

NEWSLETTER

**for the Churches of St Arvans, St Mary, Penterry,
St Deiniol, Itton, St James, Devauden & Holy Cross, Kilgwrrwg
forming part of the Severn Wye Ministry Area**

IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE

St Arvan's Church is open during the day both for worship and private prayer,
Our live-streamed services are as follows: Sunday Eucharist at 10. a.m.,
They can be accessed on the St Arvans Parish Group page on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/vicaragecello1/>
and are available to watch at any time
The St Arvans Parish website can be found here:

<http://www.starvanschurch.org.uk/>

Please help to keep us informed of anyone who is in need or is isolated over the next weeks and months, and anyone in need of our prayer and support
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The Vicarage, St Arvans
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Mobile 07867803479
E-mail: frmichael1@aol.com

16th November 2025

**The Third Sunday
of the Kingdom**

2nd Sunday before Advent

The Collect

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; grant this for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. **AMEN**

A reading from the book of Malachi

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble;

the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. [4. 1- 2a]

Reader / This is the Word of the Lord
Response / Thanks be to God

Psalm 98

R/ The Lord comes to judge the earth

O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvellous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gained him victory. The LORD has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

R/ The Lord comes to judge the earth

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

R/ The Lord comes to judge the earth

Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody. With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.

R/ The Lord comes to judge the earth

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it. Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

R/ The Lord comes to judge the earth

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

We command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labour we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right. [3.6-13]

Reader/ This is the Word of the Lord
Response / Thanks be to God
[Gradual hymn]

Alleluia, alleluia!

Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.

Alleluia!

The Lord be with you:
And also with you

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St Luke

Glory to you, O Lord

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said, 'As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.' They asked him,

'Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?'

And Jesus said, 'Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and, "The time is near!" Do not go after them. When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defence in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.'

[21. 5-19]

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

For Your Prayers

That we may use well the time remaining to us.
Musicians.
The people of Gaza, & Israel, & for lasting peace in the Middle East
For wisdom, restraint and a desire for peace among the nations of the world.
The government & people of Ukraine and a just and peaceful end to Russia's war of aggression there.
All who are caught up in war or conflict
All those without adequate food or shelter
Those who suffer as a result of the climate emergency & for responsible stewardship of our planet
For compassion and responsibility in those elected to govern us.
For migrants & refugees, and all forced to flee from their homelands

For the Church:

For the bishops of the Church:
Cherry, Bishop of Monmouth, & Archbishop of Wales; Philip, Episcopal Visitor of the Society of the Holy Cross in Wales, & for all who hold and teach the Catholic faith that comes to us from the Apostles.
All bishops, priests and deacons and all baptised Christians
For the reunion of all Christians:
for Pope Leo, for Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew, & for the leaders of the Reformed traditions
For the Severn Wye Ministry Area, for its priests, licensed lay ministers and all its people.

For the Sick & those in need:

Roy Staples, Ralph Hamilton, Sylvia Jackson; The Revd Helen Rodwell; Elisabeth; Anne-Louise; Mary; Peter; Margaret; Althea; Margi Osborne, Nathan; Sue Neal

For the Departed:

The recently departed: Ken Smith; our own departed relatives & friends, and those whose anniversaries of death fall this week: Douglas Higgs; Jeremy Winston, priest; James Griffin

A Prayer of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are in the Blessed Sacrament.
I love you above all things, and I long for you in my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.
As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.
(The Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament)

Feast day 22nd November
St Cecilia

The Jereboam Interview

We continue our series of extracts from the Jerusalem and Galilee Gazette, an imaginary first-century newspaper. Week by week, the correspondent Jereboam interviews people whose lives have been affected

in some way by Jesus Christ and his teaching

Harpist

Jereboam: I'm not an expert on harp-playing, but that sounded lovely to me.
Harpist: It's kind of you to say so, but really I could have done so much better if I'd practised properly. The stupid thing is that I didn't think I ought to practise.

Jereboam: Why ever not? Isn't that what you musicians are supposed to do?

Harpist: You're right, of course. It's just that I was thinking about something Jesus said not so long ago. He was warning us that we can expect to be treated pretty harshly by other people, if we follow him – even to the point of being arrested and punished like criminals. "You are not to prepare your defence," he said; "I myself shall give you eloquence and wisdom." So I thought, "Well, if Jesus will inspire us with the right words in a really difficult situation like that, surely I have only to lay my fingers on my harp, and he'll allow me to create beautiful music. So I should have faith, and I shouldn't practise: that would be like preparing my defence." But, if you'll forgive me for contradicting you, I tried that just now and made a bit of a fool of myself.

