

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 17. 1-7, 15-16 OT Pg: 13

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

New Testament Reading

Romans 4. 13-25 NT Pg: 165

The promise that Abraham would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations'). Abraham believed in the presence of the God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations,' according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him,' were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in God who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Gospel Reading

Mark 8. 31-38

NT Pg: 47

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

News and Notices

Save the Date! St Martin's Tea, Games and Social. Saturday 9th March @ 2.30pm in the Christian Centre. Everyone welcome to join in for a fun afternoon of games, tea, scones and company.

Dorking Area Foodbank: Thank you for your support. This week we would like to receive donations of:- Bottles of squash, Tinned fish, 1L cartons of long-life fruit juice, Jars of instant coffee, UHT milk, Tinned meat. For info: <https://dorkingarea.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

St Martin's Lent Course, running from 2-3pm, Next dates: March 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd, held in the Christian Centre. Course leader is Revd Barbara Steadman-Allen and the course looks at: **Handel's Messiah: The unfolding story of God's rescue plan** (we're not performing it...) (Psalm 2) "All we like sheep..." (Isaiah 53) "Since by man came death" (1 Corinthians 15) "Come unto me" (Matthew 11:28-29) "Hallelujah!" (Revelation 11:15; 19:6, 16).

Following the section 11 meeting, Felicity Cheetham and Judy Peace are the chosen representatives from St Martins together with Robin Luff and Sandra Skelt from St Barnabas to be on the interview panel for new priest in charge.

A time of prayer for healing and strength for those struggling: Led by the Chaplain in the Christian Centre small hall on Tuesday 27th February at 11.15am.

Chicken and Eggs. We have some lovely chickens with chocolate eggs which would make beautiful little Easter presents for children. There will be some in a basket at the back of church if you would like to make a donation for them.

St Martin's Church, next PCC meeting is on Thursday 14th March, 7.30pm in the Christian Centre.

Flower Arrangers Needed: would anyone be happy to produce a pedestal arrangement of flowers for church once a year? Please contact Sandy Hine on 889807 if you can offer help on the flower rota. Many thanks.

St Martin's Magazine: Latest issues can be found at the back of church. If you have stories or news to share in future issues, please contact Christine Francis on 01306 889617.

Weekly News Sheet. "News and Notices" and all articles for the next issue of the church news sheet are to be forwarded to the church office by Wednesday afternoon for inclusion in the next issue: stmartinsdorkingchurchoffice@gmail.com or by phone on 01306 884229.

Church of England Daily Hope Line— includes a Weekly Service, Morning and Evening Prayers and Sleep-Well Bible Reflections: Tel 0800 804 8044.

Samaritans National Helpline: 116 123.

For more information on events or for the Who's Who page, please see the page 23 of the St Martin's Parish Magazine.

Please remember in your prayers...

Mary, David and Andrew Cowan, Nicholas Grealley Allan Tapley, Pauline Welton, Henry Haire, Gay Fraser, Denis Pitkeathly.

Please pray for those who have died.

Louise Dorrington.

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

The Funeral for Louise Dorrington is at St Martin's Church on Thursday 29th February at 2pm. Friends are welcome to join the service.

Churches Together in Dorking Prayers.

Members of CTD all pray for one church, community, congregation or initiative each week. This week we pray for St Barnabas Church Ranmore.

The Diocesan Calendar of Prayer is available at www.cofeguildford.org.uk/about/christian-calendar/calendar-of-prayer. In February we pray for the deaneries of Guildford and Surrey Heath.

Find St Martin's Church on:

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st martin's DORKING

WITH ST. MARY'S PIXHAM

Welcome, particularly if you are new or just visiting, it is lovely to have you with us today and do join us for a coffee after the service.

Sunday 25th February

LENT +
(2nd Sunday of Lent)

St Martin's

Sunday 25th February
Holy Communion @ 10am

Wednesday 28th February
Holy Communion @ 11am

Sunday 3rd March
Holy Communion @ 10am
Choral Evensong @ 6pm

St Mary's

Sunday 25th February
Songs of Praise @10.30am

Sunday 3rd March
Joint service at St Martin's

St Barnabas

Sunday 25th February
Matins @ 11am

Evening Prayer via Zoom @ 4pm
(Contact robinluff@btinternet.com to join)

Sunday 3rd March
Matins at 11am

Evening Prayer via Zoom @ 4pm
(Contact robinluff@btinternet.com to join)

Collect Prayer

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.