

I, too, am caught up in the current rollercoaster ride of emotion and uncertainty about the future; you would not believe the number of times I was asked just yesterday alone (for example) "So, when's your church building going to be open for business again?" and the only truly honest answer is, "I don't know!"

I can only do what the rest of us are being asked to do: "Stay Alert, Control the virus, save lives."

And, if you'll forgive me, I'm going to stop there as I realise that I am in danger here of going off on all sorts of unhelpful tangents.

With every blessing, Derek.

Collect, Special Prayer for today

Risen, ascended Lord,
as we rejoice at your triumph,
fill your Church on earth with power and compassion,
that all who are estranged by sin
may find forgiveness and know your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.

New Testament Reading

Acts 1. 6-14

NT Pg: 126

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.' Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Gospel Reading

John 17. 1-11

NT Pg: 119

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. 'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.'

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 call me: 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 10-1pm.

Rosie Pegram is having to go into hospital at the end of the month for an operation. She will be out of action for a little while after this. Although she would love to hear from anyone, can you please email her rather than phone while she is recovering.

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: stmartinpastoral@gmail.com

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: Adult toothbrushes, shampoo, tinned meat, packs of muesli bars, pasta sauce, and 4-pack toilet roll.

Traidcraft. Please contact Elizabeth Dobson direct on 881479 if you would like items delivered locally.

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

Pentecost Zoom Beacon Event @ 6pm on Sunday 31st May. Is this to be mentioned on WNS? If so I will add more details.....

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. The Church Office is closed. However, Vicki and Michelle can still be contacted by email or phone.

Please remember in your prayers:

Pamela Kerslake, Paul Berning, Rosie Pegram.

And those who have recently died:

Michael Kent, 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/UCuzOsRDiIRJE8Y3Zjr3fj0g>

There will be a live Zoom service of Matins at St Barnabas Ranmore at 11am on Sunday. Please email carolandmikestewart@outlook.com if you would like to be invited. Alternatively, the service will be recorded and posted to Mike Stewart's youtube channel after the Service. [Link to YouTube](#)

Bishop Jo's Sunday Sermon: [Youtube link to Sunday Sermon](#)

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.

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 24th May
Sunday After Ascension

Message From Derek

Once more... Good Morning from the Vicar's study. Well, the Easter Season is drawing to a close... yesterday was The Feast of the Ascension, and this coming Sunday will be Easter 7. And what about those poor first disciples eh! What they have been through in the recent weeks! Imagine the crazy, wild emotion and mood swings that they must have had to weather! There were the horrors of Good Friday—the anguish that they would have felt for Jesus, and undoubtedly the fear that they would have felt for themselves; not to mention the certain guilt that they would have felt about their individual responses to what had happened and the certain confusion that they would be feeling about the future—about their future—now that Jesus' mission had, to all apparent extents and purposes, failed.

Just as they are trying to process all of that... there are the beginnings of rumours that Jesus was, in fact, alive—imagine, if you can, all the hope and terror and sheer perplexity of that possibility.

And then, a word that everybody is reaching out for right now: normality! They would have thought that normality had returned; they probably anticipated a better normality, in fact; a much more wonderful normality with Jesus back among... talking, teaching, making them feel at the centre of God's world... just as he always did.

Then... having digested this great news and decided how grand everything was going to be from hereon in... they get the news that Jesus will be leaving them, and will not be returning anytime soon. And, moreover, he expects them (the disciples) to carry on without him!

I suspect that many, many people have, during the past seven weeks, gone through (and are still going through) a similar rollercoaster ride of emotions during this time of lockdown. I continually hear the phrase, “I can't wait for things to return to normal.” I, then, usually hear someone else chime in with, “Yeah... whatever normal is going to look like!”

As I have been saying throughout the recent weeks... there is an uncanny sense of similarity between what the first disciples were going through and what we are all going through at present. And I imagine, at this point, you're saying to yourselves, “Yes... go on... and...” That's the thing!