

The Marden Vale Team Ministry

Christ Church, Derry Hill – St. John the Baptist, Foxham – St. Martin, Bremhill
Sunday 22nd March – Mothering Sunday

Dear Friends,

It hardly seems possible that just last Sunday we were worshipping in church, having made some minor adjustments, and now here we are a week later with all church services suspended. The coronavirus pandemic means that we are all having to make enormous adjustments in our daily lives, with many folk self-isolating and practising social distancing. And of course people are feeling anxious and fearful, lonely and disconnected from their social groups as activities and meetings are cancelled.

One response to this kind of fear can be seen in the panic buying which has taken hold and is causing mayhem. Another response is to offer help and support and I am happy to report that the latter is what is happening in our parishes.

In **Derry Hill and Studley** a Community Support initiative has been set up. There are four co-ordinators who can be contacted by telephone or email by folk who need help or support – with shopping, collecting prescriptions, a chat, signposting to further assistance or advice, prayer requests etc. The co-ordinators cascade these requests to a bank of volunteers who carry out the required task. Currently there are 17 volunteers. Leaflets have been delivered and an article will appear in the April magazine.

For help contact: Richard Aylen (01249 814632), Carol Rigby (01225 704356), Richard Gribble (01249 812018) or Ian Liddle (01249 816229). Alternatively you can email dhsfriend@gmail.com.

There are plans afoot in **Bremhill and Foxham** to provide similar support and volunteers are asked to contact

Richard Tucker 07831 150505 richard@rsjtucker.com

Isabel McCord 07876 452748 Isabel.mccord@hotmail.co.uk

Sarah Gingell 07312 102190 bremhillparishclerk@gmail.com

It is heartening to know that so many people are giving their time and energy to ensure that those who are self-isolating, those who are vulnerable, can access the help and support they need.

Although public worship is on hold at present, I am continuing to say the daily office at Christ Church, Derry Hill (8.30am and 5pm). I cannot invite anyone to join me in church; however, you can join in the daily prayers by praying at home. You can join with the Church of England Daily Prayer by visiting our website: www.mardenvale.org.uk and clicking on 'Pray' on the top line.

The churches in Derry Hill, Bremhill and Foxham are currently open for prayer and I am working to provide readings and resources to supplement private prayer. I believe it is important at a time like this that not only do we continue to pray for one another, for our communities and for the wider world; but also that we come to God with open hearts, that we may be filled with his Holy Spirit, that we may be nourished and strengthened for what lies ahead.

I hope to keep in touch with you via email and phone calls. If you are able, please look at the website www.mardenvale.org.uk and the Facebook page in Derry Hill. There are also excellent resources on the Church of England website <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>

Finally, please know that you are loved and cared for, and that you are held in prayer. As the body of Christ in this place we will help and support one another through this difficult time. Undoubtedly there will be bumps in the road, but trust that as we travel together, God goes with us.

With love,
Linda

A message from our Archbishops:

"We have called, along with our fellow church leaders, for a day of prayer and action this coming Sunday - Mothering Sunday (22nd March). Mothering Sunday has always been both a day of celebration for many and a sensitive and emotional day for some. Wherever you are this Sunday please do join in this day of prayer and action and remember especially those who are sick or anxious, and all involved in our Health Service. As one action, we are calling on everyone to place a lighted candle in their window at 7.00 p.m. as a sign of solidarity and hope in the light of Christ that can never be extinguished."

Archbishop of Canterbury to lead first national virtual church service on Sunday morning - 22nd March

The service will be broadcast on BBC Radio 4's **Sunday Worship at 08.10am** and all local radio stations in England at 8am and will premier online at 9am.

You can also join Justin Welby online at 9am for a special Mothering Sunday Service <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/online-church>

Churches in Bremhill, Derry Hill and Foxham

We are keeping the churches open for prayer at present. There are facilities at Derry Hill to wash your hands. If there is no hand sanitizer at Bremhill or Foxham please take great care – refrain from touching your face and remember to wash your hands thoroughly when you get home. Please observe appropriate social distancing at all times.



Sundays

I will be celebrating the Eucharist on Sunday mornings at each of the churches in Foxham, Bremhill and Derry Hill - no congregation - but it will be on behalf of everybody. The Eucharist is not something which is normally done in solitude but it feels really important at this time that the Eucharist (thanksgiving) happens.

In any case we can give thanks:

- For the skill and dedication of all who serve in our National Health service
- For the expertise of our scientific community seeking for treatments and vaccines to fight the virus
- For all the carers who look after vulnerable members of our community whether they are in their own homes or in residential care
- For the love and care of our friends and family
- For those who have donated to the Calne foodbank
- For all who have offered their services across the community to shop and otherwise help their neighbours
- For those who have left messages to say they will be praying regularly for others especially the many people in our society who are either seriously ill or who are under all kinds of pressure

In the coming week please also pray for:

- those affected by extreme weather conditions.
- all who are affected by coronavirus
- the situation in Idlib, Syria
- Lucy Aylen (YWAM) as she leads & teaches at Discipleship Training School
- the work of Christian Aid, particularly healthcare in Sierra Leone
- our brothers and sisters in Sudan & South Sudan; in Yemen
- all who are sick, awaiting diagnosis, those in hospital. Especially we pray for: **Mark Steele, Christine Gundry, Mark Jennings, Lynne Cottrell, Rob Simons, Len Jones, Jacob Maloy, Paul Crayford, David Bates, Jennifer Pope, Helen Lewis, Jackson Goodship, Jane Jordan, Angela Barker, Liz**

Kinch, Doreen Williams, Bill Norman, Brenda Beint, Peter Lansdell and Sonia Strange.

- All who have recently died, the bereaved, & all whose anniversary of death falls at this time. We remember especially, baby Tommy Kelly and John Tooley who have died recently.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer Please pray for the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui , The Most Revd Paul Kwong - Archbishop of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui & Bishop of Hong Kong Island.

Readings for 22nd March – Mothering Sunday

Psalm 34:11-20

1 Samuel 1:20-28

Colossians 3:12-17

John 19:25b-27

Collect

God of love,
passionate and strong,
tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us
all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



APCMs

These meetings were scheduled to take place at Bremhill and Foxham on 26th and 28th April respectively. It is unlikely that these meetings will take place and the situation is under review. I will update you in due course.

Contacts:

Team Vicar: Revd Linda Carter Tel: 01249 817926 Email: lindac@mardenval.org.uk

Day off: Monday

Please send any notices for the Pew Sheet &/or website by Thursday am to Linda.

Website: www.mardenval.org.uk

Team Rector: Revd Bob Kenway Tel: 01249 812340 Email: rakenway@gmail.com

Day off: Monday

Team Vicar: Revd Teresa Michaux Tel: 01249 817841 Email: tmx256@hotmail.co.uk

Available Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday

Licensed Lay Minister: Enid Powell Tel: 01249 813801

Church Army: Sr Jenny Colby Tel: 01249 819097