

on a Sunday and more by our prayer and day-to-day practical service to others.” Although this may already appear in this WNS I am, nevertheless, going to end with the prayer penned by The Rev’d Dr Sam Wells of St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square:

*“God of healing and hope, in Jesus you meet us in our places of pain and fear. Look with mercy on those who have contracted the new virus, on any who are vulnerable, and on all who feel in danger. Through this time of global concern, by your Holy Spirit bring out the best not the worst in us. Make us more aware of our interdependence on each other, and of the strength that comes from being one body in you. Through Christ our wounded healer. Amen.”*

### Collect, Special Prayer for today

Merciful Lord,  
absolve your people from their offences,  
that through your bountiful goodness we may all be delivered from the chains of those sins which by our frailty we have committed; grant this, heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ’s sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### Psalm 23 OT Pg: 531

The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

He shall refresh my soul and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;

you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.

Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

O God, our sovereign and shepherd, who brought again your Son Jesus Christ from the valley of death, comfort us with your protecting presence and your angels of goodness and love, that we also may come home and dwell with him in your house for ever.

### New Testament Reading Ephesians 5.8-14 NT Pg: 208

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light - for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.

Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, ‘Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.’

### News

**All church services have been suspended until further notice.** This includes weekday services. The church building will however be open during its normal times 9.30am - 4pm for private prayer.

If coming into church do please use the Christian Centre for handwashing first, and respect the guidance on social distancing, ensuring you sit at least 2 metres away from other people.

**Please click here to see Bishop Andrew’s message on 18th March 2020** [Link to message from Bishop Andrew](#)

**Coronavirus - Pastoral Care.** Following a directive from the Rural Dean, can the pastoral team reiterate that 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 contact a PA direct, or call the Church Office for help. There will shortly be a new e-mail address available for Pastoral requests and offers.

**The Traidcraft Stall** will be at the Centre on Saturday from 10-1pm, however other dates are postponed. Please contact Elizabeth Dobson direct on 881479 if you would like any items delivered locally.

#### **CANCELLATIONS TO NOTE:-**

#### **Lent Courses at St Martin’s/St Mary’s/Centre -**

Due to the current circumstances, all meetings, including Rowan’s prayer group are cancelled. Diana Burges has said she can provide you with a Lent Course Operation Noah study paper for the day so you can view this remotely however her house group is cancelled (881291).

**CTD Friday Lent lunches - cancelled.**

**Mothering Sunday Posies - cancelled.**

**Pixham Pixies at St Mary’s - cancelled.**

**Brockham Choral Society, Haydn ‘Nelson Mass’ 28th March - cancelled.**

**Music at Midday Recital for April - cancelled.**

**Tenebrae Meditation at St Barnabas Church, 8th April - cancelled.**

**“Come and Sing” Rutter Requiem at St Martin’s on Good Friday - cancelled.**

**Children’s Service on Palm Sunday and Good Friday devotions at 2pm St Barnabas - cancelled.**

**Dorking Foodbank.** Thank you all so much for continuing to donate. Donation points are at Waitrose, Sainsbury, and Christian Centre lobby. We need: UHT Milk, 500g Bags of Pasta, Jars of Pasta Sauce, Shampoo, Tinned Veg, Small Packets of Biscuits.  
**News and Notices for the next issue of the Weekly News Sheet** are to be forwarded to the church office by the close of business on Wednesday. Please e-mail [smartinsdorkingchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:smartinsdorkingchurchoffice@gmail.com) or call 01306 884229.

Due to guidance on Covid-19, the church office has closed until further notice for face to face visitors, however Vicki and Michelle can still be contacted by e-mail or telephone. See above for contact details. (A new mobile number will shortly be available for you to ring every weekday between 10am-2pm).

**Please remember in your prayers:**

Pamela Kerslake, Betty and Brian Smith,  
Steve Parker, Heather Anderton, Mike Kendrick,  
Simon Hardcastle, Frankie Stoner, Paul Berning.

**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! We will use WNS back page to highlight a selection expecting that new ones will be coming on stream all the time. Whether you have a basic radio or the latest smartphone, there is something for you; here is the first collection:-



**Radio:**

Radio 4 Thought for the Day - each day at 07.45am  
Radio 3 Choral evensong - Wednesday at 3.30pm (repeated on Sunday at 3.00pm)  
Radio Surrey - Service led by ABC on Sunday at 8am

**TV:** BBC1 Songs of Praise Sunday 1.15pm

**Web-based resources:** Daily Prayer- to enable you to follow from home exactly what Derek will be saying each day privately at 9am  
<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer> and scroll down to the green box "Morning Prayer". Clicking in here will display the full text of the service with psalm and readings.

**Live Lent:** A special season of reflections on caring for Creation at <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/living-out-our-faith/lent-holy-week-and-easter/livelent-care-gods-creation>

**Live-streaming of local service:** On Mothering Sunday St Paul's church will be streaming their 9am traditional format service and 10.30am contemporary one. They will post instructions on how to join on their website <https://www.stpaulsdorking.org.uk/>. "A church near you" website will soon be updated to show other churches which have that ability.

**PRAYERS IN CHURCH**

**Morning Prayer** will be said in church by The Rev'd Derek Tighe only. The church will then open for private prayer at 9.30am, however please ensure you wash your hands in the centre before entering Church to pray. Please sit 2 metres away from other people. **Midday Prayer** on Friday has been cancelled until further notice.

Sunday 22nd March  
Fourth Sunday in Lent



**Derek's Message:**

Dear Friends, we find ourselves in a novel situation, one without parallel... uncharted waters. As you will know, all public worship has been suspended - even outdoor worship - until further notice. In fact, all physical gatherings (e.g. Lent groups) have been suspended, with arrangements being made to find ways of being together 'virtually'. This means, however, that our Weekly News Sheet (known 'affectionately' as WNS - pronounced WiNS) has a lot of empty space that would normally be filled with details of the coming weeks' events. It has been decided that we will replace those notices with some simple thoughts about the lectionary readings for each Sunday; not a sermon, I hasten to add; just some thoughts. Today's readings could provide me with a number of avenues to head down; but I have chosen to take my lead from the reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Ephesus. Put very simply it tells those in Ephesus that they are to be 'different'... they are to live as *children of light*, not *children of darkness*: "... the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true." Eph 5:9. The same is demanded of us; and it is, I think, particularly poignant when you think of what we have seen in the last week in our shops and supermarkets: panic buying... first of hand sanitizer and toilet rolls... then things like UHT milk, tinned foods, pasta and rice and now, just about everything! Mahatma Gandhi said, "The world has enough for everyone's need, but not enough for everyone's greed." We are seeing the truth of that statement everyday in the media: shots of rows of completely barren shelves. I know that it is difficult but... the challenge, firstly for us as Christians and, more broadly, for everyone, is to try to live as *children of light*... not allowing ourselves to get caught up in the potentially destructive spirals of panic. The even greater challenge, not just for this faith community but for all faith communities, is to demonstrate that we are truly a Church for all... not just a Church for ourselves... to become a radically different kind of Church—one rooted in *prayer* and *practical service* to the wider community... to be truly *children of light*. I am known, I suspect, for always saying that Lent is a time when the pace, the rhythm, should change... well, they do say that *one should be careful what one wishes for!* This is, without doubt, a Lent where a change of pace is occurring. That being the case, I want to close by saying that I believe the Church has real opportunity to be at the forefront of providing practical care and support for those most in need during the crisis. As Archbishop Justin has said, "Being a part of the Church of England is going to look very different in the coming days and weeks, with our faith lives characterised less by attendance at a church building