

The Marden Vale Team Ministry
Christ Church, Derry Hill – St. John the Baptist, Foxham – St. Martin, Bremhill
Sunday 14th February – The Sunday next before Lent

Today's Services in the Marden Vale Team

Public worship is currently suspended in our churches.

There is a short service of Morning Prayer via Zoom from Derry Hill Vicarage at 10am - email lindac@mardenvale.org.uk for link.

An online service of Morning Prayer from Holy Trinity is available on YouTube [here](#) with a reflection from Bishop Nicholas.

Also available:

8.10am Sunday Worship on BBC Radio 4

9am [Church of England online](#)

1.15pm Songs of Praise from Ripon Cathedral on BBC1

Bells

Tune in to 'Bells on Sunday' on Radio 4 at 5.43am. Or listen later [online](#) Minster and Cathedral Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Southwell in Nottinghamshire.

Midweek Service

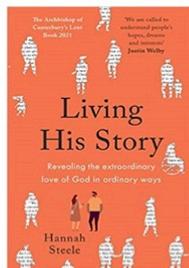
There is a short service of Evening Prayer via Zoom from Derry Hill Vicarage every Wednesday at 5pm - link available via email as above.

The Calne Partnership of Churches is running a Lent Course - see details below. To order a book and to book a place please contact: Rev Sam King revsamking@talktalk.net

Zoom meetings on Thursdays at 7pm, beginning 18th February.

Lent 2021

At our CPC AGM it was agreed we would join in the **Big Lent Read** for Lent book using 'Living His Story' which is the **Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book for 2021**. It's on evangelism. The Big Lent Read provides information and videos to watch. We plan to meet via zoom for discussion. For more information please visit <https://thebigchurchread.co.uk/living-his-story/>. The cost of the book (at discount with enough interest) is £6.99.



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: calnefoodbank@gmail.com

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
 - 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
 - this half-term break, for all our children and school staff, that they would find rest and refreshment
 - local shops and businesses
 - Kingston House residents and all who work there
 - Lucy Ayles in her work with YWAM, offering assistance with the vaccination programme in Papua New Guinea
 - 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 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 Peter Dunkerton and William Drury.
 - **Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Pray for The Anglican Church of Canada
- 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.

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

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 Sunday next before Lent

Collect

Holy God,
you know the disorder of our sinful lives:
set straight our crooked hearts,
and bend our wills to love your goodness
and your glory
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalm 50:1-6

The mighty one, God the Lord,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.
Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
God shines forth.

Our God comes and does not keep silence,
before him is a devouring fire,
and a mighty tempest all around him.
He calls to the heavens above
and to the earth, that he may judge his people:
'Gather to me my faithful ones,
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!'
The heavens declare his righteousness,
for God himself is judge.

2 Kings 2:1-12

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?' And he said, 'Yes, I know; keep silent.'

Elijah said to him, 'Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?' And he answered, 'Yes, I know; be silent.'

Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.' Elisha said, 'Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.' He responded, 'You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.' As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep

them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Mark 9:2-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Reflection

The look of love? David Runcorn writes "C. S. Lewis suggested that when we finally see the face of Jesus, we will have [that] feeling: 'You look so familiar. I know I've seen you before somewhere.' We will recognise him. How? Because, says Lewis, in his face will be all our faces - the likeness and image of all our faltering, flawed attempts at loving and being loved by others. He was there in it all because he is love itself." Runcorn goes on to say that "there is a key movement in Christian faith and discipleship - a turning. A relationship is not possible until there is a turning towards another. The vital choice is who we turn our face to." If we turn to Jesus, we will "meet Jesus already turned to us. In his face we meet ourselves in our true likeness. And there too shines the glory and love of God."

Mountaintops? Following Jesus isn't always easy. Sometimes the fog descends. It feels like we've been walking for miles, but then we discover we've been going round in circles. We may start to heed the voices which tell us that believing in Jesus is futile and ridiculous. Yet there are moments when the fog lifts, the clouds part and we see clearly just how far we have come and waymarkers for the next path to take. There are moments when we look up at the sky and glimpse glory.

As we approach Lent, may we turn again to Jesus, accept the gift of God's shining love and affirmation, and take the path of God's calling, our vocation. The glory of the mountaintop recharges us, sustains our faith. We cannot remain on the mountaintop. Like the disciples we return to live out our calling knowing that we will never be the same again. When the fog descends, take courage for the glory of God shines brightly in our hearts.

