

St Arvans Church Mid week Bulletin Wednesday 30th December

Evening Prayer: Tonight at 8pm

Sunday Eucharist: in St Arvans Church at 10am each Sunday.

St Arvans online

Live service stream : https://www.facebook.com/pg/vicaragecello1/videos/?ref=page_internal

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

Webpage at: www.starvanschurch.org.uk

Instagram: starvanschurch

Twitter: St Arvans Church @Arvanschurch

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

Please share it with others whom you think be interested, and invite them to contact us if they want to go on the mailing list at: starvanschurchnews@btinternet.com

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Recommended protocol for receiving Holy Communion when wearing a facemask

Please approach Father Michael wearing your mask.

Lower it, or remove it, once you are standing in front of him.

Receive and consume the wafer.

Replace your mask and return to your seat.

There is NO NEED TO HURRY, especially as there are so few of us in the church.

It is best NOT to walk around the church carrying the consecrated wafer, as there is more risk of dropping it.

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. The Archbishop's Christmas message can be viewed here: [The Church in Wales - The Church in Wales](#)

## And a message from Bishop Cherry

Hello. I'm Cherry Vann, Bishop of Monmouth, speaking to you from my home in Newport, South Wales.

We've been saying for some months now that Christmas is going to be different this year, and so it is. Even more different than we were expecting only a week or so ago. Certainly here, in Wales, the lockdown is firmly in place and any meeting up to celebrate the season now limited to just Christmas Day itself.



Alongside the disappointment of not being able to see family and the frustration of thwarted plans, is a growing anxiety, perhaps even fear. The virus continues to spread at an alarming rate and although vaccines are being rolled out, we're facing yet more months of ongoing restrictions. Getting back to the normal that was, still seems a long way off.

One of the striking things about the Christmas story is the number of times that the various characters are told not to be afraid. The angel who visits Mary with the bewildering news that she is to bear a son, says to her, *'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God.'* Just as Joseph is about to divorce Mary quietly, an angel appears to him too, in a dream, and says, *'Joseph, Son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife.'* And the shepherds, similarly, terrified at seeing an angel appear to them in the night sky, are told, *'Do not be afraid, for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people.'*

Those words are as true for us today as they were on that first Christmas Day. Do not be afraid. However bewildered and confused you may be feeling. However concerned you are about the future. Do not be afraid. Because however much our Christmas celebrations have been cancelled, postponed, put on hold, the truth at the heart of Christmas still stands and it will hold true whatever our circumstances. It is, as the angel told the shepherds, good news of great joy for all the people. For to you is born this day a Saviour who is Christ the Lord.

Christ comes to us today, as he did 2,000 years ago - into the ordinariness of life, with all its hardships and messiness, its uncertainties and insecurities. Christ is here with us, in the suffering and the weariness of it all, as much he is in the love and joy of family and friends that we long to be with. We must be careful and sensible, yes. We must take seriously the restrictions that are in place for everyone's safety, of course. But we need have no fear. For Christ, the babe born in a manger that first Christmas Day, is Emmanuel, God with us, always and everywhere.

Wherever you are and however you'll be spending Christmas this year, may you know the joy of the angels and the peace of the Christ Child deep within your heart.

**The Right Reverend Cherry Vann**

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## Music

From Notre Dame, Paris, Adeste Fideles – what a spectacular star !!

[Adeste Fideles - Notre Dame 2016 - YouTube](#)

This beautiful carol was mentioned to me by Margot. The Shepherd's Farewell, by Berlioz.

[2000 Carols from King's No. 13 The Shepherds' Farewell - YouTube](#)

And sticking with the theme of Shepherd's, here is Rutter's Shepherd's Pipe Carol.

[John Rutter - Shepherd's Pipe Carol - Kings College Choir, Cambridge \(Nine Lessons and Carols 1992\) - YouTube](#)

A lovely arrangement of Ding Dong Merrily on High sung by boys' choir Libera.

[Libera - Ding Dong Merrily On High - YouTube](#)

Christmas wouldn't be complete without Bing Crosby singing White Christmas. Here are his mellifluous tones in the lovely carol, Do you hear what I hear?

[Do You Hear What I Hear? \(Remastered 2006\) - YouTube](#)

A different tune than the one we usually hear: the Coventry Carol.

[Coventry Carol \(Lully, lulla\) | Carols from King's 2019 - YouTube](#)

Another beautiful, haunting tune: Es ist ein Rose entsprungen, from Ely Cathedral.

[Es Ist ein Ros' entsprungen \(Praetorius\) The Gesualdo Six at Ely Cathedral - YouTube](#)

Soething truly uplifting to finish today's list: from Bach's Christmas Oratorio: Jauchzet frohloeket (Shout for joy, exult, rise up, glorify the day).

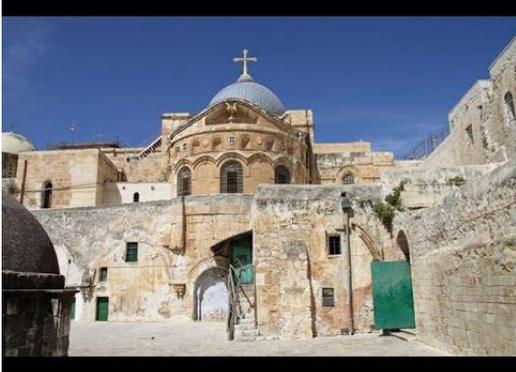
[Thomanerchor: "Jauchzet frohloeket" by Johann Sebastian Bach - YouTube](#)

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## On the lighter side

As we are all largely stuck inside, and did all those decorating projects during the summer, you might like to entertain yourselves with a (broadly) Christmas-themed quiz. No prizes, just a bit of fun. I will publish the answers next week.

A: where are these?

|    |                                                                                                                                |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. |                                               |
| 2. |                                              |
| 3. |  <p>(the bicycles may give you a clue!)</p> |
| 4. |                                             |

5.



6. Which of the following are not specifically mentioned in the bible:

- a. Mary travelled to Bethlehem on a donkey
- b. Jesus is born in a stable
- c. The angels appeared to the shepherds
- d. Three kings gave Jesus gifts

7. Which gospels speak of the events surrounding Christ's birth:

- a. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
- b. Mark and Luke
- c. Matthew and Luke
- d. Luke only

8. The magi ask Herod where Christ is to be born. Herod summons his priests and scribes, who know the location of the birth because of the prophecy of :

- a. Joel
- b. Isaiah
- c. Micah
- d. Amos

9. Herod's slaughter of the children under two, fulfils a prophecy uttered by:

- a. Micah
- b. Joel
- c. Jonah
- d. Jeremiah

10. What does the Hebrew name Gabriel mean?

11. How many times did an angel appear to Joseph?

12. What was the name of Jesus' earthly grandfather?

13. To test whether you have been reading the bulletin all these weeks (!):

What was the name of the young man who fell out of the window while St Paul was preaching?

Some anagrams to solve:

14. Linen tights

15. The Greeks Win

16. Greet men, legend or mystery

17. They hit lovely hand

18. Cooked Angel's wings

19. Coyly send Victorian aid

20. Watch festive dames shortly

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