

St Arvans Church mid-week Bulletin Wednesday 15th December 2021

Night Prayer: Tonight at 8pm – online only

Christmas services: see below

IMPORTANT: Places must be booked for all Services at St. Arvans.

If you do not receive our local Newsletter, please leave a “Comment” and we will get back to you.

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 is coming !!

Friday 17th December

6 p.m. Carols around the Christmas Tree in St Arvans Churchyard
with Chepstow Town Band. Collection in aid of the Salvation Army – see
attached poster

Sunday 19th December : The Fourth Sunday of Advent

9 a.m. Morning Prayer at St James, Devauden
10 a.m. Sung Eucharist at St Arvans
11.30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (or Liturgy of the Word) at Holy Cross, Kilgwrrwg

Tuesday 21st December:

7 p.m. Nine Lessons & Carols at St Deiniol's, Itton

Thursday 23rd December:

6 p.m. Nine Lessons & Carols at St Arvans

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

11.00 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

Elsewhere in the Ministry Area

Crib Service for children and families at St Tewdric’s Mathern on Sunday 19th December at 2pm. Led by Revd John Waters.

Devauden Calendars !

Now available - the **Devauden Calendar** – which contains the award winning photos of local scenes from the Photography Competition run earlier this year. Copies are available from the shop in Devauden, the shop in St Arvans, and St Arvans Church, price £10. The calendar would make a lovely Christmas gift, or stocking filler.

Prayer and Meditation

“Each one of them is Jesus in disguise”. ~ Mother Theresa of Calcutta

Isaiah 45 5-8, 18-25

I am the LORD, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.
I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the LORD do all these things.
Shower, O heavens, from above,
and let the skies rain down righteousness;
let the earth open, that salvation may spring up,
and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also;
I the LORD have created it.
For thus says the LORD,
who created the heavens
(he is God!),
who formed the earth and made it
(he established it;
he did not create it a chaos,
he formed it to be inhabited!):
I am the LORD, and there is no other.
I did not speak in secret,
in a land of darkness;
I did not say to the offspring of Jacob,
“Seek me in chaos.”
I the LORD speak the truth,
I declare what is right.

Assemble yourselves and come together,
draw near, you survivors of the nations!
They have no knowledge—
those who carry about their wooden idols,
and keep on praying to a god
that cannot save.
Declare and present your case;
let them take counsel together!

Who told this long ago?
Who declared it of old?
Was it not I, the LORD?
There is no other god besides me,
a righteous God and a Savior;
there is no one besides me.

Turn to me and be saved,
all the ends of the earth!
For I am God, and there is no other.
By myself I have sworn,
from my mouth has gone forth in righteousness
a word that shall not return:
"To me every knee shall bow,
every tongue shall swear."

Only in the LORD, it shall be said of me,
are righteousness and strength;
all who were incensed against him
shall come to him and be ashamed.
In the LORD all the offspring of Israel
shall triumph and glory.

Psalm 85

LORD, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you pardoned all their sin.*Selah*
You withdrew all your wrath;
you turned from your hot anger.
Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
and put away your indignation toward us.
Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
Will you not revive us again,
so that your people may rejoice in you?
Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.
Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.^[a]
Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.
Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.
The LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.

A reading from the gospel of St Luke 7: 19-23

John summoned two of his disciples and sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" When the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?'" Jesus had just then cured many people of diseases, plagues, and evil spirits, and had given sight to many who were blind. And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

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Music

There is so much wonderful music at this time of year, it is almost impossible to pick— so here are a few clips I hope you will enjoy.

The Choir of King's College sing Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light

[Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light - YouTube](#)

The glorious voice of Ella Fitzgerald sings It Came Upon the Midnight Clear.

[Ella Fitzgerald: "It Came upon a Midnight Clear" - YouTube](#)

Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland (Now come the saviour of the gentiles) by J S Bach is sung by the Netherlands Bach Society.

[Bach - Cantata Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 61 - Van Veldhoven | Netherlands Bach Society - YouTube](#)

The Choir of St Luke's Chelsea sing Hark the glad sound, the Saviour comes

[Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes \(Tune: Bristol\) - 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

A few anagrams to solve: all Christmas carols

Gilded goring rhino hymn (5 words)

A garland heels her knights (5)

A referee networking hoist (6)

Flashy astronomer from leg gel (6)

Racy additive only sonic (5)

Answers next week!
