

St Arvans Church mid-week Bulletin Wednesday 22nd December 2021

Night Prayer: Tonight at 8pm – online only

Christmas services: see below

IMPORTANT: PLACES MUST BE BOOKED FOR ALL THE SERVICES IN ST ARVANS, INCLUDING 9 LESSONS AND CAROLS

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

Christmas services

Thursday 23rd December:

6 p.m. Nine Lessons & Carols at St Arvans
(The service will be live-streamed on Facebook)

Friday 24th December : **Christmas Eve**

{4.30 p.m. Carols by Candlelight at St Mary's, Penterry – service now fully subscribed, so please do not attend unless you have already booked your place}

6.30 p.m. Christmas Eve Carol Service on Devauden Green

11 p.m. Midnight Mass (*The first Eucharist of Christmas*) at St Arvans
This is the midnight celebration for all our parishes

Saturday 25th December: Christmas Day - The Nativity of Our Lord

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Carols at St James, Devauden
10.30 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Carols at St Deiniol's, Itton

Sunday 26th December: First Sunday of Christmas (The Holy Family)

10 a.m. Sung Eucharist at St Arvans

The Eucharist will be said in the Lady Chapel at St Arvans Church at 10 a.m. each day of the Christmas Octave (until January 1st)

Please note that, due to any unforeseen health restrictions, or disruptive weather conditions, all services may be subject to alteration.

If needed, we will provide updates on the St Arvans Parish website, the weekly email bulletins, and our community pages

Prayer and Meditation

“The giving of gifts is not something man invented. God started the giving spree when He gave a gift beyond words, the unspeakable gift of His Son.” ~ Robert Flatt

1 Samuel 1: 19-28

They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her. In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, “I have asked him of the LORD.”

The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, “As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the LORD, and remain there forever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time.” Her husband Elkanah said to her, “Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only—may the LORD establish his word.” So the woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him. When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh; and the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, “Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. For this child I prayed; and the LORD has granted me the petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he is given to the LORD.” She left him there for the LORD.

Psalm 113

Praise the LORD!
Praise, O servants of the LORD;
 praise the name of the LORD.
Blessed be the name of the LORD
 from this time on and forevermore.
From the rising of the sun to its setting
 the name of the LORD is to be praised.
The LORD is high above all nations,
 and his glory above the heavens.
Who is like the LORD our God,
 who is seated on high,
who looks far down
 on the heavens and the earth?
He raises the poor from the dust,
 and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes,
 with the princes of his people.
He gives the barren woman a home,
 making her the joyous mother of children.
Praise the LORD!

A reading from the gospel of St Luke 1: 46-56

And Mary said,
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
 Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
 and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
 from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
 he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
 and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
 and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
 in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
 to Abraham and to his descendants forever."
And Mary remained with [Elizabeth] about three months and then returned to her home.

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Music

There is so much Christmas music, it is almost impossible to choose, but here is a selection of perhaps less well known music which I hope you will enjoy.

The Magnificat has of course many musical settings. This is one of my favourites, from Mozart's Solemn Vespers K339. It is performed here by the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra and Choir.

[MOZART Vesperae de Dominica, KV 339 - \[6\] Magnificat KOOPMAN - YouTube](#)

There is so much music written in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary, but poor Joseph hardly figures! So here is one carol, rarely sung, which I learned as a child, but have only once heard since. It is called, O Joseph being an old man truly. Here it is sung by Christopher Maltman, accompanied by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

[The First Nowell: O, Joseph being an old man truly - YouTube](#)

Another less well known carol, Masters in this Hall. It is sung by the Bach Choir, accompanied by the Jacques Orchestra, under the late, great Sir David Willcocks, who was Director of the Kings College Choir from 1957 to 1974, and arranged all the most popular carols, including those descants we know and love for O Come all ye Faithful and Hark the Herald Angels Sing.

[Masters In This Hall Bach Choir Jacques Orchestra Sir David Willcocks - YouTube](#)

The Cambridge Singers with Boris Ord's Adam lay y bounden

[Adam lay Ybounden - Boris Ord, John Rutter, The Cambridge Singers - YouTube](#)

The Wexford Carol is a lovely tune, less frequently sung. Here it is sung by the Cambridge Singers

[Wexford Carol - John Rutter, The Cambridge Singers, Stephen Varcoe - YouTube](#)

(To access these links, you should just be able to press Control, and while holding it down, click your mouse – this will take you straight to the video in YouTube)

On the lighter side

Solutions to last week's anagrams:

Gilded goring rhino hymn – Ding, dong merrily on high

A garland heels her knights – Hark the Herald Angels Sing

A referee networking hoist - We three kings of Orient are

Flashy astronomer from leg gel – Angels from the Realms of Glory

Racy additive only sonic – Once in Royal David's City
