

First Reading

Ezekiel 18.1-4,25-32

The word of the LORD came to me: “What do you people mean by quoting this proverb about the land of Israel: ‘The fathers eat sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? ‘As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, you will no longer quote this proverb in Israel. For every living soul belongs to me, the father as well as the son – both alike belong to me. The soul who sins is the one who will die. ‘Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear, O house of Israel: Is my way unjust? Is it not your ways that are unjust? If a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits sin, he will die for it; because of the sin he has committed he will die. But if a wicked man turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he will save his life. Because he considers all the offences he has committed and turns away from them, he will surely live; he will not die. Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Are my ways unjust, O house of Israel? Is it not your ways that are unjust? ‘Therefore, O house of Israel, I will judge you, each one according to his ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offences; then sin will not be your downfall. Rid yourselves of all the offences you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!’”

Second Reading

Philippians 2.1-13

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 21.23-32

Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?” Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. John’s baptism – where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or from men?”

They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven’, he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ But if we say, ‘From men’ – we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.” Then he said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. “What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’ “‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

“Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go.

“Which of the two did what his father wanted?”

“The first,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.”

News

Face coverings in a place of worship. Face coverings are required in church (unless you are exempt). Thank you for your understanding.

Private Prayer – The church is open on Monday and Thursday mornings between 9.30am and 11.30am for private prayer.

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 stmartinsdorkingpastoral@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 Baked Beans Biscuits Tins of Fish
Tins of Soup Jars of Pasta Sauce Tinned Meat

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. Messages are picked up regularly.

Guildford Diocese Cycle of Prayer

During the month of September the churches of Dorking and Elmley, and in October, Epsom and Leatherhead, 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 Pentecostal Church of Christ.

CTD Monthly Prayer Meeting. Prayer for Dorking theme - Sunday 4th October at 6.45pm. All welcome to join - Zoom meeting details as follows: <https://zoom.us/j/93491464558?pwd=QWprVkZsakZlWnRrOUpVSGxiWnYvUT09> Meeting ID: 934 9146 4558 Passcode: 708342

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/UCuzOsRDdiIRJE8Y3Zjr3fj0g>

There is no service this Sunday at St Barnabas Church. On Sunday 4th October there will be a Matins for Harvest Service at 11am.

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.

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

Stay safe everyone

st martin's DORKING

WITH ST. MARY'S PIXHAM

Sunday 27th September Sixteenth After Trinity

Our gospel reading this week focuses on the issue of authority. We're now at the end of chapter 21 and are at a watershed point in the gospel. Jesus has arrived in Jerusalem and the people have gone wild... it's the peak of Jesus' popularity. He goes to the temple and sees tables where temple leaders are selling animals to pilgrims who've come to town for the festival... making profit on the backs of the poor and their devotion to God... He gets angry and turns over their tables, because they've turned his father's house into a den of thieves and robbers. Jesus shows what God's people are supposed to be about. He reminds the leaders of Israel that this is supposed to be a house of prayer and shows them what it looks like to be God's people – by reaching out and touching the untouchable. He reminds them God is less interested in religious ceremony than in reaching out to people in need. And so the leaders confront him with their question, “by what authority are you doing this?” ... in other words, “Who do you think you are?” When we think about the church and about trying to be the community of God, how often do we run into this issue of authority and power struggle? Have you heard “The seven last words of the church?” ‘We've never done it that way before’. We think, “this is MY church, this is how I like it. Don't change anything here.” I don't know whether or not you plan to come to church this weekend for our 10am Eucharist; if you can, please do come and join us. But if you cannot, then I would urge you to find your way online to our YouTube channel - Spire of Dorking - and to join our 10am service online. At both the live service in church and the online service we will be hearing Bishop Jo Bailey Wells speaking on this topic of “by what authority are you doing this?” Bishop Jo speaks with an astonishing and refreshing degree of frankness and boldness, and I would commend her words to anyone who dares to confess to being a Christian.

Collect

Lord of creation,
whose glory is around and within us:
open our eyes to your wonders,
that we may serve you with reverence
and know your peace at our lives' end,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.