

Light in the DARKNESS

JOHN 1:4-5

The Marden Vale Team Ministry
Christ Church, Derry Hill
St. John the Baptist, Foxham
St. Martin, Bremhill

Sunday 19th December
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Following the Government's announcement and PCC meeting on 8th December please note that face coverings must be worn at all times in our church buildings.

Today's Services (19th Dec)

10am Parish Eucharist at Derry Hill
2.30pm Carols in the Square at Bremhill
4pm Carols in the Churchyard at Foxham

Next week:

Tue 21st Christmas Music Christ Church, DH
See details below
7.30pm Blue Christmas at Derry Hill
For those who would value a quieter, gentler space
Wed 22nd 6pm Meditation Christ Church, DH



Christmas Services

Christmas Eve 6pm Carols in the Courtyard at Bowood
11.15pm Midnight Mass at Bremhill
11.30pm Midnight Mass at Derry Hill
Christmas Day 9.30am Family Communion at Foxham
9.30am Family Communion at Bremhill
11am Family Communion at Derry Hill
Sun 26th 10am United Benefice Eucharist at St. Mary's, Calne

All our carol services are taking place outside so do wrap up warm. Feel free to bring a chair to sit on.

Christmas Music in Christ Church, Derry Hill

Tue 21st December 10am to 12.30pm & 2pm to 4pm
An informal morning and afternoon of carols and Christmas music. Come and listen for as long as you like, bring a coffee, request a carol, enjoy!



Please click [here](#) or see below for COVID measures

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

Prayer

Click [here](#) to leave prayer requests or to join the Church of England Daily Prayer

In the coming week please keep in your prayers:

Peace: fighting to cease and peace to prevail in all the places in the world marked by conflict and violence; for our brothers and sisters in Sudan & South Sudan, Yemen, the Middle East

Those in need: in storm, flood, fire and earthquake, for all rescue workers and emergency services; shelter for the homeless and rough sleepers, safety for refugees; those struggling to pay bills and put food on the table; for the anxious, exhausted, isolated. May those whose mental health is fragile be able to access counselling, medication and support;

women and girls who do not feel safe

Local community: our schools, for all children & staff - may they enjoy a restful and healthy Christmas break; local shops and businesses, Kingston House residents and all who work there;

Lucy Ayles in her work with YWAM

COVID-19: all who are affected by coronavirus, who work on the frontline to keep us safe, to help the sick, to keep us fed; praying especially for all NHS workers the vaccination programme in every nation; new oral antiviral medication for Covid, giving thanks for those involved in its development; wisdom and guidance in our continued responses to the pandemic, especially in the wake of the new variant Omicron and Plan B requirements

Environment: continued momentum from COP 26 and how we care for God's creation

Charities: the work of Christian Aid, The Children's Society, The Leprosy Mission

The sick: Mark Steele, Christine Gundry, Mark Jennings, Lynne Cottrell, Rob Simons, Jacob Maloy, Paul Crayford, Helen Lewis, Jackson Goodship, Liz Kinch, Doreen Williams, Brenda Beint, Sonia Strange, Sarah Green, Margaret Bell, Rev. Jim Scott

The departed: We remember Phoebe Holman, Thelma Lake and Jenny Timmins, and all who mourn their loss; all whose anniversary of death falls at this time.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for The Church of the Central Province of Africa

Churches open for private prayer

Bremhill - daily from 9am to 4pm
Derry Hill - Tue-Sat 9am to 4pm, Sundays 12-4pm

Calne Food Bank

Open 12pm-4pm Mon & Fri, 10am-1pm Wed
4A Mill Street, Calne, SN11 8DP
www.calnefoodbank.co.uk
07752 213029
Email: calnefoodbank@gmail.com

Giving

You can find out how to support your local church on our [Giving](#) page.

QR Codes are available for Christ Church, Derry Hill for one-off donations or regular giving.

Readings for Advent 4

Collect

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalm 80:1-8

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you that led Joseph like a flock;

Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

Stir up your mighty strength,
and come to our salvation.

*Turn us again, O God; show the light of your
countenance, and we shall be saved.*

O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?

You feed them with the bread of tears;
you give them the abundance of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbours,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

*Turn us again, O God; show the light of your
countenance, and we shall be saved.*

Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of
the Lord,

in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

Hebrews 10:5-10

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O
God" (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).'

When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken
pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings
and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to the
law), then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.'
He abolishes the first in order to establish the second.
And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified
through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for
all.

Luke 1:39-55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a
Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the
house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When
Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her
womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and
exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among
women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why
has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord

comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your
greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And
blessed is she who believed that there would be a
fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his
servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call
me blessed;

for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their
hearts.

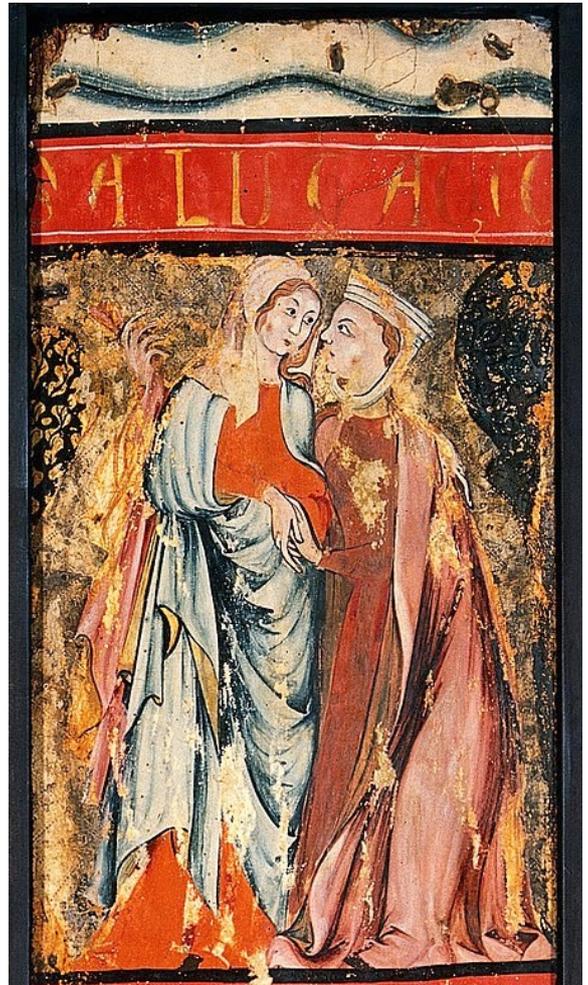
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'



<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/>

[File:The visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Saint Elizabeth Wellcome Library.jpg](#)



Parochial Church Council (PCC) Guidance

At the joint PCC meeting on 8th December it was agreed that the current COVID measures should remain largely unaltered, with the exception that face coverings must be worn at all times in our church buildings. We are continuing to take a cautious approach while working towards reintroducing elements of worship in church which so many have missed.

In common with many other churches and retail and hospitality settings we are asking people to continue to observe the “Hands, Face, Space, Ventilation” measures which are currently in place.

Social distancing remains in place. Please feel free to sit with members of your household or regular social ‘bubble’ in any pew where there are Orders of Service. To indicate your preference for space, place a kneeler on the pew.

Face coverings We ask that face coverings are worn at all times unless you are exempt.

Communion (intincted wafers/bread) may be received at the high altar (standing). To reduce queuing this will be conducted row-by-row.

Congregational singing of two hymns + the Gloria will take place in church during services. We ask that you wear a face covering if you wish to join in.

Zoom services will continue

These measures apply to the regular Sunday services. They will be reviewed on 7th January or as the national situation changes as necessary.

An amended set of measures will apply to baptisms, weddings, funerals and other groups meeting in church subject to the requirements of separate risk assessments.

Our Christian calling is to care for all our brothers and sisters, particularly those who are vulnerable; and there are times in our lives when every one of us (and those we have close contact with) is vulnerable. We want everyone to feel welcome, comfortable and cared for. Thank you for your understanding.

Rev. Linda Carter on behalf of Bremhill, Derry Hill and Foxham PCCs 8th December 2021.