

The Marden Vale Team Ministry
Christ Church, Derry Hill – St. John the Baptist, Foxham – St. Martin, Bremhill
Sunday 6th December – Second Sunday of Advent

Today's Services:

10am Parish Eucharist St John the Baptist, Foxham
4pm Evening Prayer St Martin's, Bremhill

Next week:

10am Parish Eucharist Christ Church, Derry Hill
Please contact Rev Linda Carter to book a place
See contact details below

Also available:

8.10am Sunday Worship on BBC Radio 4

9am Church of England online

11.30am Sunday Worship from Stirling

1.15pm Songs of Praise on BBC1

Bells

Tune in to 'Bells on Sunday' on Radio 4 at 5.43am. Or listen later [online](#) From St Nicholas, Harpenden.

Private Prayer (1 individual or household at a time)

Christ Church, Derry Hill

Thur to Sat 10am-3pm Sun 12-3pm

St Martin's, Bremhill Daily 9am-4pm

Advent Reflection

May I encourage you to light a candle...put a star in the window...hang a star on the Christmas Tree...open the virtual Advent Calendar each day...

With all that is going on in the world, the upheaval in our lives, the sadness and pain, and the sheer enormity of the COVID crisis which threatens to overwhelm us, you might be thinking, "What earthly good will any of this do? Lighting a candle or putting up stars is not going to solve anything." And yet...

Earlier this week a colleague reminded me "let us not despise the day of small things" (Zechariah 4:10). Written at a time when the Israelites are returning from exile to a temple in ruins and faced with the enormous task of rebuilding, this prophetic hope was voiced. Zechariah spoke the word of the Lord to the overwhelmed: "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6). In these small acts of faith and prayer we are enacting a prophetic hope for a better world. May we continue to spread a message of light and hope and love, trusting in God's Spirit and laying the foundation for things to come.



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:

- all who are affected by coronavirus, all who work on the frontline to keep us safe, to help the sick, to keep us fed...
- continued progress with vaccines
- the people of Avonmouth
- all those affected by storm, flood, fire and earthquake - especially Greece & Turkey
- the people of the US during the transition of administrations
- an end to the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan
- a ceasefire in Ethiopia to enable aid to reach people suffering through this conflict
- 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 everyone to stay healthy
- 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 (especially with refugees fleeing conflict in Ethiopia) & South Sudan
- 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, Barbara Starr and Chris Bird.**
- 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 Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain (Extra-Provincial to the Archbishop of Canterbury), The Rt Revd Carlos López-Lozano - Bishop of Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church

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



A candle burns,
the sign of your Word.
God of the prophets,
come to us again
this Advent.
May your Word be a
lamp to our feet
and a light on our path.

Readings for Advent Sunday

Collect

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again
as judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God.

Psalm

To the leader. Of the Korahites. A Psalm.
Lord, you were favourable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you pardoned all their sin.

Selah

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.
Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.
The Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.
A voice cries out:
'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'
A voice says, 'Cry out!'
And I said, 'What shall I cry?'
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
'Here is your God!'
See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

2 Peter 3: 8-15a

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight" ',

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

Calne Food Bank at Church House, 30 Church St.,
Calne: 12-4pm Tue & Fri, 10am-1pm Wed
Visit [Calne Food Bank](#) for more information.

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

Keeping in touch Contact Linda 01249 817926
or email lindac@mardenvale.org.uk
Website www.mardenvale.org.uk
Derry Hill's [Facebook page](#)

And finally....we are looking for some help with the Derry Hill magazine:

inSPIRE Magazine

Keith is retiring as our advertising coordinator after looking after the magazine account for five years, and many thanks to him for that.

So, would you like to do your community bit and help the magazine? No real sales experience needed, just the ability to communicate with our advertisers, normally by email, now and again and keep track of their accounts. It shouldn't be more than a couple of hours a week.

Interested? Please contact me.

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