

# Faithful to our country

St Martin's Men's Breakfast

April 2020

# A bit of history

# The Foreign Policy Of The People Of God

Exodus  
(Deuteronomy  
7:1-2)

- Conquest & destruction

Empire (2  
Chronicles  
9:20-28)

- Trade

Exile  
(Jeremiah  
29:1-7)

- ‘Seek the peace and prosperity of the city’

# The new arrangement

Synagogues  
everywhere

Civic involvement

One faith among the  
nations

Carried over  
into the New  
Testament

2 Peter 2:11-12

- ‘Live such good lives’

Galatians 6:10

- ‘Do good to all people’

Matthew 5:6-13

- ‘Blessed are the peacemakers’



## New Testament Example - Erastus

- Romans 16:23

*ERASTVS. PRO. AED. S. P. STRAVIT*<sup>[2]</sup> abbreviated for *ERASTUS PRO AEDILITATE SUA PECUNIA STRAVIT.*

"Erastus in return for his aedileship paved it at his own expense."

This was found in 1929 on a pavement NE of Corinth's theatre. An aedile was like the local council, providing and maintaining public buildings and organizing festivals. In Spain local councillors are still called *ediles*



Erastus  
probably was

A high civic official in  
Corinth

A member of the  
church in Corinth

A friend of the  
Apostle Paul

What this means for us



Us today

Our faith has a  
private, personal face

And a public face

Examples?

# Examples

Lay members

Charities

Politics

# Lay members

School governors

Volunteers in youth justice

Covid-19 volunteers (NHS, food delivery etc)

Councillors and parish councillor

Magistrates

# Charities

Fundraising

Charity shops

Trustee of charities

Samaritans

Amnesty International - letter writing

Local campaigning groups

Street pastors



# POLITICS

- Join a political party?

# Politics

Party	Membership	Date
Labour	519,000	July 2019
Conservative	191,000	Sept 2019
Lib Dem	120,000	Sept 2019
Greens	48,500	August 2019
UKIP	26,447	April 2018

Source: wikipedia

## How big is the church?

Number of civic institutions in uk?

<b>LIBRARIES</b>	<b>3,600</b>
BANK BRANCHES	7,500
POST OFFICES	11,500
SUPERMARKETS	14,300
PUBS	39,000
CHURCH BUILDINGS IN USE	40,300
CHURCH CONGREGATIONS	50,000

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50,000 congregations!



SO...

If two members from each of congregation in the UK joined a political party, church attenders would be:

14% of the Labour Party membership

33% of the Conservative party

50% of all the Lib Dems

66% of the Greens