

St Arvans Church On line Community Bulletin Wednesday 15th April 2020

Please send any contributions to this bulletin to starvanschurchnews@btinternet.com

The Sunday readings and meditation will be circulated separately.

Please share it with others whom you think will be interested, and invite them to contact us if they want to go on the mailing list.

Father Michael invites anyone who needs assistance or wants a chat to call him on 622064 or 07867 803479

St Arvans ONLINE ! TONIGHT AT 8PM – Evening prayer

Sunday Morning Eucharist will be broadcast live at 10am

Wednesday evening: Night Prayer will be broadcast live at 8 pm (see below for today's Gospel)

On Facebook : St Arvan's Parish group – please like us and become a follower

Or use the link: https://www.facebook.com/pg/vicaragecello1/videos/?ref=page_internal

On Instagram: starvanschurch

On Twitter: St Arvans Church @Arvanschurch

And on Thursday this week, alongside the NHS applause, we are again going to try singing the National Anthem – see below !

Through the wonders of technology, Bishop Cherry was able to deliver her first Easter Eucharist in the Diocese of Monmouth directly into our homes. You can watch the full service here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lwac63c9pGc&feature=youtu.be>

Our own screenings from St Arvans have attracted over 400 views each – the one on Passion Sunday, nearly 600. This is amazing, and well done to Father Michael and Kate for making it happen – all from a mobile phone! For those of us who are a bit suspicious about some new technology, particularly Facebook – it has certainly come into its own. We even had one priest joining in the Good Friday liturgy from Bolivia !! All the services are still available to view.

Prayer

God of life and love: As we celebrate the Resurrection of your Son, we remember that the joy of Easter Morning came only after the sorrow of the Cross, the darkness of Good Friday, and the silence of the tomb. As you reassured Mary in the garden, make yourself known to all who struggle to be joyful today; and show us, as you promised your disciples, that wherever we go, you are there before us, and will remain with us always. Amen.

God of love and hope, you made the world and care for all creation, but the world feels strange right now.

The news is full of stories about Coronavirus. Some people are worried that they might get ill.

Others are anxious for their family and friends. Be with them and help them to find peace.

We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists, and all who are working to discover the right medicines

to help those who are ill. Thank you that even in these anxious times, you are with us.

Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe.

Amen.

Today's Gospel is Luke 24 13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who

does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Music

I hope many of you will have seen the special Music for Hope* performance on Sunday by Andrea Bocelli. For me, the most moving moment was when he walked, unaided, down the great nave of the Duomo, out onto the piazza and stood in front of the microphone to sing Amazing Grace.

Bocelli has been blind since the age of 12, yet he has overcome his disability and achieved one of the most successful ever careers in classical music. What an inspiration, for those days when I am feeling sorry for myself.

*(*If you missed it, you can catch it here – it's only about 25 minutes. Amazing Grace comes at the end.)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huTUOek4LgU>

Every year the Royal Choral Society perform Messiah on Good Friday – a tradition unbroken for 144 years. This year, they were determined not to be defeated.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQYVbd1Gwg>

NHS Applause – and the Welsh National Anthem!

On Thursday evenings at 8pm we are coming out to applaud the NHS workers. On Monday this week, we were invited to join in the singing of the Welsh National Anthem – in Welsh of course. That didn't go quite as well as hoped, in St Arvans, so let's have another go this Thursday, at 8pm, alongside the clapping. It's a glorious tune, so go outside and belt it out !!!

<p>In Welsh Mae hen wlad fy nhadau yn annwyl i mi, Gwlad beirdd a chantorion, enwogion o fri; Ei gwrol ryfelwyr, gwladgarwyr tra mad, Tros ryddi gollasant eu gwaed. Gwlad, Gwlad, pleidiol wyf i'm gwlad, Tram or yn fur i'r bur hoff bau, O bydded i'r heniaith bar hau.</p>	<p>Phonetically ! <i>(helps if you read this through a couple of times first, with the tune in your head!)</i> My hair-n wl-add ver n-had eye Un ann-wooll ee me, Gool-ard buy-rth ah chant-or-yon En-wog-yon oh vree; Eye goo-rol ruv-elle-weir, Gool-ard garr-weir trah-mahd, Tross ruh-thid coll-ass-ant eye gwide.</p>
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	Gool-ard, gool-ard Ply-dee-ol oiv eem gool-ard Trah more un veer eer bee-rr hore-ff buy Oh buthed eer hen-yithe barr-high
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You can listen to our Katherine singing it

here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9KTKi1GJCvI>

Looking ahead

We are delighted that Catherine Gray - the Florist at Hanley Business Centre – has agreed to come and give the Christmas Floral Demonstration on Friday, 13th November (7.30 p.m.). Please mark the date in your diary.

It was disappointing that the Harts evening had to be postponed – Jean has been in contact with Carrie and we hope that the fashion show will be held later in the year.

Zoom, Zoom

Would there be any interest in having a virtual coffee morning, or discussion group, or prayer meeting, using Zoom? Participants would have to be limited to around 8, we think, if all attendees are to have a chance to talk. Please let us know if you would like to participate, including whether you have any experience with using Zoom.

Britain's Easter story

If you didn't see it, I recommend watching on catch up the two episodes of Britain's Easter story, which was broadcast on BBC2 over the weekend. I was most interested to learn about the writing of the two most famous Eastertide hymns – When I survey the wondrous cross, and Jesus Christ is risen today.

On the lighter side

You may remember the film *The Greatest Story ever Told*. It came out in 1965 and was an old fashioned blockbuster telling the story of Jesus' life, with typical Hollywood disregard for the letter of the Gospel stories. A number of famous actors took cameo roles, including John Wayne who played the centurion standing at the foot of the cross. He had to deliver the famous line "In truth, this was the Son of God". The story goes that after the first take, Director George Stevens said to John, "John, that was fantastic, but I want to hear more *awe* in your voice next time."

So he called "Action", and Big John proclaimed in his best American drawl: "Aaww! In truth this was the Son of God."

(if you'd like to see the movie again, it was shown on Saturday on BBC2, so you should be able to pick it up on iPlayer)