Jereboam: I suppose that your instrument wasn't made by someone simply relying on inspiration, unless you regard their knowledge and craft as coming from God.

Harpist: So why will it just happen when we defend ourselves, but not when we play or make harps? It's tempting to think that music isn't important enough. That can't be true though: so many times in the past it's felt as if God has been somehow present in what I've played.

Jereboam: I'm wondering about this question of finding the right words to defend yourself. What would really happen? Perhaps God would inspire you to gain maximum effect from skills that you already have.

Harpist: What sorts of skills?

Jereboam: Well, you tell me what would be involved. Let's assume that you're facing some unbelieving judge or governor.

Harpist: There's our ability to speak our own language fluently, I suppose.

Jereboam: Constantly developed and practised in your daily lives...

Harpist: And in some way or another we'd probably have to express the nature of our beliefs. The words we use would be very much bound up with our regular experience of prayer and study.

Jereboam: Again developed and practised on a more or less daily basis...It strikes me that you would make full use of your abilities and knowledge, with God transforming those raw materials into something greater.

Harpist: So, talking about music again, I shouldn't try to reject my own contribution: the hours of practice and so on.

Jereboam: That's exactly what I mean, but don't rely on me: I'm no musician.

Harpist: I think you're probably right though. Thanks, Jereboam.

THIS WEEK

Being prepared for the coming of the Kingdom and not being side-tracked by false claims of Jesus' presence are keys to the Gospel reading from St Luke. Jesus says, "By your perseverance you will secure your lives."

Monday is the feast day of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious, Friday is the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Saturday that of Saint Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr. In this penultimate week of the liturgical year, we read from the first book of Maccabees. These books are about the revolt against Jewish persecution a little over a century before Christ. The Maccabees are presented as a family that is faithful to the law in the midst of this persecution. Their witness is inspiring

today. The Gospels from St Luke continue this week as we hear of Jesus moving toward and entering Jerusalem for the end of his ministry. Jesus heals the blind beggar near Jericho. The man immediately "followed him, giving glory to God." Then Jesus meets Zacchaeus who is up in a tree - because he was short, but probably also because he's a tax collector and was nervous about being caught in a zealous crowd. Jesus transforms him by inviting himself to Zacchaeus' house for dinner. Near Jerusalem, Jesus tells a parable of a rejected king and servants who use the gifts given them faithfully. In Jerusalem, Jesus weeps over the city, foreseeing the destruction that is coming, "because you did not recognize the time of your visitation." Entering the temple, Jesus drives out the old order of doing business and begins his ministry. He silences the Sadducees, over their doubt about resurrection from the dead.

Next Sunday is the last week of the liturgical year, the Sunday before Advent. As always on this last Sunday, we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King. The readings remind us of God's faithfulness to us as he promises to shepherd the people of Israel. In Luke's Gospel we are taken to the crucifixion and Jesus being mocked as "King of the Jews." The man crucified next to him asks Jesus to remember him when he gets into his Kingdom. Jesus replies, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

A Homily for Kingdom 3

+ + At the end of the Church's year the tone of the liturgical readings becomes increasingly more urgent - the end of the year is being used as a metaphor for the end of all things.

'The day is coming,' says the prophet Malachi in the Old Testament reading this morning. This idea of an ending of the world - what is often referred to as the great 'Day of the Lord' at the end of all time runs through the writings of the Old Testament prophets.

In this last week of the Church's year, the readings in the liturgy, whether it's at the Eucharist or the daily offices, are filled with alarming imagery and thoughts of the

end of the world. We've even had appropriate weather over the last few days. The reason behind the choice of readings, of course, isn't to persuade us that the world is really coming to a sudden end, and to encourage us to march up and down in our city centres with those rather unpersuasive, blood-curdling placards telling the heedless crowds of shoppers that the end of the world is nigh. Although with climate change accelerating rapidly and we have increasing evidence of that all around us, those placards may very well be more accurate than we might like to think, although probably not for the reasons those who carry them might expect ... or prefer - not so much *Dies Irae* as T.S. Eliot:

This is the way the world ends

This is the way the world ends

This is the way the world ends

Not with a bang but a whimper.

