

PARISH NEWSLETTER

St Arvans with Penterry, Itton, Devauden & Kilgwrrwg

Welcome to the Newsletter for our group of parishes during the period when, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, some of our churches remain closed. The Sunday Eucharist is now able to be celebrated with a congregation at St Arvans, although – **please note - for the time being, because of limited space, attendance has to be by prior booking only**
You are now asked to wear face masks in church unless you have a valid medical reason for not doing so.

Please help to keep us informed of anyone who is in need or is isolated over the next weeks and months, and anyone in need of our prayer and support
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The winged Ox, the traditional symbol of St Luke the Evangelist

18th October 2020
Saint Luke, Evangelist

The Collect

Almighty God, you called Luke the physician, whose praise is in the gospel, to be an evangelist and physician of the soul: by the grace of the Spirit and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel, give your Church the same love and power to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. [35. 3-6]

Reader! This is the Word of the Lord
Response / Thanks be to God

Psalm 147 1 - 7

R/ The Lord heals the broken-hearted

Alleluia!
How good it is to sing praises to our God!
how pleasant it is to honour him with praise!
The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem;
he gathers the exiles of Israel.

R/ The Lord heals the broken-hearted

He heals the broken-hearted
and binds up their wounds.
He counts the number of the stars
and calls them all by their names.

R/ The Lord heals the broken-hearted

Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
there is no limit to his wisdom.
The Lord lifts up the lowly,
but casts the wicked to the ground.
Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;
make music to our God upon the harp.

R/ The Lord heals the broken-hearted

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy [4. 5-17]

As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully. As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing. Do your best to come to me soon, for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry. I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will pay him back for his deeds. You also must beware of him, for he strongly opposed our message. At my first defence no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth.

Reader! This is the Word of the Lord
Response / Thanks be to God

The Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia!
I have chosen you from the world,
says the Lord,
To go and bear fruit.
Alleluia!

The Lord be with you
R/ And also with you

**Listen to the Gospel of Christ
according to St Luke**
R/ Glory to you, O Lord

The Lord appointed seventy others
and sent them on ahead of him in pairs
to every town and place where he himself
intended to go.
He said to them,
'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers
are few; therefore ask the Lord of the
harvest to send out labourers into his
harvest. Go on your way.
See, I am sending you out like lambs into
the midst of wolves.
Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and
greet no one on the road.
Whatever house you enter, first say,
"Peace to this house!"
And if anyone is there who shares in
peace, your peace will rest on that person;
but if not, it will return to you.
Remain in the same house, eating and
drinking whatever they provide,
for the labourer deserves to be paid.
Do not move about from house to house.
Whenever you enter a town and its people
welcome you, eat what is set before you;
cure the sick who are there, and say to
them, "The kingdom of God has come
near to you."

[St Luke 10. 1–9]

This is the Gospel of the Lord: **R/
Praise to you, O Christ.**

Thought for the Week

"Out of compassion for us he
descended from heaven, and
although he ascended alone, we
also ascend, because we are in him
by grace"
St Augustine of Hippo (354 – 430)

For Your Prayers

That we may proclaim the Gospel of
Christ by the way we live our lives
That our spiritual communions will
give us the grace to serve Christ more
fully.

Those throughout the world suffering
from the Coronavirus
Doctors, nurses and all medical staff,
all carers, medical scientists and
researchers.

All who are isolated and alone, those
anxious for their health and well being
and those of their loved ones.

For those in government throughout
the world, that they may make
informed, wise and compassionate
decisions for the good of all

For the Church:

For the bishops of the Church:
John, Archbishop of Wales;
Cherry, Bishop of Monmouth, Philip,
Episcopal Visitor of the Society of the
Holy Cross in Wales, Jonathan,
Bishop of Ebbsfleet; Justin,
Archbishop of Canterbury. & for all
who hold and teach the Catholic faith
that comes to us from the Apostles.

All bishops, priests and deacons and
all baptised Christians

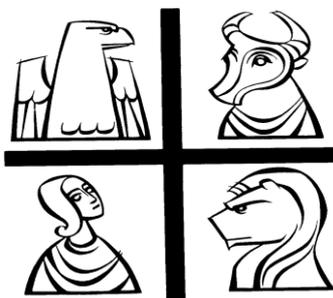
For the reunion of all Christians: for
Pope Francis, for Orthodox Patriarch
Bartholomew, & for the leaders of the
Reformed traditions

For the Sick & those in need:

Roy Staples, Ralph Hamilton, Patricia
Hamilton; Sylvia; The Revd Helen
Rodwell; Amanda Morgan; Naomi;
Kim; Elisabeth; Helen Herbert; Cliff
Edwards; Dave; Eirion

For the Departed:

The recently departed: our own
departed relatives & friends, & those
whose anniversaries of death fall at
this time: Lewis Webster; Eric
Henderson; George Hodgkinson;
Horace Collard



A Prayer of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are
in the Blessed Sacrament.
I love you above all things,
and I long for you in my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you
sacramentally, come at least
spiritually into my heart.
As though you have already come,
I embrace you and unite myself
entirely to you; never permit me
to be separated from you. Amen.

