

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, private prayer and a time of stillness.

Our current live-streamed services are as follows:: Sunday Eucharist at 10.

a.m., and it can be accessed on the St Arvans Parish Group page on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/vicaragecello1/> and available to watch later

There is a online only reflection, meditation and celebration of Night Prayer (Compline) on Tuesdays at 7 p.m..

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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30th August 2026 The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

The Collect

Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **AMEN**

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. Your words were

found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. I did not sit in the company of merry-makers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. Therefore thus says the LORD: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD. I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

[15. 15-21]

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

Psalm 26 1- 8

R/ Your love is before my eyes

Give judgement for me, O Lord,
for I have lived with integrity;
I have trusted in the Lord
and have not faltered.
Test me, O Lord, and try me;
examine my heart and my mind.

R/ Your love is before my eyes

For your love is before my eyes;
I have walked faithfully with you.
I have not sat with the worthless,
nor do I consort with the deceitful.
I have hated the company of evildoers;
I will not sit down with the wicked.

R/ Your love is before my eyes

I will wash my hands
in innocence, O Lord,
that I may go in procession

round your altar,
Singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.
Lord, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides.

R/ Your love is before my eyes

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans [12; 9-21]

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

A hymn may be sung

Alleluia, alleluia!
May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our mind
so that we can see
what hope his call holds for us.
Alleluia!

The Lord be with you:
And also with you

Listen to the Gospel of Christ
according to St Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.'
But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'
Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

[16.21–28]

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

For Your Prayers

That we may take up the cross
and follow Christ
All on holiday and all who travel
Those preparing for or celebrating
their marriage
Peace and reconciliation
in our own society
The peoples of Palestine and Gaza, Israel
and the wider Middle East and the Persian
Gulf. For peace and justice throughout
the region.
For world leaders – for wisdom, restraint
and respect for human life.
The government & people of Ukraine

and a just and peaceful end to Russia's
war of aggression there.
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; the 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; Mary; Margaret; Althea; Margi
& Bob Osborne; Jenny Sherwood, Bob
Main, Diane Parnell;.

For the Departed:

The recently departed; our own departed
loved ones, and those whose
anniversaries of death fall this week:
John Meade.

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)

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*

Nathan

Jereboam: These tiles are lovely,
Nathan. Did you say they're for the people
in that new house?

Nathan: All of them except that
tile in the middle there.

Jereboam: I do like your designs:
they're so fluid and expressive.

Nathan: Thank you; I'm
delighted you think so.

Jereboam: Didn't I see you with
Jesus the other day?

Nathan: Quite possibly: I'm often
there listening to him. He's a remarkable
man.

Jereboam: Some people seem to
have been puzzled by him. He
encourages everyone to lose their life,
take up their cross and follow him.

Nathan: I think he's referring to
that awful practice of killing people on a
cross. Crucifixion they call it, don't they?

Jereboam: Yes, but what I mean is
that it makes him sound rather grim,
doesn't it?

Nathan: As I see it, Jesus is saying:
"follow me, whatever it takes and however
much suffering is entailed." Perhaps I'd
call it challenging rather than grim.

Jereboam: Have you managed to
put his principles into practice?

Nathan: I try. They have a
definite bearing on my work, certainly. You
see that tile in the middle – I can't allow it
to be used by anyone. It's awful, isn't it?

Jereboam: Pardon?

Nathan: Yes, look. There's
something so rigid and inflexible about it.
When I painted that one, I don't know
what came over me, but I was hoping to
impress people. I wanted to do something
that would be noticed. That's the
equivalent of wanting to "save my life" in
Jesus' terms. Whereas with these other
ones, which I think I could say are rather
better, I tried to allow God to speak
through my craft. In a sense I tried to be

invisible, to "lose my life for his sake", as it were.

Jereboam: That's very honourable, I'm sure, but some people have really altered their whole way of life after hearing Jesus teach. Can you really be taking up your cross, if you're still painting tiles? You've done that for years anyway.

Nathan: I asked myself that question too...but Jesus told me to take up my cross, not anyone else's. This is the way I think I serve him best. It may even be that part of the cross I need to bear is to realise how trivial my contribution seems.

Jereboam: That's an interesting point. Well, personally I'm glad you're still producing your tiles. In fact, I was wondering if you'd consider doing one or two for us...

Nathan: I'd be honoured.

THIS WEEK

On Sunday we catch a glimpse of the prophet Jeremiah who understands the pain of following the Lord and decides not to speak the Lord's name again, "but then it becomes like fire burning in my heart." St Paul's letter to the Romans encourages those ancient Romans - and us - not to conform to this age but to discern the will of God. In St Matthew's Gospel, Jesus corrects his disciples' resistance to his own passion and death, telling them that if they try to save their lives, they'll lose them. "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."

Thursday is the feast day of Saint Gregory the Great.

The first weekday readings at the Eucharist for the next several weeks will be from St Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, offering a look at the struggles and joys of the early life of the Church in Corinth. Paul admits, "I came to you in weakness and fear and much trembling, and my message and my proclamation were not with persuasive words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of spirit and power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God."

