

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

### Re-opening of the church

We are making progress towards being able to re-open the church in St Arvans for services. We will let you have further details as soon as we can.

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Today is the anniversary of **William Wilberforce** (24 August 1759 – 29 July 1833) who was known above all as a leader of the movement to abolish the [slave trade](#). Wilberforce was convinced of the importance of religion, morality and education. He championed causes and campaigns such as British missionary work in India, the foundation of the [Church Mission Society](#), and the [Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals](#). In 1826 he resigned from Parliament because of his failing health, but continued to campaign for the abolition of slavery. That campaign led to the [Slavery Abolition Act 1833](#), which abolished slavery in most of the [British Empire](#). Wilberforce died just three days after hearing that the passage of the Act through Parliament was assured. He was buried in [Westminster Abbey](#), close to his friend [William Pitt the Younger](#).

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### Prayer and meditation

#### Isaiah 58: 6-11

Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you,  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.

The LORD will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and make your bones strong;

and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters never fail.

## Psalm 72: 1-4, 12-14

Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to a king's son.  
May he judge your people with righteousness,  
and your poor with justice.  
May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.  
May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,  
give deliverance to the needy,  
and crush the oppressor.  
For he delivers the needy when they call,  
the poor and those who have no helper.  
He has pity on the weak and the needy,  
and saves the lives of the needy.  
From oppression and violence he redeems their life;  
and precious is their blood in his sight.

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## The Gospel of St Luke 4:16-21

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

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## Music

This rousing version of **Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus** should get the juices flowing!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QGf2fTla0zo>

**Didn't my Lord deliver Daniel:** sung by a virtual international choir (this was actually made in 2015, long before the pandemic.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MRLO9b9A0y4>

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## On the lighter side

Some things a teacher might say when the primary class returns to school:

Please don't snap Billy's mask in his face.

Your mask is not a necklace, bracelet, or any other form of jewellery.

You should not be using your mask as a slingshot. Please put it back on your face.

Please don't share your mask or trade masks. I don't care if you like Ingrid's mask better than yours.

I'm sorry, but your mask is not school appropriate.

Try to get the gum off as much as you can.

No, your mask doesn't make it hard to get your work done.

I don't care if you were in art class and being creative; we do not decorate our masks.

Who's making that noise?

Please take those biscuits out of your mask. No, you are not a chipmunk.

We're not comparing our masks to other kids' masks... everyone's mask is unique and special.