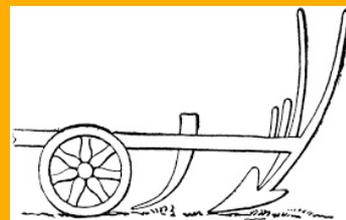




The Marden Vale Team Ministry  
Christ Church, Derry Hill  
St. John the Baptist, Foxham  
St. Martin, Bremhill

9th January - First Sunday after Epiphany  
The Baptism of Christ ~ Plough Sunday



### Services in January

#### Sunday 9th January

10am Parish Eucharist at Bremhill (Baptism of Christ)  
6pm Evening Prayer at Foxham (Plough Sunday)

#### Sunday 16th January

10am Parish Eucharist at Derry Hill  
6pm Zoom Evening Prayer  
(Link available from [lindac@mardenvale.org.uk](mailto:lindac@mardenvale.org.uk))

#### Sunday 23rd January

9.30am Parish Eucharist at Foxham  
6pm Evening Prayer at Bremhill

#### Sunday 30th January

Candlemas (Presentation of Christ in the Temple)  
10am United Benefice Eucharist at Derry Hill  
6pm Zoom Evening Prayer (see above for link)

### Diary for January

Tue	11th	4pm	Derry Hill Standing Cttee Meeting
Wed	12th	7pm	Foxham Standing Cttee Meeting
		6pm	Meditation at Derry Hill
		7.30pm	Handbells at Derry Hill
Thu	13th	9am	Bremhill Standing Cttee Meeting
		1pm	Funeral at Derry Hill (The late Mrs Tina Millar)
		7pm	Derry Hill Worship & Ministry Meeting
Tue	18th	1pm	Funeral at Foxham (The late Mrs Jenny Timmins)
Wed	19th	6pm	Meditation at Derry Hill
		7.30pm	Handbells at Derry Hill
Fri	21st	11am	Funeral at North Wilts Crematorium (The late Mr Christopher Clifford)
		2pm	Bremhill Worship & Ministry Meeting

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](#)

### 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; 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; local shops and businesses; Kingston House residents and all who work there;

Lucy Aylen 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 Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust

**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, Christopher Clifford, Tina Millar and Archbishop Desmond Tutu and all who mourn their loss; all whose anniversary of death falls at this time.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Pray for The Iglesia Anglicana de Chile

#### **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](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.

## Readings for the First Sunday after Epiphany

### Collect

Heavenly Father,  
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:  
may we recognise him as our Lord  
and know ourselves to be your beloved children;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

### Psalm 29

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength;  
Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;  
worship the Lord in holy splendour.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters;  
the God of glory thunders,  
the Lord, over mighty waters.

The voice of the Lord is powerful;  
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;  
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.  
He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Sirion like a young wild ox.

The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.  
The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;  
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl,  
and strips the forest bare;  
and in his temple all say, 'Glory!'

The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;  
the Lord sits enthroned as king for ever.  
May the Lord give strength to his people!  
May the Lord bless his people with peace!

### Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the Lord,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.  
For I am the Lord your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.  
I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.  
Because you are precious in my sight,  
and honoured, and I love you,  
I give people in return for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.  
Do not fear, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you;  
I will say to the north, 'Give them up',  
and to the south, 'Do not withhold';  
bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the earth—  
everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made.'

### Acts 8:14-17

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Piero Della Francesca



### Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His

winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'



The observance of Plough Sunday on the First Sunday of Epiphany goes back to Victorian times, but behind it there is a much

older observance, associated with the first working day after the twelve days of Christmas, hence 'Plough Monday' in some places.

In medieval times ploughs were sometimes kept in the parish church, and some churches kept a 'plough-light' – a candle that burned over the plough throughout the winter. In days when work was scarce in winter, the observance looked forward to the time of sowing with the promise of a harvest to come. Some Christian communities have reintroduced it as a focus for asking a blessing on human labour near the start of the calendar year.

Turning the sod by S Anne Lawson

Sharp plough glinting in the sun  
turning dull bare earth  
preparation for a new start  
a nourishing seedbed  
new beginnings,  
new life,  
new growth

Holy Spirit, sharp ploughshare for our hearts  
turn the dull bare earth of our lives  
preparation for new starts  
nourish us with your word  
prepare us for  
new beginnings,  
new life,  
new growth

## **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.