

The Marden Vale Team Ministry
Christ Church, Derry Hill – St. John the Baptist, Foxham – St. Martin, Bremhill
Sunday 24th January – Third Sunday of Epiphany

Today's Services

Public worship is currently suspended in our churches.

An online service of Evensong from the Marden Vale Team is available on YouTube [here](#)
There is also a short service of Morning Prayer via Zoom from Derry Hill Vicarage at 10am - link available via email.

Also available:

8.10am Sunday Worship on BBC Radio 4

9am [Church of England online](#)

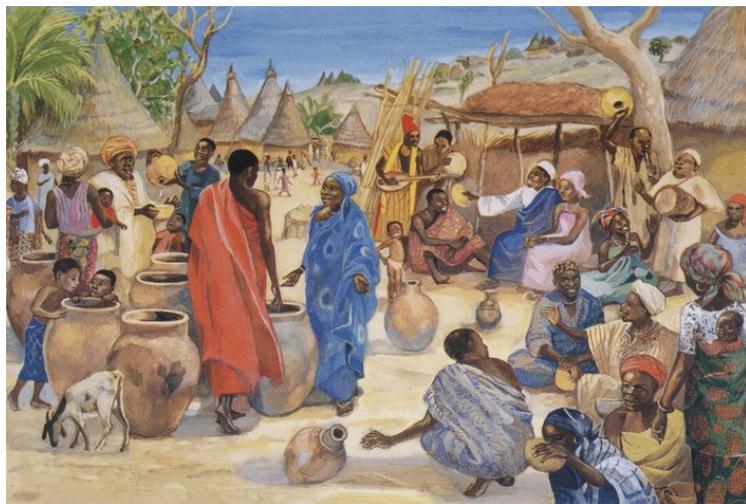
1.15pm Songs of Praise on **BBC2** Celebrating 60 years

Bells

Tune in to 'Bells on Sunday' on Radio 4 at 5.43am. Or listen later [online](#) From All Saints Church, Wigston Magna, Leicestershire.

Midweek Service

There is a short service of Evening Prayer via Zoom from Derry Hill Vicarage every Wednesday at 5pm - link available via email.



JESUS MAFA. the Wedding at Cana, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48305>

Calne Food Bank

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

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

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

Tel: 07752 213029 Email:

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

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...
- the vaccination programme in this country and across the world
- for President Joe Biden and the new US administration
- all those affected by storm, flood, fire and earthquake,
- shelter for the homeless and rough sleepers
- fighting to cease and peace to prevail in all the places in the world marked by conflict and violence
- 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 those learning online and those in the classroom, that everyone will be kept safe and 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 & 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 John Bevan and John Philip who have died in recent days.
- **Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Pray for The Church of Bangladesh

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

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

Keeping in touch Contact Linda 01249 817926

or email lindac@mardenvale.org.uk

Website www.mardenvale.org.uk

Derry Hill's [Facebook page](#)

Readings for Third Sunday of Epiphany

Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your mighty power;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Psalm 128

Happy is everyone who fears the Lord,
who walks in his ways.
You shall eat the fruit of the labour of
your hands;
you shall be happy,
and it shall go well with you.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
within your house;
your children will be like olive shoots
around your table.

Thus shall the man be blessed
who fears the Lord.

The Lord bless you from Zion.
May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of your life.
May you see your children's children.
Peace be upon Israel!

Genesis 14:17-20

After his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. He blessed him and said,
'Blessed be Abram by God Most High,
maker of heaven and earth;
and blessed be God Most High,
who has delivered your enemies into your hand!'
And Abram gave him one-tenth of everything.

Revelation 19:6-10

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out,
'Hallelujah!
For the Lord our God
the Almighty reigns.
Let us rejoice and exult
and give him the glory,
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready;
to her it has been granted to be clothed
with fine linen, bright and pure' —
for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.
And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'
And he said to me, 'These are true words of God.' Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, 'You must not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'

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.

To ponder...

At theological college two questions were constantly posed. In every reflection on what was happening in our lives and in the world we asked: "Where is God in this?" and in every sermon preached there was a "so what...?" moment. It's a discipline I try to continue to apply.

Where is God in this Covid pandemic? In the midst of what feels like endless suffering and struggle, does an ancient account of a wedding party have anything to say to us? The servants do what Jesus tells them and the party goes on with more than enough wine of the best quality. So what...?

We are in the season of Epiphany, a season of revelation when we discover things about our Creator God. At Christmas we encountered the baby in the manger, Emmanuel, God with us. So that's the first thing to hold on to, that God is with us in our living and dying and everything in between and beyond. And the second thing, the 'so what?' is that God, in Jesus, demonstrates that God's desire for us is abundant life.

On the face of it, it might seem that the miracle at Cana simply averted huge embarrassment and allowed the party to continue into the night.

Jesus did this sign and revealed his glory, so what...we see is as we follow Jesus we will experience the extravagant grace of God who gives us everything we need (which is not the same as everything we want). We will not be insulated but we will not be alone.

So what...today's Gospel proclaims is a different way of seeing things - abundance rather than scarcity (which is a bit of a challenge when I look at the church accounts). Perhaps we might discover that what we need to bring healing is here among us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. So what...difference will that make in how we listen to and learn from each other, how we appreciate and share with each other? What difference will this Gospel make to our trust in God? I believe we will see God present with us in the fruits and gifts of the people around us.

Where is God in this? So what...?
What do you think?