This week we begin readings from St Luke's Gospel, which bring us the vivid stories of Jesus' early public ministry. We will continue reading Luke's gospel during

the week until Advent. Jesus teaches in the synagogue in his hometown of Nazareth. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor," he reads from Isaiah, but his listeners wanted only to see the miracles they had heard about him. He cleanses a man of an unclean spirit - a spirit who recognizes Jesus as the "Holy One of God" when those around Jesus did not. He cures Simon's mother-in-law and then tells the crowds he must leave to spread the good news to other towns. As Jesus comes upon Peter, James and John, he invites the weary fishermen to lower their empty nets one more time. When they bring up nets overflowing with fish, Peter says, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man" but Jesus reassures him not to be afraid and says Peter will be catching people now. He tells them, "No one pours new wine into old wineskins." Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins,

and it will be spilled, and the skins will be ruined. When he is criticized for allowing his disciples to pick grain to eat on the sabbath, Jesus is compassionate toward their hunger and defends them, saying, "The Son of Man is lord of the sabbath."

Next Sunday: As faithful followers of Christ, we are encouraged to "love one another" throughout the readings. Ezekiel tells us that we are responsible for each other, and St Paul's letter to the Romans offers: "Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another." In St Matthew's Gospel, Jesus tells us to challenge each other on our behavior and to pray, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

St Arvans Tea and Chat

2.30 – 4 p.m.

Saturday September 12th

and usually every second

Saturday of the month

Childrens activity table

SERVICES IN OUR CHURCHES

TODAY

The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

30th August 2026

10 a.m. Liturgy of the Word
at St Arvan's

The liturgy is not live-streamed today

NEXT SUNDAY

The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

6th September 2026

10 a.m. Sung Eucharist
at St Arvan's

11.30 a.m. Harvest Eucharist
at St Mary's, Penterry

4 p.m. All Age Eucharist
at St James, Devauden

4 p.m. Harvest Evening Prayer
at Holy Cross, Kilgwrrwg

Readings:

Jeremiah 15.15-21

Psalms 26.1-8

Romans 12.9-21

St Matthew 16.21-28

Harvest Readings Year A

Deuteronomy 8.7-18

Psalms 65

2 Corinthians 9.6-15

St Luke 12.16-30

Please note: the Eucharist will be celebrated at St Arvans on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday at 10

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

The Ministry Area

Prayer Group

Thursdays at 7.45 – 9.00 p.m.
From 9th April until 24th September
2026 we will be meeting in Churches
around the Ministry Area:

3rd September St. Andoenus,
Mounton
10th September St. James, Devauden
17th September St. Peter, St. Pierre
24th September St. Christopher,
Chepstow

Please join us, everyone is welcome
and no experience is necessary!
Please contact David
on 07887 853479
(david-carne@outlook.com)
for any prayers that you would like us
to include or for any questions that you
have.

Daily Prayer this week

Among the many healing stories in this week's gospels is the story of the call of Peter. It is powerful for us because we see the very human moment of Peter's self-doubt: he realizes the power of Jesus, falls down in an awareness of his own sinfulness and wants Jesus to turn away from him because he is too sinful. The real lesson for us is that it is precisely at the moment when Peter recognizes how unworthy he is, that Jesus calls him to ministry.

All of us can have moments of feeling we are unworthy - and the truth is that we can never be worthy of the unending love Christ offers us. But how blessed we are if we realize that we are loved without limits even though we have done nothing to deserve that kind of love.

Knowing in a balanced humility that we are sinful is not a bad thing - but if we get stuck there, and are tempted to turn away from Jesus as Peter did, then we have become more focused on ourselves than on the love we are being offered. This week is a week to rejoice in that love and healing Christ wants to give us. It is a prayer we can carry throughout our days. Each morning as we awake, we can ask the Lord to open our hearts in gratitude for what we will be offered this day. We might

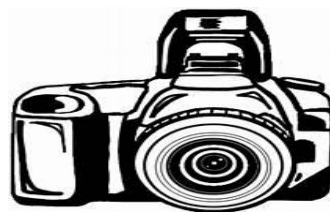
pause to imagine ourselves being healed and touched by Jesus. For just a moment, we might see Jesus in front of us, his eyes filled with such love, reaching out to give our ears and tongue a healing touch; to lift us from an invalid's bed or to drive the unclean spirits from us.

Throughout the day we can remember that gentle touch from Jesus and ask him to drive out the unclean spirits we may be carrying today. What is Jesus calling me to? Who am I being invited to listen to and speak on behalf of today? Who will come across my path today who needs Jesus' healing through my own care and kind words?

Dear Lord, be with me in this day. I can feel how much I long for a deeper connection with you, and yet I am ashamed of my weaknesses. Touch my heart so that I might be open to your healing love.

Let me be open to all of those you put in my life today, and let me be aware of their needs and care for them before I worry about my own. Give me an awareness of the love that is already there for me and a generosity of heart that allows me to share it with others.

*With thanks to Creighton University's
Online Ministries (adapted)*



Devauden Photography Competition 2026

We STILL want to see your best photograph!

What is the best photograph you have taken recently?

What picture are you most proud of?

Perhaps you haven't taken it yet!

It could be a landscape, a sunset, your family in their finest (or in their PJ's), your dog, the view from your window, a still life, or some wildlife!

There will be an exhibition of the entries in St James' Church in September, and the 12 best pictures will be made into a calendar for 2027

How do you enter?

We can only accept digital photographs, so please email devauden.photos@gmail.com

with your best photograph by next Sunday, 6th September.

If you are under 16, please let us know when your picture is emailed in by your parent or responsible adult.

