

By doing this, God is making sure we understand how very close to us the holy presence really is. God not only wants us to see that presence, God invites us to feel it—in the flesh! And so that is precisely where grace appears. Becoming one of us is God's way of telling us that our lives matter. And I think that, in our current situation, this is a message that we need to hear.

I hope that you have been able to find comfort and joy this Christmas... and I pray for a much better new year... for all humankind.

With every blessing, Derek.

### Collect

Heavenly Father,  
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home:  
help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Old Testament Reading Isaiah 61. 10 - 62. 3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

### New Testament Reading Galatians 4. 4-7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

### Gospel Reading Luke 2. 15-21

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.'

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

### Readings for Sunday 3rd January

#### The Epiphany:

Old Testament Reading - Isaiah 60. 1-6

New Testament Reading - Ephesians 3. 1-12

Gospel Reading - Matthew 2. 1-12

### News

**The Christian Centre** will be closed between Christmas and New Year. Due to the new Tier 4 regulations, the centre will be offering take away meals. To check dates and availability and to book your meals please call the centre managers on 886830.

**Cancelled - Boxing Day Social** at the Christian Centre - sadly due to the Covid 19 restrictions, this event had to be cancelled. Elizabeth.

**Christmas Decorations.** Pop into church to have a look at the beautiful decorations on Christmas Eve between 12-4pm.

**Christmas Day Family Communion at St Martin's.** If you haven't done so already and are planning to join us on Christmas Morning at church please send an e-mail by Christmas Eve latest, providing your name(s), numbers and indicate whether you are in 1 family bubble or more, thank you:  
[stmartinsdorkingattendance@btinternet.com](mailto:stmartinsdorkingattendance@btinternet.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).

**Dorking Foodbank:** Donation points in supermarkets remain in place, and the centre one is positioned in the foyer. 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.

**The January issue of the Parish Magazine** will be available on our website by the end of this month. 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 future mags please let us know.

**Traidcraft.** I am happy to take orders and deliver in Dorking. Elizabeth - 881479, [emddh7@hotmail.com](mailto:emddh7@hotmail.com)

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 [stmartinsdorkingchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stmartinsdorkingchurchoffice@gmail.com) or call 884229. Messages are picked up regularly.

**CTD Monthly Prayer Meeting** on Zoom with Fr Tony. Monthly Churches Together prayers at 6.45 pm Sunday 3rd January. Theme: Prayers for Dorking. All welcome to join. [Click here for Zoom link](#)

<https://zoom.us/j/94474407138?pwd=N1d5NS8rRGF1S2I3NWUvZUVYRIV2UT09>  
Meeting ID: 944 7440 7138  
Passcode: 071530

**Churches Together in Dorking Prayers.** Members of CTD all pray for one church, community, congregation or initiative each week. This week (27th) we are praying for St Mary's Holmbury/St John's Wotton and Churches of Dorking Housing Association from 3rd January.

**The Diocesan Calendar of Prayer** is now available at <https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/about/christian-calendar/calendar-of-prayer>. In December we are praying for parishes in the deaneries of Farnham and Godalming and for January 2021 we are praying for Aldershot and Cranleigh.

**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, Pamela Kerslake, 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/UCuzOsRDiIRJE8Y3Zjr3fj0g>

**Christmas Messages from Bishop Jo and Bishop Andrew** - there is an **All Age Service** link from the Diocese of Guildford's Christmas Campaign page with Christmas Messages from Bishop Jo and Bishop Andrew. Follow the link below to the web page and follow the All Age Service link: [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.

# st martin's DORKING

WITH ST. MARY'S PIXHAM



## Live Services at St Martin's this Fortnight

Friday 25th @ 10am	Family Communion for Christmas morning
Sunday 27th @ 10am	Celtic Morning Prayer
Sunday 3rd Jan @ 10am	Eucharist for Epiphany

## Online Services (pre-recorded only)

Thursday 24th Midnight Mass

## Private Prayer at St Martin's

The church is open to view the Christmas decorations and for Private Prayer on:

Christmas Eve Thursday 24th 12-4pm  
Wednesday 6th January 9.30-12pm  
Saturday 9th January 9.30-3pm

## St Barnabas

\*Cancelled Christmas Day Holy Communion BCP with members of the Whyte Effect Choir\*

\*No service on Sunday 27th\*

## St Mary's Pixham

\*Cancelled Christmas Day service\*

## Message from Derek

Luke's nativity story is familiar to most of us, whether we realise that or not. A soon as you hear these words: "In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered..." You know which story this is, and where it's going right from the very beginning.

The words from the letter to Titus, on the other hand, are not very well known to most of us; I doubt they put us in mind of singing carols or baking mince pies or unwrapping presents. And yet you will find words from the letter to Titus neatly enfolded into our Christmas liturgy. Even at what would normally be one of the best-attended services of the year, I doubt if anyone leaves with Titus on their mind; so, if you aren't immediately able to bring the passage to mind, you're not alone:

"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all... " At Christmas, God's grace appears like never before: in the flesh.