

## St Arvans Church Mid-week Bulletin - Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**Night Prayer:** Tonight at 8pm – online only

### St Arvans online

Live service stream : [https://www.facebook.com/pg/vicaragecello1/videos/?ref=page\\_internal](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](http://www.starvanschurch.org.uk)

Instagram: starvanschurch

Twitter: St Arvans Church @Arvanschurch

*Please send any contributions to this bulletin to [starvanschurchnews@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto:starvanschurchnews@btinternet.com)*

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## Prayer and Meditation

### Easter Message from Bishop Cherry

A year on from the first lockdown and our celebration of Easter remains necessarily constrained. Many churches remain closed. Numbers are limited in those that are opening. And we're unable, once again, to sing together those gloriously uplifting Easter hymns. Our Easter services may feel somewhat muted held, as they are, in the context of an ongoing pandemic that still has the potential to instil anxiety, threaten illness and claim lives.

Those of us who are used to being able to celebrate Easter without restriction feel the loss acutely. But for some of our sisters and brothers across the world, this is how it is year on year. Easter is proclaimed amidst famine, grinding poverty, the threat of arrest, persecution and war.

We may pause this year to reflect that our temporary restrictions and the experience of pain and loss we've felt in not being able to meet for worship, sing our hymns, receive the sacrament is nothing compared to what countless Christians have to live with as an ongoing day to day reality.

But perhaps our present, if temporary, reality can help us enter into the message of Easter more deeply. For the new and everlasting life we proclaim at Easter was wrought for us out of death; Jesus's horrific death by crucifixion. Love proved to triumph over all that hatred and evil could throw at it. Through Christ's agony and desolation of the most harrowing kind, he offers to us peace and joy that can withstand the worst.

For some, of course, COVID or no COVID, pain and suffering, loss and despair, a sense of helplessness and hopelessness is and has been their reality. And, for all of us, such experiences can be part and parcel of our lives at some point or other.

Good Friday and Easter Day go hand in hand. One is not possible without the other. Easter calls us to trust that whatever we are going through there is light – light that shines in the darkness and which not even the deepest darkness can overwhelm: a theme depicted beautifully in the Easter card I've sent out this year.

We've seen this light in the darkness in action over the past 12 months and more, both in the news but also in our own network of family and friends. In all the bleakness, despair and awfulness, there have been acts of selflessness, sacrifice, heroism even, that have touched our hearts, inspired us and given us hope. Those lights have shone so brightly because of the darkness we've been living through.

Easter proclaims that this is the way of love. This is the way of God and God's way of working in and through the lives his children. And we're called not just to celebrate it, but to discover the deepest truths of it by living it, whatever our circumstances. Because love burst from the tomb that first Easter Day, triumphing over all that evil could throw at it, as it does today; bringing joy and hope and peace without end.

May you know in your hearts the love, hope and joys of Easter. For,

**CHRIST IS RISEN. HE IS RISEN INDEED. ALLELUIA!**

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### **Acts 3: 1-10**

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at three o'clock in the afternoon. And a man lame from birth was being carried in. People would lay him daily at the gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple. When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for alms. Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,<sup>[a]</sup> stand up and walk." And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. All the people saw him walking and praising God, and they recognized him as the one who used to sit and ask for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

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## **Psalm 105: 1-7**

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,  
make known his deeds among the peoples.  
Sing to him, sing praises to him;  
tell of all his wonderful works.  
Glory in his holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.  
Seek the LORD and his strength;  
seek his presence continually.  
Remember the wonderful works he has done,  
his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered,  
O offspring of his servant Abraham,  
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.  
He is the LORD our God;  
his judgments are in all the earth.

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## **A reading from the Gospel of St Luke 24: 13-35**

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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## Music

One of my favourite hymns: The triumphant "Thine be the glory" – sung here by a virtual choir for Easter 2020, or if you prefer, on Songs of Praise. Either way, sing along !

[Thine be the glory Virtual Choir Easter 2020 - YouTube](#)

[MACCABAEUS-THINE BE THE GLORY - YouTube](#)

And another rousing hymn: How Great Thou Art. From Winchester Cathedral

[WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL-HOW GREAT THOU ART - YouTube](#)

New to me, and I would guess to most of you, is this work by Howard Goodall: Invictus, A Passion. It premiered in 2018. (Howard is probably best known to most people for the theme tunes to The Vicar of Dibley, and Blackadder.)

[Invictus: A Passion: Invictus - YouTube](#)

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## On the lighter side

For anyone who enjoys anagrams: rearrange the letters in

Presbyterian

And you get:

Best in Prayer !

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