

## St Arvans Church Mid-Week Bulletin Wednesday 21st October

**Evening Prayer:** tonight at

8pm [https://www.facebook.com/pg/vicaragecello1/videos/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/vicaragecello1/videos/?ref=page_internal)

**Please note that from Friday, the church will once again be closed for services. Sunday Eucharist will continue to be live-streamed as before, at [https://www.facebook.com/pg/vicaragecello1/videos/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/vicaragecello1/videos/?ref=page_internal)**

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### SONGS OF PRAISE

About 10 people joined our Harvest Songs of Praise. The next one will be held for All Saints day around the beginning of November.

### Diocesan Conference

The first ever Monmouth Diocesan virtual conference was held this week.

The financial health of the diocese was explained by Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance, Peter Lea.

He said: "At the end of March with churches closed and virtually all parish income stopped, what was to happen?"

"What did happen was that new forms of worship were developed almost over-night. new means of keeping in touch as a church community were found and on top of that the whole of the church worked together in a way that I have never seen before. The message from day one was 'we are all in this together.'"

He thanked parishes and Ministry Areas for continuing to pay their share, even during these incredibly challenging economic times. He described their commitment as 'remarkable'.

He also added: "In a situation which is changing almost daily, it is difficult to predict the financial outcome for 2020. What I can tell you is that the board is committed to supporting ministry areas for the last quarter of the year."

These challenging times that we find ourselves in, also framed the presidential address by The Right Reverend Cherry Vann, Bishop of Monmouth.

In an energising and empowering speech, she likened the current situation to that of centuries ago when God's people were exiled, taken away from God's house. But rather than longing to go back, God told them to build houses, plant gardens, get married and multiply.

The words God spoke to them through the prophet Jeremiah are these:

**"FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU", SAYS THE LORD, "PLANS FOR YOUR WELFARE AND NOT FOR HARM, TO GIVE YOU A FUTURE WITH HOPE."**

As Bishop Cherry explains, "We may not have been exiled... but we are living in strange times, navigating our way as best we can in unfamiliar territory...."

"God invites us to build, plan and nourish ourselves, to get on with living and praying, not just for ourselves but for the welfare of the world around us, and above all, to trust in Him for our future."

Against this 'back cloth' Bishop Cherry highlighted her priorities for the coming years - establishing Ministry Areas, Discipleship and Stewardship.

She explains; "Ministry Areas will establish the framework, within which we can develop and invest in our life and work, our mission and ministry, our witness and service."

She then reflects on two aspects of our Christian life that are foundational to the hopeful future that God promises us. The first is to remember who we are, that is discipleship. The second is to remember that all that we are and all that we have belongs to God – that's stewardship.

"We need to remember who we are and whose we are... to be true to our calling and become the people God calls us to be."

To see Bishop Cherry's address in full, go to:

<https://monmouth.churchinwales.org.uk/en/news-and-events/bishop-talks-future-hope-virtual-diocesan-conference/>

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### **Prayer and meditation**

God, whose farm is all creation,  
take the gratitude we give;  
take the finest of our harvest,  
crops we grow that all may live.  
Take our ploughing, seeding, reaping,  
hopes and fears of sun and rain,  
all our thinking, planning, waiting,  
ripening into fruit and grain.  
All our labour, all our watching,  
all our calendar of care,  
in these crops of your creation,  
take, O God: they are our prayer.

(John Arlott)

### **Psalm 113**

Praise the LORD!  
Praise, O servants of the LORD;  
praise the name of the LORD.  
Blessed be the name of the LORD  
from this time on and forevermore.  
From the rising of the sun to its setting  
the name of the LORD is to be praised.  
The LORD is high above all nations,  
and his glory above the heavens.  
Who is like the LORD our God,  
who is seated on high,  
who looks far down  
on the heavens and the earth?  
He raises the poor from the dust,  
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,  
to make them sit with princes,  
with the princes of his people.  
He gives the barren woman a home,  
making her the joyous mother of children.  
Praise the LORD!

### **A reading from the Gospel of St Luke 12: 39-48**

Jesus said: "But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."  
Peter said, "Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for everyone?" And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and prudent manager whom his master will put in charge of his slaves, to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives. Truly I tell you, he will put that one in charge of all his possessions. But if that slave says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and if

he begins to beat the other slaves, men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk, the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour that he does not know, and will cut him in pieces, and put him with the unfaithful. That slave who knew what his master wanted, but did not prepare himself or do what was wanted, will receive a severe beating. But the one who did not know and did what deserved a beating will receive a light beating. From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.

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### **Music**

Those who joined in with the Songs of Praise will have heard a hymn which was new to some of us, Lord for the Years. Here is a chance to listen to it again.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkTrFQLy6js>

A beautiful motet by Bruckner: Christus Factus Est

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i6fAT3iGRWc>

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### **On the lighter side**

In Sunday school one week, the teacher asked,

“What is sometimes red, sometimes grey, and has pointed ears and a bushy tail?”

No-one answered, so the teacher prompted,

“Caroline – can you guess who I am talking about?”

“Well,” replied Caroline, “I know the answer’s Jesus - but it sounds like a squirrel to me !!”