

**The Marden Vale Team Ministry**  
**Christ Church, Derry Hill – St. John the Baptist, Foxham – St. Martin, Bremhill**  
**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March – Palm Sunday**

Over the last couple of weeks we have been making huge adjustments in our daily lives. This is also true of the Church; I and my colleagues in the Marden Vale Team and Calne Deanery have been getting to grips with a whole new way of being church. We have had meetings on Zoom (which many of us hadn't heard of two weeks ago) and taking our first, faltering (for some of us) steps into the world of video and live streaming.

I have been posting more regularly on Christ Church Derry Hill's Facebook page and trying to keep the website and 'Church Near You' sites updated.

I have also been on the phone more than ever.

I don't think I'm imagining it, but it feels as if everyone is keeping in touch more, making an effort to respond and be more intentional about staying connected. It is a real encouragement in these times when the reality of what we are facing can be so overwhelming.

As I have said elsewhere, the conversations have been honest; we have laughed together and cried together and prayed together. Now, as we come to Palm Sunday, I pray that we will walk in Jesus' footsteps together; through the hosannas and on through Holy Week, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday to Easter Day. As we hear the accounts of the events which changed the world – familiar to some, (maybe too familiar?), new, possibly strange to others – may we all take time to hear afresh the story of Holy Week and Easter. May we examine our responses and pay attention to the questions which come to mind, and perhaps begin to explore where we think God is in our current situation.

I will continue to send emails to help us to travel together. If there are folk you know who cannot receive email, perhaps you might print something off for them, or give them a call to share something of the journey.

**Palm Sunday in the Marden Vale Team**

Today may I encourage you to join in worship through this YouTube link <https://youtu.be/a0xHYzltH-o> Here you will find an act of worship which has been put together by members of the ministry team across the benefice. I have sent out an order of service which also has links for hymns on YouTube. I hope you have managed to make your palm crosses – I've received some photos already, which I will put up on the website and Facebook.

Also available nationally: *A pre-recorded Palm Sunday Eucharist with the Bishop of Manchester will be released on the [Church of England's Facebook page](#).*

*The Archbishop of Canterbury will publish a reflection on [Facebook](#) and his [website](#).*

If you are able, please look at the website [www.mardenvale.org.uk](http://www.mardenvale.org.uk) and Derry Hill's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pg/christchurchdh/posts/>

**Prayer**

Join with the Church of England Daily Prayer by visiting our website: [www.mardenvale.org.uk](http://www.mardenvale.org.uk) and clicking on 'Pray' on the top line.

God of compassion,  
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.  
In their loneliness, be their consolation;  
in their anxiety, be their hope;  
in their darkness, be their light;  
through him who suffered alone on the cross,  
but reigns with you in glory,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**For those who are ill**

Merciful God,  
we entrust to your tender care  
those who are ill or in pain,  
knowing that whenever danger threatens  
your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.  
Comfort and heal them,  
and restore them to health and strength;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***In the coming week please also pray for:***

- all who are affected by coronavirus
- Lucy Ayles (YWAM) as she leads & teaches at Discipleship Training School
- the work of Christian Aid, particularly health care 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 John Tooley and Bob Tobin who have died recently.

***In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer*** Pray for the Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean, The Most Revd James Richard Wong Yin Song - Archbishop, Province of Indian Ocean & Bishop of the Seychelles.

**Team Vicar:** Revd Linda Carter Tel: 01249 817926 Email: [lindac@mardenvale.org.uk](mailto:lindac@mardenvale.org.uk) Day off: Monday  
**Please send any notices for the Pew Sheet &/or website by Thursday am to Linda.** Website: [www.mardenvale.org.uk](http://www.mardenvale.org.uk)  
**Team Rector:** Revd Bob Kenway Tel: 01249 812340 Email: [rakenway@gmail.com](mailto:rakenway@gmail.com) Day off: Monday  
**Team Vicar:** Revd Teresa Michaux Tel: 01249 817841 Email: [tmx256@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tmx256@hotmail.co.uk) Available Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday