

Peace  
on Earth

Wishing you  
joy, peace,  
hope and God's  
blessings this  
Christmas



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

Christmas 2021

### Christmas Services

#### Christmas Eve

6pm Carols in the Courtyard at Bowood (about 35 minutes) followed by mulled wine & nibbles.

Wrap up warm. Feel free to bring a chair.

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

#### Sunday 26th December

10am United Benefice Eucharist at St. Mary's, Calne

#### Sunday 2nd January

10am Parish Eucharist at Derry Hill

6pm Zoom Evening Prayer

Please note that face coverings must be worn at all times in our church buildings. Please click [here](#) or see below for COVID measures

**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](#)

Foxham's [Facebook Page](#)

Thank you for giving so generously at our carol services and Christmas music day. A total of £524 was raised, with £481.50 going to the DEC Afghan Crisis appeal and £42.50 to Save the Children.

### Calne Food Bank

Open 12pm-4pm Mon & Fri, 10am-1pm Wed

4A Mill Street, Calne, SN11 8DP

[www.calnefoodbank.co.uk](http://www.calnefoodbank.co.uk)

07752 213029

Email: [calnefoodbank@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### 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, for the Holy Land

**Those in need:** in storm, flood, fire and earthquake, for all rescue workers and emergency services, praying especially for the Philippines; 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 Jenny Timmins, Ruth Searle, Bryan Hughes and Christopher Clifford and all who mourn their loss; all whose anniversary of death falls at this time.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Pray for Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America.

### Churches open for private prayer

Bremhill - daily from 9am to 4pm

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



## Readings for Christmas Eve

### Collect

Eternal God, in the stillness of this night  
you sent your almighty Word to pierce  
the world's darkness with the light of salvation:  
give to the earth the peace that we long for  
and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven  
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

### Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'  
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see  
the return of the Lord to Zion.  
Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
The Lord has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

### Hebrews 1:1-4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and  
various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he  
has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of  
all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He  
is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of  
God's very being, and he sustains all things by his  
powerful word. When he had made purification for sins,  
he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,  
having become as much superior to angels as the name  
he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

### John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with  
God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning  
with God. All things came into being through him, and  
without him not one thing came into being. What has  
come into being in him was life, and the life was the light  
of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the  
darkness did not overcome it.

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.

He was in the world, and the world came into being  
through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to  
what was his own, and his own people did not accept  
him. But to all who received him, who believed in his  
name, he gave power to become children of God, who  
were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the  
will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we  
have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,  
full of grace and truth.

## Readings for Christmas Day

### Collect

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem  
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:  
accept our heartfelt praise, as we worship you,  
our Saviour and our eternal God.

### Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—

on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onwards and for evermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

### Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation  
to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly  
passions, and in the present age to live lives that are  
self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the  
blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our  
great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave  
himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity  
and purify for himself a people of his own who are  
zealous for good deeds.

### Luke 2:1-14

In those days a decree  
went out from  
Emperor Augustus  
that all the world  
should be registered.  
This was the first  
registration and was  
taken while Quirinius  
was governor of Syria.  
All went to their own  
towns to be  
registered.

Joseph also went from the  
town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of  
David called Bethlehem, because he was descended  
from the house and family of David. He went to be  
registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and  
who was expecting a child. While they were there, the  
time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave  
birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of  
cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no  
place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields,  
keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel  
of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the  
Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But  
the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am  
bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:  
to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour,  
who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for  
you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and  
lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the  
angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God  
and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'



## **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.