

## St Arvans Church mid-week Community Bulletin Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022

**Sunday Eucharist:** Sunday 10am.

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

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### 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

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***This is the final edition of the midweek bulletin.*** *The bulletin was started in March 2020 in response to the complete lockdown and closure of our churches, as a means of helping people keep in touch, and maintain their prayer and worship while in isolation. Now that most of us are out and about, it is no longer necessary, and I'm not sure how many people actually read it anyway! I know that some of you have in the past, and thank you for your kind words and feedback. Thank you also to David Priddis, who has diligently posted the newsletters to our website every week.*

*The Sunday newsletter and readings will continue to be circulated each week (though of course you can ask to be removed from the mailing list, by just replying "please stop" to the starvanschurchnews address).*

*From time to time, ad hoc bulletins may be sent out advertising special events, so if you wish to have something publicised, do let me know at [starvanschurchnews@btinternet.com](mailto:starvanschurchnews@btinternet.com)*

*Hilary*

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### COVID update

There is no longer any need to book for services. Our thanks to Maureen for organizing this for the past two years.

The wearing of face masks is no longer mandatory by law, but please be aware of and respect the wishes of others.

Holy Communion will continue to be given under one kind, and we will continue to come up one person / family at a time to receive.

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## Annual Vestry Meeting

The AVM for St Arvans Parish will be held on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May, after the 10am Eucharist.

In preparation for this, Verena is updating the Electoral Roll. Please get in touch if you wish to be included, and we can send you a form to complete, or you can do so at the meeting itself.

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## Ministry Area news

Following the series of consultation meetings last November, the work on developing the Ministry Area has been continuing. A report on progress, and reflecting some of the key points to emerge from the consultation, is included in the March edition of Fiveways – and I commend it to you. A more detailed document setting out the individual comments, questions and responses from each of the three consultation sessions is available on request and will be published on the [new MA website](#) which will be going live very shortly after Easter.

Perhaps the most important point to note is that the Transition Team is planning that the new SevernWye Ministry Area will be commissioned by the Bishop by the end of this Liturgical year (ie end November, before the first Sunday of Advent).

If anyone has any questions or comments or concerns, then Anne Octon or Hilary Hillier, who are representing our parishes on the Transition Team, will be pleased to discuss them with you.

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## Spring Fashion Show

The Fashion Show raised £365 for church funds. Our thanks to Jean and her helpers.

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## Help for Ukraine



You may like to know that the refurbished bungalow at St Mary's RC Church, Chepstow is expecting to receive within the next couple of weeks a family with 6 boys aged between 6 and 14 – you can see more details in their parish newsletter at: [5th-Sunday-of-Lent.pdf \(stmarysrcchestow.org.uk\)](https://stmarysrcchestow.org.uk/5th-Sunday-of-Lent.pdf)

A mother and her two children from Odessa who will be staying with John Waters should be arriving in about a week, as they have just received their visas.

**The Upcycling Warehouse in Chepstow** (opposite Chepstow Railway Station) is collecting refugee relief goods for Ukraine. They are on their way to Poland in vans this week and intend to go every week.

In connection with this, Emma Low from St Arvans is collecting items to be sent to the borders of Ukraine to assist those fleeing from the violence of the Russian invasion.

They are now in need of **first aid items and dried food (well withinin sell-by date, please)**

**There is a box at the back of St Arvans Church for those who wish to donate.**

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## Prayer and Meditation

*From today's Lent reflection, by Archdeacon Ian Rees:*

*He who wants to enjoy the glory of the sunrise must live through the night — Anonymous*

*Being a Christian isn't always easy! It is a faith which overcomes darkness and pain, not removes it completely*

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As this is the final newsletter, I thought it would be good to revisit some of the more memorable contents from the last two years.

### Prayer of Protopresbyter Grigory Petrov – Glory to God for all things

Everlasting King, Thy will for our salvation is full of power. Thy right arm controls the whole course of human life. We give Thee thanks for all Thy mercies, seen and unseen. For eternal life, for the heavenly joys of the Kingdom which is to be. Grant mercy to us who sing Thy praise both now and in the time to come. Glory to thee, O God, from age to age.

