

**The Marden Vale Team Ministry**  
**Christ Church, Derry Hill – St. John the Baptist, Foxham – St. Martin, Bremhill**  
**Sunday 25th October – Bible Sunday**

**Today's service:**

10am Morning Prayer with Baptism at Christ Church, Derry Hill

**Also this week:**

Private prayer at Christ Church, Derry Hill

Thu 29th - Sat 31st Oct 10am - 4pm

Church - 4 people at any one time

(Porch area open Tue 27th & Wed 28th 10am-4pm)

See our COVID-19 [Worship FAQs](#) here

Also available:

**8.10am** Sunday Worship on BBC Radio 4 from St Martin-in-the-Fields

**9am** Church of England online

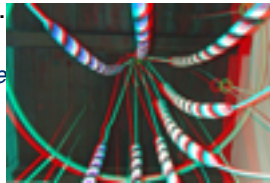
**1.15pm** Songs of Praise on BBC1, remembering Black History month.

**Bells**

Tune in to 'Bells on Sunday' from Alverstoke, Hants., on Radio 4 at 5.43am.

Or listen later online

*Image credit: Steve Woodmore  
Creative Commons*



**Forthcoming Services**

**1st Nov** 10am Parish Eucharist at St John the Baptist, Foxham

10am Evening Prayer at St Martin's, Bremhill

*See below for arrangements for All Souls'*

**8th Nov** 9.30am Remembrance at St John the Baptist, Foxham

10.45am Remembrance at Christ Church Derry Hill

11th Nov 10.45am Remembrance at St Martin's, Bremhill

*Please contact Rev'd Linda Carter to book a seat*

**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.

**Keeping in touch**

Website [www.mardenvale.org.uk](http://www.mardenvale.org.uk)

Derry Hill's [Facebook page](#)

Contact Linda on 01249 817926

email [lindac@mardenvale.org.uk](mailto:lindac@mardenvale.org.uk)

**Prayer** Join 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.

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

- all who are affected by coronavirus, all who work on the frontline to keep us safe, to help the sick, to keep us fed...
- all those affected by storm, flood and fire
- the people of Lebanon in the wake of another explosion, and Belarus as unrest continues
- an end to the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan
- the people of Nigeria
- 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 rest and refreshment during the half-term break
- local shops and businesses
- Kingston House residents and all who work there
- Lucy Ayles (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, Helen Lewis, Jackson Goodship, Jane Jordan, Angela Barker, Liz Kinch, Doreen Williams, Bill Norman, Brenda Beint, Sonia Strange and Barbara Starr.**
- All who have died in recent weeks, the bereaved, and all whose anniversary of death falls at this time. We remember especially Tom George
- **Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Pray for the Church in Wales, and The Most Revd John Davies, Archbishop of Wales & Bishop of Swansea & Brecon.

**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.

**Baptism**

We pray for Freddie who is being baptised at Derry Hill today, and welcome his family and godparents.

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



You can find out how to support your local church through the [Parish Giving Scheme](#)

**Readings for Bible Sunday: Psalm 119:9-16 Nehemiah 8:1-4a,8-12 Colossians 3:12-17 Matthew 24:30-35**

### **Collect**

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### **Nehemiah 8:1-4a**

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. The scribe Ezra stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose;

So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.' So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, 'Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.' And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

### **Colossians 3:12-17**

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### **Matthew 24:30-35**

Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see "the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven" with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will

gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

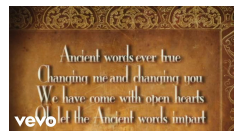
'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

### **Reflection**

For more than 200 years, the Bible Society has been helping people to access scripture: it translates and distributes Bibles around the world so people can read and hear the Bible in their heart language. Two or three years ago the Bible Society helped launch three new Bibles for minority ethnic communities in China...The tears running down the faces of the Black Yi tribe at the launch event of their Bible revealed the significance of receiving God's word in their heart language for the first time. Do we cherish our Bibles, the word of God, so readily available to us?

It is good to be reminded of the struggle and sacrifice that faithful Christians before us, such as William Tyndale, endured so that we can experience the word of God, that has the power to change lives, to bring life. I wonder...is that what comes to mind when we think of the Bible?

Do you agree with the writer of the letter to the Hebrews that "...the word of God is living and active...able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart..."? What do you think of "...living with the text day in and day out...listening to it and talking back to it...making sure I know what is behind the words it speaks to me and being certain I have heard it properly, by refusing to distance myself from the parts of it I do not like or understand...The Bible is not an object for me; it is a partner, whose presence blesses me, challenges me, and affects everything I do..." ? (*Barbara Brown Taylor - The Preaching Life*) What do you think is meant by letting the Bible read you? If you would like to join a group (via Zoom) to think about what the Bible means to you and what God is saying to us, I will be offering a 'Pilgrim' course with the Bible as the theme. Dates and details to follow - watch this space!



### **All Souls**

The church will be open on **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November from 10am to 4pm**. This will be an opportunity for those who wish to come and light a candle, lay a sprig of rosemary, and spend some time in prayer to remember a loved one. Our COVID-19 protocols will apply (face covering, hand sanitiser, 2m social distancing) and there will be safe space for 6 individuals at any one time in church.

For those who would prefer not to come into the building, you will be able to do these things in the churchyard. There will also be some wooden crosses available to hang on the yew arch as a symbol of remembrance.

There will also be a recorded service online and I will send a link nearer the time.

If you are unable to attend we will light a candle in church for your loved one. Please pass names of loved ones to be remembered to Linda as soon as possible.

