

## St Arvans Church On line Community Bulletin Wednesday 30th June 2021

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

**Sunday Eucharist:** Sunday 10am. Places must be booked.

### 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)*

---

## Ministry Areas

### The new Ministry Area: news of the Transition Team's first meeting

Dear All,

We are now in the process of forming our new Ministry Area, and our Transition Team met for the first time on 22nd June. Over this next year the Team will be consulting widely both within our church congregations and the wider community, so that we can form a Ministry Area that works best for our churches, our local communities and the broader context. Our Diocese is among the last in Wales to move to Ministry Areas, which is happening throughout the Anglican Communion in the United Kingdom.

Our Transition Team members are Rev Philip Averay (Vicar, Chepstow), Ros Downs, Graham Lambert and James Leney (Mathern group of parishes), Hilary Hillier and Anne Octon (St Arvans group of parishes) and Lindsay Hollies (Chepstow parish). We are here to listen, so please approach us to express your ideas and concerns.

Our goal is that within the year we will have formulated the new governance structure, ministry team and finance structures. You are very important in helping the Transition Team to develop structures that will help our Ministry Area to flourish.

We will be forming subcommittees to work with the representatives of the Transition Team to attain this goal. If you are currently the treasurer of your local church you will be asked to join the finance subcommittee (chaired by Graham), and if you are currently a member of your local ministry team, helping with services or other ministries (ie. pastoral visiting, schools, marriage prep, etc.) you will be asked to contribute to the ministry team subcommittee

(chaired by Philip). We are also looking for people to join the governance subcommittee (chaired by Hilary and Ros), such as church wardens and others with an interest or relevant expertise.

We are very much aware that we have a treasure trove of beautiful and historic buildings which are often the centre of our villages or communities, and we want to ensure they are all given equal care. We are therefore looking for someone to join the Transition Team to chair the fabric subcommittee, and for those of you with a particular passion for the preservation of our buildings to join this subcommittee.

Within the year we will be a Ministry Area. This is your chance to shape its future, and perhaps to bring about some of those things you have hoped for, but due to lack of people or resources have been unable to do. The possibilities to properly support existing ministry and develop new areas of ministry, like schools, are much increased.

To start with we would like to choose a name for our new Ministry Area, which will reflect the new vision, greater unity and opportunities to reach our local communities with the love of Christ. We will be asking for suggested names and will develop a process by which we can find the majority opinion.

Please contact me or any team member if you are interested in joining one of our committees, or indeed if you have a suggested name for our Ministry Area.

I am very much looking forward to getting to know you all over this next year as I visit all our churches on a regular basis.

Every blessing

Philip Averay

(Ministry Area Leader)

Over the next few weeks, we are asked to pray for the new Ministry Area. There will be a series of prayer meetings, each Sunday at 4pm, in each of our churches in rotation. All are invited:

July	August
4th - St Pierre 11th - Kilgwrrwg 18th - St Arvans 25th - Mathern	1st - Itton 8th - Mounton 15th - Penterry 22nd - St Arvans 29th – Newchurch

If you are unable to attend one of these prayer meetings, you may like to use the Ministry Area Prayer:

Dear Lord, we thank you for the opportunity to work together as a Ministry Area.  
May we engage with each other with faith and encouragement.  
May we manage each situation with wisdom and mutual respect.

May we serve with integrity, creativity and purpose.  
May we speak with openness and gentleness.  
May we offer our gifts, time and finances with generosity.  
May we face each challenge with courage and the desire to grow through it.  
May we all be drawn deeper into our relationship with You and be known as your disciples.  
Help us to show your love, proclaim your Good News and grow your Kingdom in this place.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. AMEN

---

## Prayer and Meditation

*“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.”*

*~ C S Lewis*

+++++++

Yesterday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, was the feast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. Today, we commemorate the martyrdom of Saint Paul.

+++++++

### **Ezekiel 3: 22-27**

Then the hand of the LORD was upon me there; and he said to me, Rise up, go out into the valley, and there I will speak with you. So I rose up and went out into the valley; and the glory of the LORD stood there, like the glory that I had seen by the river Chebar; and I fell on my face. The spirit entered into me, and set me on my feet; and he spoke with me and said to me: Go, shut yourself inside your house. As for you, mortal, cords shall be placed on you, and you shall be bound with them, so that you cannot go out among the people; and I will make your tongue cling to the roof of your mouth, so that you shall be speechless and unable to reprove them; for they are a rebellious house. But when I speak with you, I will open your mouth, and you shall say to them, “Thus says the Lord GOD”; let those who will hear, hear; and let those who refuse to hear, refuse; for they are a rebellious house.

### **Psalm 28**

To you, O LORD, I call;  
my rock, do not refuse to hear me,  
for if you are silent to me,

I shall be like those who go down to the Pit.  
Hear the voice of my supplication,  
as I cry to you for help,  
as I lift up my hands  
toward your most holy sanctuary.  
Do not drag me away with the wicked,  
with those who are workers of evil,  
who speak peace with their neighbors,  
while mischief is in their hearts.  
Repay them according to their work,  
and according to the evil of their deeds;  
repay them according to the work of their hands;  
render them their due reward.  
Because they do not regard the works of the LORD,  
or the work of his hands,  
he will break them down and build them up no more.  
Blessed be the LORD,  
for he has heard the sound of my pleadings.  
The LORD is my strength and my shield;  
in him my heart trusts;  
so I am helped, and my heart exults,  
and with my song I give thanks to him.  
The LORD is the strength of his people;  
he is the saving refuge of his anointed.  
O save your people, and bless your heritage;  
be their shepherd, and carry them forever.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **A Reading from the Gospel of St Matthew 10: 24-32**

A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

---

## **Music**

Something totally different this week. The idea came to me as I read today’s Gospel, but it also seems very appropriate in the context of the setting up of the Ministry Area. The haunting song, Sparrow, by the inimitable Paul Simon. It appeared on one of the early Simon and Garfunkel albums which is less well known than the later works, and so you may not have heard it before.

[Simon and Garfunkel- Sparrow - YouTube](#)

For the feast of St Peter, Durufle’s Tu es Petrus sung by La Cite de la Voix.

[Maurice Duruflé - Tu es Petrus Op.10 n°3, Quatre motets sur des thèmes grégoriens - YouTube](#)

Today’s hymn is not one I know, but is recommended in the hymn book for Saints days. I rather like it ! How Bright these Glorious Spirits Shine. It is sung by Old St Paul’s virtual choir (I have no idea where !).

[How bright these glorious spirits shine - YouTube](#)

---