

sandals (Matthew 3 v 11). That would normally be regarded as a very menial task but for John, performing that for Jesus, was far too exalted for him. Such was the chasm between John and Jesus. And such is the chasm between each one of us and the Lord Jesus. John had already prophesied that the Lord Jesus had come to bridge that chasm. But he lived this side of the cross and in that sense each one of us if we are trusting Christ has greater privileges than he did. Even when we are at our lowest ebb let's not give up pointing to Jesus. John didn't. He could so easily have just shared his doubts with his closest friends and undermined their faith as well. Instead, he encourages them to take his doubts (and very likely theirs as well) to the Lord Jesus. Let us do the same. There is much that is puzzling and much that we don't understand. Someone once asked Mrs Einstein if she understood her husband's theories and she replied something like, "I don't understand Mr Einstein's theories, but I understand Mr Einstein"! We don't know all the answers, but we can know the One who does in Jesus Christ. Because as we finish, we shouldn't miss those last few words in verse 15, "He who has ears let him hear". That my friends means you and me. Let's keep therefore looking to Him, turning to Him, listening to Him and pointing to Him and, as we do, may we know that we are there by pleasing Him.

With our love and prayers to you all

Dave and Mary

*May I run the race before me,  
strong and brave to face the foe,  
looking only unto Jesus  
as I onward go.*

### Collect, Special Prayer for today

God our saviour,  
look on this wounded world  
in pity and in power;  
hold us fast to your promises of peace  
won for us by your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

### Old Testament Reading

Genesis 22:1-14

OT Pg: 18

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt-offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.' So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt-offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, 'Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.' Abraham took the wood of the burnt-offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, 'Father!' And he said, 'Here I am, my son.' He said, 'The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt-offering?' Abraham said, 'God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt-offering, my son.' So the two of them walked on together.

When they came to the place that God had shown him,

Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.' And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt-offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place 'The Lord will provide'; as it is said to this day, 'On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.'

### Gospel Reading

Matthew 10:40-42

NT Pg: 11

Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.

### News

**Churches Together in Dorking - 'Dependence Day', Sunday 5th July.** The Church Leaders who gather regularly for prayer as the Dorking Ministers Fellowship invite all Christians in Dorking to join us for a time of united prayer for the needs of our town on Sunday 5th July at 6.45pm via Zoom. We have called it 'Dependence Day' because it comes after Independence Day, and we need to remind ourselves of our dependence on God for all we are and have. Contact Tony Milner on [tony.milner@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:tony.milner@abdiocese.org.uk) if you want to be sent a link. Links will be sent out on the afternoon of Sunday 5th. We plan to make this time of united prayer a monthly event.

**Church Open for Private Prayer – Monday/Thursday mornings.** Thank you to the volunteer stewards who made opening possible this week; numbers coming in were modest but reopening was much appreciated. We really need a couple more volunteers to fill the rota (especially on Mondays). We have deliberately divided each morning into two slots with two people on for each of 9.30am to 10.30am and 10.30am to 11.30am. Please email the Church Office or leave a phone message on 884229 if you can help. Briefing guidance will be given and you of course will be at least 2m distanced from visitors at all time, and much more than that for most of it.

**Christian Centre.** Although the Centre Café is closed, the foyer is open for Community Fridge access 9am-2.30pm on weekdays. We also have capacity to offer extra pre-booked lunches each day. The menu changes daily and pre-booking is required to reduce food waste. We already deliver to Canterbury Court, Hanover Court and Sondes Farm. Please contact the Centre Managers on 886830 if you would like this service.

**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 [smartinsdorkingpastoral@gmail.com](mailto:smartinsdorkingpastoral@gmail.com).

**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.

**Dorking Foodbank** is operating at the usual times ([CLICK HERE](#) for these) from the Christian Centre. 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: tinned vegetables, pasta sauce, baked beans, biscuits, long life sponge pudding twin packs, boxes of cereal.

**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](mailto: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, James Stanton.

**And those who have recently died:**

Michael Kent, Ron Diserens (bellringer).

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** will be available from 10am.

Click on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuzOsRDdiRJJE8Y3Zjr3fj0g>

**St Barnabas "Live" Sunday Service** will be a Service of Matins via Zoom at 10.45am for 11am. The Preacher will be the Revd Mike Stewart, who will also officiate. If you would like a Zoom invitation, please email [carolandmikestewart@outlook.com](mailto:carolandmikestewart@outlook.com). If you can't join live, a recording of the Service will be available to watch on YouTube. [CLICK HERE](#) for "The Revd Mike Stewart" YouTube Channel.

**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.

# st martin's DORKING

WITH ST. MARY'S PIXHAM

**Sunday 28th June**  
**Trinity 3**

## Reflection by Dave Cowan

Don't give up! (Matthew 10 v 40- 11 v 15) Which of us can say that there haven't been times when we have been downhearted in the last few months and inclined to give up? So, what better than a reminder that we need to keep going and never give up!

Don't give up looking to Jesus (10 v 40-42) Always look to Jesus and come close to Him so that we can receive more from Him, often through what other people give us and particularly through His Word. It is fundamental that in looking to Jesus we treat one another, in Christ, as very precious and valuable. No matter how "little" someone is in the world's eyes, that person is infinitely precious and valuable to the Lord as you and I are. Remember too that He notices every single thing we do to be a blessing for somebody who follows Him and even the standard courtesy of a cup of cold water, given to somebody who belongs to Him, does not go unnoticed or unrewarded. So even the little acts of "unremembered kindness" are always remembered by Him!

Don't give up turning to Him (11 v 2-3) As Jesus Himself says, John the Baptist was truly the greatest man ever before Jesus came, and yet even he had doubts as he languished in prison for his faithfulness to the Lord. It would have been very easy for John to turn his back on Christ and blame Him for his suffering or get his "own disciples" to do the same, just as you and I can be tempted to blame the Lord when things seem to have gone wrong in our lives. Never forget that at this precise low point John turns to nobody else but Jesus, even with all his doubts: "Just as I am though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt, fightings within and fears without, O Lamb of God I come." What a great example for us to do the same even, indeed especially, when we doubt Him. Remember the words of Peter, when people were deserting our Lord in droves and the Lord asked His immediate disciples why they didn't desert as well and He said, "Lord to whom else can we turn? You have the words of eternal life." (John 6 v 68).

Don't give up listening to Him (11 v 4-6) Jesus has a very special message for John as He quotes largely from Isaiah 35 v 3-4 and Isaiah 61 v 1-2. He points John to the overwhelming evidence that He is indeed the One doing precisely the kind of things that were prophesied by Isaiah and yet there was a problem. The problem for John was that those passages in Isaiah also refer to the Messiah judging in vengeance those who defied Him. John too had promised that Jesus would accomplish this and yet so far that part hadn't happened. Significantly when the Lord Jesus quotes the words from Isaiah to John He omits the words of vengeance. What He seems to be telling John is that the time of judgement will come but that is in the future. In the meantime, he (like you and I) must trust in Jesus as we await the completion of His conquest when He returns. (Matthew 11 v 6)

Don't stop pointing to Jesus (11 v 7-15) Notice the accolade that our Lord gives to John. Throughout his ministry John always pointed others away from himself to Jesus. He said he wasn't worthy to untie or carry His

