



The Marden Vale Team Ministry  
Christ Church, Derry Hill – St. John the Baptist, Foxham – St. Martin, Bremhill  
Sunday 13th December – Third Sunday of Advent

**Today's Services:**

10am Parish Eucharist Christ Church, Derry Hill

**Next week:**

**Weds 16th December at 7.30pm**

Blue Christmas at Christ Church, Derry Hill

**Saturday 19th December at 3pm**

Carols in the Churchyard at Christ Church, Derry Hill

**Sunday 20th December**

Parish Eucharist St Martin's, Bremhill at 10am followed by Carols in the Square at 10.45am

Carols in the Churchyard St John the Baptist, Foxham at 3pm

*Booking is required for services in church - see contact details below.*

*Carol singing outdoors: please wear a face covering, remain in your household or regular support bubble and observe social distancing requirements.*

Also available:

**8.10am** Sunday Worship on BBC Radio 4

**9am** [Church of England online](#)

**11.30am** Sunday Worship from Royal Holloway, University of London

**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 Christ Church, Swindon.

**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

**Important news about Calne Food Bank**

The Food Bank is now located at:

4A Mill Street (previously Marden Cafe)  
Calne, SN11 8DP

Here is the link to the Calne Foodbank Website:

<https://www.calnefoodbank.co.uk/>

Tel: 07752 213029 Email: [calnefoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:calnefoodbank@gmail.com)

Calne: 12-4pm Tue & Fri, 10am-1pm Wed

**Keeping in touch** Contact Linda 01249 817926

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

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

Derry Hill's [Facebook page](#)

**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...
- 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, Elizabeth Hannah and Sarah Green.**
- All who have died in recent weeks, the bereaved, and all whose anniversary of death falls at this time. We remember especially Chris Bird who died last week.
- **Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Pray for the Falkland Islands (Extra-Provincial to Canterbury), The Rt Revd Timothy Thornton - Bishop to the Forces and Bishop to the Falkland Islands

**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.

**A message from Nan Bird**

The family and I want to thank all our church friends for the many messages and cards we have received. We really appreciate your love and care.

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

## Readings for Advent 3

### Collect

God for whom we watch and wait,  
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way  
of your Son:  
give us courage to speak the truth,  
to hunger for justice,  
and to suffer for the cause of right,  
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Psalm 126

A Song of Ascents.

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.  
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;  
then it was said among the nations,  
'The Lord has done great things for them.'  
The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses in the Negeb.  
May those who sow in tears  
reap with shouts of joy.  
Those who go out weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing,  
shall come home with shouts of joy,  
carrying their sheaves.

### Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-end

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the broken-hearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.  
They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.  
I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring  
up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

## 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all  
circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus  
for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the  
words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what  
is good; abstain from every form of evil.  
May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and  
may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and  
blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The  
one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

## John 1: 6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was  
John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that  
all might believe through him. He himself was not the  
light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light,  
which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent  
priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are  
you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I  
am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then?  
Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the  
prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him,  
'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent  
us. What do you say about yourself?' He said,  
'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,  
"Make straight the way of the Lord" ',  
as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked  
him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the  
Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered  
them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom  
you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am  
not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took  
place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was  
baptizing.

## A Very Short Advent Confession Alison Adam Iona Community

Creator of light and darkness,  
we so often chase shadows  
and fail to walk in the light.

Forgive us, O God.

*A time of stillness*

We travel through Advent  
as forgiven people,  
lifting our faces towards the light.  
Let us walk together  
in hope and faith.

Amen.



## Christmas Dates

**Christmas Eve** 3.15pm A Christmas journey to the crib  
Bremhill churchyard  
4pm Eucharist - Christ Church, Derry Hill  
6.30pm Eucharist - St Martin's, Bremhill  
**Christmas Day** 10am Eucharist - St John the Baptist,  
Foxham

## Bowood Carols

An online Service of Lessons and Carols will be made  
available on Christmas Eve

*Booking is essential for services held in church. Contact  
Rev Linda - details above.*