No, the reason for the frightening metaphors in our readings at this time of year is more to encourage us to reflect on the course of our lives and the way we operate both as individuals and as a society. More on the lines of... what if the world *did* end?.... How would we view the way in which we have used our time? I always think the Edith Piaf and Frank Sinatra school of thought, you know - 'je ne regrette rien,' or 'regrets I've had a few, but really far too few to mention' is incredibly unreflective and probably more than a bit narcissistic into the bargain, because it's not so much about how we might judge ourselves as to how we ourselves might be judged.

Regret, though, rather like guilt, is an entirely destructive emotion unless it acts as a spur to learn from past mistakes and to positive changes, although again we're probably much better at pointing out the faults of others rather than doing anything about our own.

In this very social media influenced, simplistic, black and white culture, we have to be careful, as with much else in religious idiom, not to take the language of biblical apocalypses too literally - that wasn't its purpose at all. We have to be wary of an essentially magical view of God as somehow over-detached from the messiness and mystery of creation - a being just waiting at the end to judge, to punish, and at the end to put things right. In the lead up to Advent and Christmas I don't think it's unreasonable to view things

also from the perspective of the Incarnation – of God entering the world, as part of the world, in order to restore the whole of creation. As Austin Farrer wrote, 'what judges us is what redeems us, the love of God,' and from that we are never separated.

So the other side of the apocalyptic imagery of these last few weeks of the liturgical year and the message we are to hang on to is really one of hope and encouragement. Only be faithful, the Lord says to us. We are not alone. God is with us and God is for us.

He is with us as we reflect on where we are, where we have come from and where we wish to go - these are the real themes of the approaching season of Advent, not just preparation for Christmas.

Yes, inevitably there is death, we believe that there is judgement, but when the time comes for us to experience our own last things we know we will do so in the profound security that on that day the love of God in Jesus Christ will take care of us. The Easter mystery, the mystery of God in Christ himself, is the one truth which lasts to eternity and we are part of it. +

**'Jazz in the Arv' with
The Fraser Smith Quartet
Friday 21st November 7 p.m.
St Arvans Church
Tickets £20
Bar and raffle**

St Arvans Tea and Chat

December 14th
and usually every second
Saturday of the month
Childrens activity table

For assistance or a lift
please ring Diane on 628084

SERVICES IN OUR CHURCHES TODAY

The Third Sunday of the Kingdom

**2nd Sunday before Advent
16th November 2025**

- 9 a.m. Family Service
at St James, Devauden
10 a.m. Sung Eucharist
at St Arvan's
11.30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
at Holy Cross, Kilgwrrwg,

NEXT SUNDAY CHRIST THE KING

The Sunday before Advent

- 10 a.m. Sung Eucharist
at St Arvan's
11.30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
at St Deionil's, Itton

Readings:
Jeremiah 23.1-6
Psalm 46
Colossians 1.11-20
St Luke 23.33-43

Daily Celebrations of the Eucharist at St Arvans: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday at 10 00, Friday at 09.30
Please check as times may alter

Fr Michael's day off is Monday
this week

For all services in the wider Ministry Area
please see www.severnwyema.co.uk

Advent Courses

Daytime: Tuesdays at 3pm, starting on 25 November, in Shirenewton Church Rooms. . Contact Carol 07380 992494 for further details.

Evening: Thursdays at 7.30pm, starting on 27 November, in The Cedars, Pwllmeyric. Contact Father Michael on 01291 622064

We will be exploring: Who am I, and Why am I here – a course in 4 parts by Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds, considering what it means to be a Christian in a world challenged by war, poverty, climate change There will be a small charge to cover course materials.

Harvest Appeal St Arvans Church.

The homeless refugees and food banks like to give out chocolate bars at Christmas time so please can we all bring a bar of chocolate to church throughout October.

**CUT OFF DATE FOR COLLECTION
FROM CHURCH : THIS SUNDAY
16TH NOVEMBER** (This will give Verena time to get them to their destination).

Thank you all!

**BOX IN BACK OF THE CHURCH
AS USUAL.**

The Ministry Area Prayer Group

meets every Thursday 7.45pm – 9pm
For further details
email david@bedlambeds.com

23rd October and onwards
at The Cedars