

St Arvans Church On line Community Bulletin Wednesday 6th January 2021

Night Prayer: Tonight at 8pm

Sunday Eucharist: in St Arvans Church at 10am each Sunday. Places MUST be pre-booked.

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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Today is the feast of the Epiphany, when we commemorate the visit of the Magi to Jesus. Traditionally, as the 12th day of Christmas, it is the day when we take our Christmas decorations down. However, this year the Vicarage is going to keep up its Christmas lights (and the beautiful church yard tree) until Candlemass (2nd February), to brighten our spirits during the lockdown and the dark days of January. What a great idea – I'm going to do the same !



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Tea together on Zoom

During this period of lockdown, we will be holding regular on line chats via Zoom. Anyone who would like to join in is most welcome, whether a member of the church or not – we have a natter, and a good laugh, maybe even a bit of singing. The next one will be next Monday, 11th, at 4.30pm. The Zoom link will be sent out later in the week.

Prayer and Meditation

The Journey of the Magi

A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a long journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter.'
And the camels galled, sorefooted, refractory,
Lying down in the melting snow.
There were times we regretted
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling
and running away, and wanting their liquor and women,
And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:
A hard time we had of it.
At the end we preferred to travel all night,
Sleeping in snatches,
With the voices singing in our ears, saying
That this was all folly.

Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation;
With a running stream and a water-mill beating the darkness,
And three trees on the low sky,
And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.
Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel,
Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins.
But there was no information, and so we continued

And arriving at evening, not a moment too soon
Finding the place; it was (you might say) satisfactory.

All this was a long time ago, I remember,
And I would do it again, but set down
This set down
This: were we led all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.

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 while you are still standing in front of Father Michael.

Replace your mask, turn away 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.

Music

As today is the feast of the Epiphany, what else but We Three Kings? This slightly blurry and unusual version is from the RAH, with Aled Jones, Blake, All Angels and the whole Big Sing congregation

[We Three Kings of Orient Are - YouTube](#)

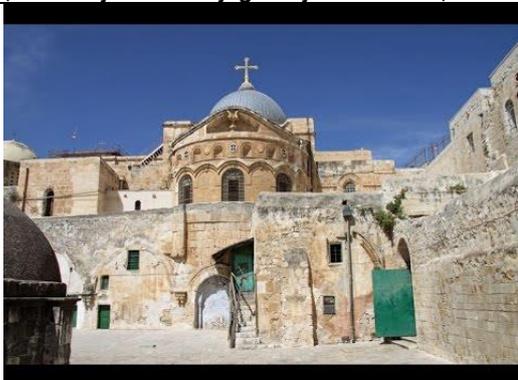
Always a favourite, Three Kings from Persian Lands Afar by Peter Cornelius. Rather appropriately for this year, here is a “virtual choir” version, with all parts sung by Benjamin Lathbury.

[Three Kings from Persian lands afar - YouTube](#)

On the lighter side

Here are the answers to last week's quiz, for those who are still struggling with it!

A: where are these?

1.	 A photograph of a massive glacier cascading down a rocky mountain slope. The glacier is a mix of white and grey, with some snow patches on the surrounding rocks.	Angel Glacier, Alberta, Canada
2.	 A photograph of St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, showing its two prominent Gothic spires and the ornate facade.	St Patrick's Cathedral, New York
3.	 A photograph of Magdalen College in Oxford, showing a large brick building with a central tower and a courtyard with bicycles parked along the walls. <p>(the bicycles may give you a clue!)</p>	Magdalen College, Oxford
4.	 A photograph of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, showing its ancient stone architecture and a prominent dome.	Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem

5.		Angel Falls, Venezuela
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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

Answer: a, b, d

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

Answer: c

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

Answer: c (Micah 5:2)

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

- a. Micah

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

Answer: d (Jeremiah 3, 15)

- 10. What does the Hebrew name Gabriel mean? **God is my strength**
- 11. How many times did an angel appear to Joseph? **Three times (once to tell him not to set aside Mary in Matthew 1: 19,20; the second time to warn Joseph of the impending massacre of children under two in Matthew 2: 13-15; the third time to tell Joseph it was safe to return home from Egypt in Matthew 2: 19-23)**
- 12. What was the name of Jesus' earthly grandfather? **According to Matthew 1:12 it was Jacob who was the father of Joseph; however, according to Luke 3:23, it was Heli who was the father of Joseph.**
- 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? **Eutychus Acts 20: 9.**

Some anagrams to solve:

- 14. Linen tights **Silent Night**
- 15. The Greeks Win **We Three Kings**
- 16. Greet men, legend or mystery **God rest Ye Merry Gentlemen**
- 17. They hit lovely hand **The Holly and the Ivy**
- 18. Cooked Angel's wings **Good King Wenceslas**
- 19. Coyly send Victorian aid **Once in Royal David's City**
- 20. Watch festive dames shortly **The Twelve Days of Christmas**