I was born a weak, defenceless child, but Thine angel spread his wings over my cradle to defend me. From birth until now Thy love has illumined my path and has wondrously guided me towards the light of eternity; from birth until now the generous gifts of Thy providence have been marvellously showered upon me. I give Thee thanks, with all who have come to know Thee, who call upon Thy name.

Glory to Thee for calling me into being,

Glory to Thee, showing me the beauty of the universe,  
Glory to Thee, spreading out before me heaven and earth  
Like the pages in a book of eternal wisdom,  
Glory to Thee for Thine eternity in this fleeting world  
Glory to Thee for Thy mercies, seen and unseen,  
Glory to Thee through every sigh of my sorrow  
Glory to Thee for every step of my life's journey  
For every moment of glory  
Glory to Thee, O God, from age to age.

*This prayer of Thanksgiving (part of a much longer text) was composed by Petrov shortly before he was executed in a Siberian prison camp in 1940.*

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### **A Prayer for hospital staff and medical researchers**

Gracious God,  
give skill, sympathy and resilience  
to all who are caring for the sick,  
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.  
Strengthen them with your Spirit,  
that through their work many will be restored to health;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **From the sermon for Mothering Sunday 2020, by Rev Jeffrey John:**

Take the extra time to pray. If you have doubts about God being there at all, or wonder why he allows viruses and plagues and sufferings, ask him. Give him a piece of your mind. Some of the greatest saints did. But you do have to ask. As Jesus said, 'Ask, and you will be answered. Seek and you'll find. Knock and the door will be opened'. The trouble is most people don't ask, they just stew and blame God for not being there. But God can't communicate with you unless you let him. He has given you free will, and you have to use it to open the door from your side. Once you do, he'll step in. As St James says, 'If you draw near to God, he will draw near to you'. This Lent we have all been flung into the wilderness, and probably for more than forty days. But we are not alone, and we don't have to be afraid. Easter may come late this year. But come it will.

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### **Music**

In April 2020, Andrea Bocelli gave the Music for Hope concert from the Duomo in Milan. Here is the moving finale. It is accompanied by the extraordinary images of deserted streets around the world.

[Andrea Bocelli: Amazing Grace – Music For Hope \(Live From Duomo di Milano\) - YouTube](#)

The world's largest ever Male Voice choir from Cardiff Arms Park sing Gwahoddiad

[World's Largest Ever Male Choir with Cardiff Arms Park Male Choir \(1993\) - YouTube](#)

All in the April Evening (Glasgow Phoenix choir). I've always loved the lush harmonies in this, and it reminds me of my parents. [Glasgow Phoenix Choir - 'All in the April Evening' by Hugh S. Robertson - YouTube](#)

Two pieces of music for Passiontide and Easter:

[O sacred head, sore wounded \(Passion Chorale\) - YouTube](#)

When this Handel aria is sung by a female soprano, it is often a bit operatic for my taste. Voices of boy sopranos can often be a bit thin – this one, 11 year old Henry Kingsley, is one of the best I have heard.

[I Know That My Redeemer Liveth \(Handel\) — Choir of New College, Oxford - YouTube](#)

Finally, saving the best till last, here is lovely Kate playing the haunting theme from Schindler's List at one of the street concerts in summer 2020.

[\(20+\) Facebook](#)

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## **On the lighter side**

Some answers to a school test written by children: (exactly as written)

1. Lots wife was spiller of salt during the day but a ball of fire during the night.
2. Samson slayed the Philistines with the Axe of the Apostles.
3. The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up to Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Commandments.
4. The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.
5. David was a Hebrew king who was skilled at playing the liar. He fought the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in biblical times.
6. When Mary heard she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.
7. Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.
8. Jesus enunciated the golden rule, which says do unto others before they do one to you.
9. The Epistles were the wives of the Apostles.
10. St Paul cavorted to Christianity. He preached Holy Acrimony, which is another name for marriage.

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