

St Arvans Church Mid-week Bulletin - Wednesday 9th December 2020

Night Prayer: Tonight at 8pm

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

**St Arvans church will be open for 10am Holy Eucharist on Sunday.
Please book as before via Maureen Stephens (details at the end of the newsletter).**

Sunday Eucharist will continue to be live-streamed as before, at

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

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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Christmas 2020

(All Services are subject to there being no new overriding restrictions)

Sunday 20th December: A Concert of Seasonal Music for the 4th Sunday of Advent. 4pm and 6pm in St Arvans Church.

Something for everyone - music ranging from Bach to Rudolph. Tickets £12.50 from Kate or Father Michael. Under 16s free (if accompanied by an adult).

Wednesday 23rd December: Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, by Candlelight. 6pm in St Arvans Church.

Carols will be sung by a small choir. Although this is of course free, **you must book your seat with Kate or Father Michael**, because of the Covid restrictions. We plan to live-stream this Service.

Christmas Eve: Thursday 24th December: Midnight Mass at **10pm** in St Arvans Church. *Please note earlier time*

Christmas Day: Friday 25th December: Christmas Morning Eucharist **10am** in St Arvans. (Places MUST be pre-booked)

Outdoor service 9am in Devauden.

Please book as soon as possible for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services so we have an early idea of numbers. As you know, places are unfortunately, limited.

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Prayer and Meditation

Before I was born, God chose me and called me by His marvellous Grace.

Galatians 1, 15.

Isaiah 40: 1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd;

he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

A reading from the Gospel of St Matthew. 18: 12-14

Jesus said:

What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.

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Music

Comfort ye my People, the opening of Handel's Messiah. There are any number of versions of this available on YouTube. However, you might enjoy this unusual version, from Ghana, sung by Ebenezer Antwi, with electronic orchestra !

[Comfort ye, Every Valley \(Handel's Messiah\) Gramophone Chorus feat. Ebenezer ANTWI - YouTube](#)

This week's suggested hymn is Hills of the North Rejoice. From Guildford Cathedral.

[Hills Of The North Rejoice - YouTube](#)

The tale of Four Candles – no, not the Two Ronnies version !

[The Four Candles - YouTube](#)

St Arvans Church is open for Sunday Eucharist this Sunday, 13th December, at 10am.

Places must be reserved in advance.