reading appointed for this weekend is the passage from Matthew’s gospel that tells of the landowner who visits the marketplace several times during the day, each time hiring more workers to go and work in his vineyard. At the end of the working day he pays everyone the same wage, regardless of what time of the day they were hired. It is the passage that usually ends with the well-known and often quoted phrase, “The last will be first and the first will be last.” For me, this passage essentially speaks of the incomprehensible capacity that God has for grace, and for forgiveness, and for salvation. God doesn’t discriminate between those who’ve been faithful followers for a long time and those who’ve only just gotten on board... even if it is, metaphorically speaking, late in the day when they have done so.

The message that I really get from this passage is that, where God is concerned, it is never too late... never too late to make the changes to our lives that need to be made to enable us to become better people... which where I am concerned is truly Good News, as the collar that I wear does not absolve me from the need to do better... to be a better person.

Every blessing, Derek.

### Collect

Lord God,  
defend your Church from all false teaching  
and give to your people knowledge of your truth,  
that we may enjoy eternal life  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

### First Reading

#### Jonah 3.10 – 4.11

When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord, ‘Isn’t this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.’ But the Lord replied, ‘Is it right for you to be angry?’ Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city.