*(The Confraternity of the Blessed
Sacrament)*

This Week

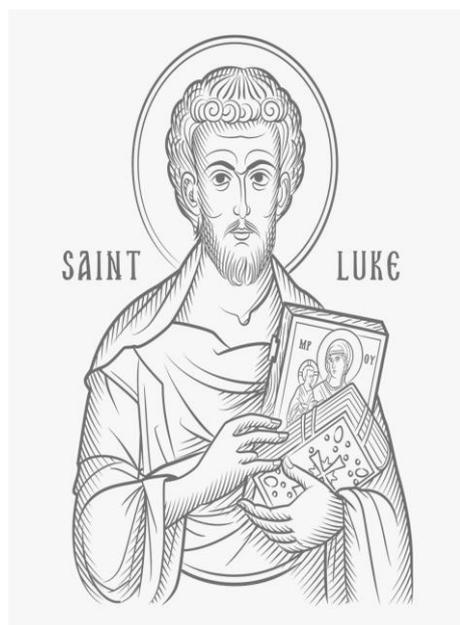
Today we celebrate St Luke the
Evangelist, the author of both the Gospel
bearing his name, and of the Acts of the
Apostles. Today's Gospel shows us Jesus
sending out the seventy disciples to bring
to all the good news of the Kingdom of
God

In the first readings at the Eucharist this
week, St Paul's Letter to the Ephesians
speaks about God's mercy and grace,
calling us "members of the household of
God" and saying that as a community we
"are being built together into a dwelling
place" of the Spirit. Paul, who was
probably a prisoner at the time he wrote
this letter, urges us to live "in a manner
worthy of the call you have received" and
calling us to patience and humility.

This week in St Luke's Gospel we hear
Jesus giving us his challenging message:
be prepared for the coming of the
Kingdom, be unencumbered enough to
follow Jesus freely. When a rich man
builds a place to store his surplus, God
says, "You fool, this night your life will be
demanded of you." Jesus tells us to "be
like servants who await their master's
return from a wedding, ready to open
immediately when he comes and knocks."
Our faith and calling as Christians means
we are called to go beyond what our world
and culture requires: "Much will be
required of the person entrusted with
much, and still more will be demanded of
the person entrusted with more." Jesus
envisions his mission on earth as a

purifying fire, "and how I wish it were already blazing!" He tells us, "If you are to go with your opponent before a magistrate, make an effort to settle the matter on the way." The weekday gospels end with the parable of the gardener who saves the barren fig tree from being cut down, saying to his owner 'Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down.'"

Next Sunday: in the Scripture readings justice and compassion are seen as the keys to love. The book of Leviticus speaks of the way to holiness of life, St Paul writes of the qualities of authentic discipleship. In the Gospel Jesus says it most simply: "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. ...You shall love your neighbour as yourself."



A Reflection for St Luke's Day

+ + In our lectionary we only ever celebrate St Luke on a Sunday pretty infrequently, the last time was five years ago, but it's appropriate for this year of pandemic that we do so today. As the collect tells us, Luke was a physician - he's also the patron saint of brewers which might be equally appropriate, but that's another story....

What we know about St Luke is this; firstly, of course, he's the author of the third Gospel and of the Acts of the Apostles. He was a native of Antioch in Syria and a gentile (or non-Jewish) convert to the faith. He didn't know Jesus in person, but was the companion of St Paul on many of the journeys around the Mediterranean. His account of the growth of the early church in the Acts of the Apostles is first hand history. We don't know very much about his later life after the death of St Paul - except that the Church has always honoured him as a martyr - someone who was killed for the Faith, hence the red liturgical colour we are using today. There's also a legend that he painted the very first icon of the Blessed Mary, and that many of the insights in his Gospel - particularly the stories surrounding the birth of Jesus were influenced heavily by her.

So most of what we know about St Luke we can deduce from the accounts he wrote. His telling of the gospel includes many episodes not found in the other gospels. In his birth narrative, the first two chapters, we have the Annunciation and Mary's joyful response, the Magnificat. We see the angels appearing to the shepherds in the fields and their visit to the manger in the Bethlehem stable. It is in Luke's account that Jesus is brought to the temple and meets the old man, Simeon who declares he has now seen God's salvation. He reports miracles and re-tells parables not found in any of the other gospels.

