

The Marden Vale Team Ministry
Christ Church, Derry Hill – St. John the Baptist, Foxham – St. Martin, Bremhill
Sunday 4th October – (Trinity 17) Harvest in Foxham

Today's services in the Marden Vale Team:

6pm Harvest Thanksgiving at St John the Baptist, Foxham

9.30am Eucharist at St Mary's, Calne

Online Harvest Service telling the story of the work of the Food Bank based in Calne

<https://youtu.be/nMjV2-VJfik>

Also available:

8.10am Sunday Worship on BBC Radio 4

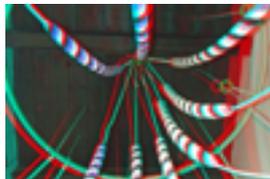
9am [Church of England online](#)

2pm Songs of Praise on BBC1

Bells

Tune in to 'Bells on Sunday' on Radio 4 at 5.43am. Or listen later online

*Image credit: Steve Woodmore
Creative Commons*



Also this week:

Private prayer at Christ Church, Derry Hill;

Sun 4th Oct midday to 4pm

Tue 6th - Sat 10th Oct 10am - 4pm

Church - 4 people at any one time

Further ahead:

Sun 11th Oct 10am Parish Eucharist at Christ Church, Derry Hill

Sun 18th Oct 10am Morning Prayer at St John the Baptist, Foxham *followed by APCM*

Keeping in touch

Website www.mardenvale.org.uk
and Derry Hill's [Facebook page](#)

Contact Linda on 01249 817926 or email lindac@mardenvale.org.uk

Light a Candle May I encourage you to continue this practice of praying, and lighting a candle and placing it in a window as a sign of hope each Sunday evening?

Baptism

We pray for George Petty-Fitmaurice baptised at Bowood Chapel this weekend, and welcome him into the church family.

Jesus said, 'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.'

John 10:10



Prayer Join the Church of England Daily Prayer by visiting our website: www.mardenvale.org.uk and clicking on 'Pray' on the top line.

In the coming week please also pray for:

- the farming community, all food producers
- all those affected by storms and flooding
- the Amazon region affected by fire
- regions of the US affected by wildfires
- the people of Lebanon and Belarus
- all who are affected by coronavirus, for all who work on the frontline to keep us safe, to help the sick, to keep us fed...
- those who are anxious, exhausted, isolated. May those whose mental health is fragile be able to access the counselling, medication and support they need
- our local schools: for teachers, children and parents
- local shops and businesses
- Kingston House residents and all who work there
- Lucy Aylen (YWAM) as she leads & teaches at Discipleship Training School
- the work of Christian Aid
- 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, Jennifer Pope, Helen Lewis, Jackson Goodship, Jane Jordan, Angela Barker, Liz Kinch, Doreen Williams, Bill Norman, Brenda Beint, Sonia Strange, Barbara Starr, Liesl York,**
- All who have died in recent weeks, the bereaved, and all whose anniversary of death falls at this time.
- **Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Pray for the Anglican Church of Tanzania, and The Most Revd Dr Maimbo Mndolwa - Archbishop of Tanzania & Bishop of Tanga.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

We were unable to hold the scheduled APCMs at Bremhill and Foxham due to the lockdown restrictions. It is now planned to hold the APCM for

Foxham in church on Sunday 18th October after the 10am service

Bremhill via Zoom on Tuesday 20th October at 7.30pm.

If you would like to serve as a member of the PCC, Deanery Synod or as Church Warden please contact the PCC Secretary for the relevant forms:

Foxham PCC Jenny Wilton 01249 740279

Bremhill PCC Thelma Cox thelmacox46@outlook.com

**Readings for Trinity 17: Psalm 80:9-17 Isaiah 5:1-7
Philippians 3:4b-14 Matthew 21:33-46**

**Readings for Harvest: Psalm 100 Deuteronomy
26:1-11 John 2:1-11**

Collect for Harvest

God of the heavens and the earth,
You call us to share in the care of your creation;
to bring food and fruitfulness from field and farm,
rivers and sea.

Hear our prayer for all who make their living on the land
and in the waters, and make us grateful for the work of
their hands and for the generosity of your provision.

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.' When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the

good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Reflection

The wedding at Cana may not be the most obvious 'harvest' passage, but it is a compelling picture of the staggering generosity of God's provision. Think of some of the abundance of nature many of us have experienced in a new way because of COVID-19 lockdown: birdsong, a profusion of wildflowers, butterflies and insects. The sheer glory of creation is all around us, but God the Creator calls us to work with him. At Cana, Jesus performed the miracle but he chose to work with others; the servants had to move the jars and fill them, then take the wine to the steward to taste. These apparently small acts were vital.

Similarly, farmers work with God in his creation to produce our food. While not all farmers would use this language, many talk of being 'stewards of the land', wanting to pass it on in a better condition than they found it.