The poet Dante, writing in the fourteenth century said that Luke was "the chronicler of the humility of Christ." And it's certainly true that throughout his Gospel account, he is concerned to show us the God who by his Incarnation - his becoming a human being - is reaching out to the outcasts and those on the margins of society, those most in need of mercy, compassion and redemption. The picture he paints at the beginning of the Gospel is of God who raises up lowly and exalts the humble and the meek as the words of Mary's Magnificat say. The angel appears to Mary in the obscurity of a small village - shepherds, literally those on the margins of decent society are the first to come to the manger. Later it's only Luke who gives us Jesus' parables about the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal both of which speak of mercy and compassion.

His gospel is full of little human touches - he describes Mary's feelings at the Annunciation and shows the short tax collector Zacchaeus shinning up a tree to catch sight of Jesus above the heads of the crowd.

Luke shows a particular concern both in the Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles to show us the crucial role and status of women as disciples and eyewitnesses - very much against the culture of the time - and he's concerned, too, to demonstrate that God is the God of the poor, the outcast, the disregarded and that no one is left outside the Kingdom of God - the Good News is meant for everyone. Today's Gospel is an illustration of that. It shows us Jesus sending out the seventy disciples - again it's a passage only found in St Luke's Gospel is found only in Luke's Gospel. This use of the number seventy is most likely a reference to the number of all the nations of the earth in the Book of Genesis. So it's another way of communicating this message that the Gospel is for everyone, without exception. The message of Christ, like his love, mercy and compassion, has no limits and no boundaries.

So we honour Saint Luke today, for his Gospel of mercy and inclusion, and for his writing of the Acts of the Apostles and, interestingly, for giving the Church all the Gospel canticles we use in the daily offices, the morning, evening and night prayer of the Church, the Benedictus, the Magnificat and the Nunc Dimittis.

In today's gospel reading, Christ says that those he sends out will be like lambs in the midst of wolves. There are a lot of wolves out there still. And in the epistle this morning - the New Testament reading - we heard that St Paul had poured himself out as a libation, an offering to God, that he has fought the fight and finished the race. Through all this it appears that many of this supporters and followers for various reasons had abandoned him, but he singles out Luke for his constancy and faithfulness.

So we can honour St Luke for that quality of perseverance and steadfastness which again belongs to those who Christ calls his own. This sticking with it in the face of adversity, is a particular witness to Christ of those we honour as Saints. It might not be the most glamorous or fashionable of virtues, but it is absolutely crucial, because it is the most significant calling of

anyone who wishes to live in obedience to Christ, to the very end. As we've seen in the lives of people we've known, not giving up is in itself an extraordinary and beautiful thing.

So today, as we give thanks for Luke's testimony to Christ, for his gospel and his example as an evangelist, let us also learn from his particular witness of hanging on in there. Like all the Saints, he points us not to himself, but in the direction of Christ, the giver of all good things.

And, in the nearer presence of God, we believe he still does that by his prayers for all those who would fight the good fight, finish the race and keep the faith. +

PRAISE THE LORD
WHO HEALS THE
BROKEN-HEARTED.

18th October – St Luke

Church tradition attributes the authorship of the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles to Luke.

His name is not mentioned in the Gospels, which indicated he was a later follower of Jesus and possibly a follower of St Paul and seems to have joined his company at Troas.

He is mentioned in Colossians (4:14) and is described here as the 'beloved physician', who sends his greetings to the church that St Paul is writing to. Paul also mentions Luke in his letter to Philemon (1:24) and the second letter to Timothy (4:11), which suggest that Luke was known to these churches.

Apart from these mentions, we know very little about his life. There is a tradition, dating from the 8th century, that states that Luke was the first icon painter and painted icons of the Virgin Mary with child, but this cannot be verified.

From the Gospel and Acts we know that forgiveness and God's mercy to sinners is of importance to Luke. Only in Luke do we hear the story of the Prodigal Son welcomed back by the overjoyed father. Only in Luke do we hear the story of the forgiven woman disrupting the feast by washing Jesus' feet with her tears. Throughout Luke's gospel, Jesus takes the side of the sinner who wants to return to God's mercy.

Lord God, who chose Saint Luke to reveal by his preaching and writings the mystery of your love for the poor. Grant that those who already glory in your name may persevere as one heart and one soul and that all nations may come to see your salvation; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A reminder that the clocks go back one hour next Saturday night / Sunday morning (24th / 25th October as British Summer Time ends