Jesus chose to depend on the work of others, something we do all the time; every time we eat we depend on the farmers who produce our food. Farmers themselves work with many others to grow the food and get it to our tables. We all need to eat and so we are all dependent on this vast network of people to feed us. And ultimately, of course, on the bounty of a Creator God.

As we come to understand that we are working with God's good gifts our task is imbued with a certain holiness. The things of the earth are important to God, so we should treat them and each other with respect.

*Revd Elizabeth Clark, National Rural Officer for the Methodist and United Reformed Churches
Courtesy of the Arthur Rank Centre.*

Creationtide comes to an end today on the feast day of St Francis of Assisi. Here is a representation of his ['Canticle of the Sun'](#)

Although [Surrexit Christus](#) is an Easter hymn, all creation gives praise to God seems appropriate today too.

"Our common home is crying out to be cherished and our thankful praise should stir us to action and to tread more gently on the earth and care for our shared environment." *Shrinking the Footprint*

Calne Food Bank is currently based at
Church House, 30 Church St., Calne:

12-4pm Tue & Fri,

10am-1pm Wed

Visit [Calne Food Bank](#) for more information on
how to donate



Sunday worship in our churches

4th Oct 6pm Harvest Evensong at St John the Baptist, Foxham

11th Oct 10am Parish Eucharist at Christ Church, Derry Hill

18th Oct 10am Morning Prayer at St John the Baptist, Foxham

Plans to re-open St Martin's, Bremhill will be considered once roof repairs are completed. Depending on how things go, it is hoped that a sustainable pattern of services including Morning Worship, Parish Eucharist and Evensong will evolve around the parishes to take us through the next few months.

Where a Sunday service has taken place in church, that building will be closed for **72 hours** after the service to minimise the amount of cleaning required. We plan to review safety procedures after each service in response to attendee numbers and behaviours, so please check service details and information on our website, Facebook page and Noticeboard.

Our main priorities are the health and safety of our community, so things will not be quite the same as usual, but we recognise the importance, for many, of meeting together in worship so have put together this brief explanation of what to expect.

Q. How is the church managing social distancing?

A. We have assessed the seating capacity and space available and worked out the best way to seat everyone to maintain **2 metre distancing**. There will be markings on the path and on the floor inside church. A Churchwarden will be on hand to welcome you and show you where to sit. At the end of the service, please remain in your seat until you are asked to make your way to the exit.

Q. Do I have to book in advance?

A. It would help us to know if you intend to come to a service so that we can maintain safe social distancing. We ask that you telephone **01249 817926** or email lindac@mardenvale.org.uk before **8pm on Saturday** evening to check availability.

Q. Will services be at the normal time?

A. Morning services will be at **10am**. Evensong (when available) will be at **6pm**.

Q. Can I sit with my family or a friend?

A. People from the same household or "bubble" can sit together. Everyone else will need to observe appropriate social distancing at all times.

Q. Will there be communion?

A. Services will vary but where communion is offered this will be wafers only. Distribution will be carefully controlled to minimise transmission risks according to government and church guidelines.

Q. Will the hymn books be sanitised?

A. Sadly, hymn singing is not allowed at the moment, so all hymn books and bibles will be removed.

There will, however, be music to listen to.

Q. I usually give cash in the plate when I come to church. I believe this is not advised. What can I do to support the work of the church?

A. We would prefer not to have to expose our volunteers to handling cash but we desperately do need your support. Please take a moment to look at the [Parish Giving Scheme](#). If you prefer to leave cash please do use the collection plate by the main entrance.

Q. Do I need to provide contact details?

A. In order to support the NHS Test and Trace programme, we are taking contact details (name and tel no.) for all visitors, as well as recording times entering and leaving the church building.

In line with guidance issued by the Department for Health and Social Care, we will keep your details safely and in compliance with GDPR legislation for 21 days before securely disposing of or deleting them. We will only share your details with NHS Test and Trace, if asked, in the event that it is needed to help stop the spread of coronavirus. We will not use your details for any other purposes or pass them on to anyone else.

Q. Will I be able to talk to my friends after the service?

A. To minimise risk, services will be shorter than normal, and the church will be closed promptly. Catching up with friends is better done outdoors. We ask that you do not obstruct the aisles or exits to allow everyone to leave safely. **It is obviously vital to obey social distancing guidelines at all times.**

Q. Will it be safe to come?

A. We have carefully assessed the risks of bringing us together and have put in place measures to control and minimise the risk of transmission of the virus. However, it is not possible to eliminate risks completely – everyone attending must evaluate their own circumstances and act accordingly. We all have a responsibility to act responsibly to ensure the safety of everyone else.

Please do:

- use the hand sanitizer provided when you arrive and when you leave
- comply with social distancing rules – keep 2 metres apart whenever possible
- cover your nose and mouth if you sneeze or cough – take your tissues home to dispose of them there

Q. Should I wear a face covering in a church building?

A. From 8th August face coverings **must** be worn by all those attending a place of worship.

If you do not feel it is safe or if you feel

unwell – please do stay at home and enjoy the online services/reflections from the Marden Vale Team