

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

The St Arvans Parish website:

<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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11th October 2026
The Nineteenth Sunday
after Trinity
Harvest Thanksgiving
at St Arvans and Itton

The Collect

Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **AMEN**

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy [8: 7 - 18]

The LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams,

with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you. Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid waste-land with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gained me this wealth.' But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

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

Psalms 65 9 - 14

R/ You visit the earth and water it

You visit the earth
and water it abundantly;
you make it very plenteous;
the river of God is full of water.
You prepare the grain,
for so you provide for the earth.

R/ To you, O God, shall all flesh come,

You drench the furrows
and smooth out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground
and bless its increase.
You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.
May the fields of the wilderness
be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.

R/ You visit the earth and water it

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

The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

[9. 6 - 15]

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

Alleluia, alleluia!
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap.
Alleluia!

The Lord be with you:
And also with you

**Listen to the Gospel of Christ
according to St. Luke**

R/ Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus told the people a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.' He said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you – you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them.'

[12. 16-30]

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

For Your Prayers

Farmers and all who work on the land
or at sea to bring our food to our tables.
Prisoners and their families
The peoples of Palestine and Gaza,
Israel, Iran 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, Val Thompson,
Liz Hall.

For the Departed:

The recently departed; our own departed
loved ones, and those whose
anniversaries of death fall this week: Doris
Collard, Mady Gerrard, Lewis Webster.

A Prayer of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are
present 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
This week's Jereboam is based on
the readings for the 19th Sunday after
Trinity.*

Solomon

Jereboam: The big day's
approaching fast now, isn't it?
Solomon: Just five days to go
now. The arrangements seem to be falling
into place.
Jereboam: It's such an exciting
time, as I remember: everybody gathering
together especially for the two of you, your
favourite people coming to wish you
well... You should have a wonderful day.
Solomon: It's strange, though.
There are lots of Leah's friends and
relations that I haven't even met. And the
same is true for her with some of my
family. Yes, they're all gathering together
because of us, but it does seem odd to
invite people that I don't know.
Jereboam: I'm sure that you'll all
get on well together.
Solomon: We should do, I
suppose. If they're making the effort to
come to the wedding – and some of them
have to travel quite some distance – well,
we're both very touched by their support.

Jereboam: I'm not surprised, of course: you're a lovely couple, and they must be fond of you.

Solomon: I just hope that no-one comes for the wrong reasons. You hear about some weddings where people go along just to be noticed or to prove how important they are. To me, the most important thing will be to feel that the guests are really with us, if you understand what I mean.

Jereboam: Definitely, yes.

Solomon: Funnily enough, Jesus was talking about that very point the other day.

Jereboam: Saying what?

Solomon: I presume that's what he meant anyway: he spoke scathingly about anyone who came to a wedding wearing the wrong garment, although I don't think he meant it literally. I think that he was telling us to accept invitations to wedding celebrations whole-heartedly and respectfully.

Jereboam: Yes, I heard about that. But don't you think that he might have been using weddings simply as an illustration? I have a feeling that he was really referring to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Solomon: Oh, probably...that would make sense.

Jereboam: It could apply just as much to your wedding though. I'm sure that Jesus wouldn't dispute that.

Solomon: I guess not.

THIS WEEK

+ Today's Gospel is Jesus' story about the King who gave a banquet for his son and invited many guests. It is a powerful story about rejecting Jesus' own invitation and about God's universal invitation to a new group of "chosen" people.

Thursday is the feast day of Saint Teresa of Avila, mystic and doctor of the Church, Saturday that of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, first century bishop and martyr.

This week we end our look at the letter to the Galatians and begin two weeks of Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. The letters emphasize the universal church and its unity, bringing together Gentiles and Jews.

In St Luke's Gospel this week, Jesus

seems frustrated that some of the people won't listen to him. "This generation is an evil generation." When a Pharisee invited Jesus for dinner, the fellow was shocked that Jesus didn't do the required ritual washing of his hands. Jesus uses this as an opportunity to talk about real purity. He recommends they give money to the poor. But as Jesus continues to challenge the Pharisees, they hatch a plot to get rid of him. Jesus tells his disciples to beware of the "leaven" or "hypocrisy" of the Pharisees. Jesus wants us to acknowledge him, in the face of persecution.

Next Sunday we hear St Matthew's gospel tell us of the Pharisees' plot to set a trap for Jesus. This time they use politics to see if he will offend either Rome or the people. Should they pay Rome's census tax? Jesus pushes the challenge back to them: "Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."

St Arvans Tea and Chat

2.30 – 4 p.m.

Saturday November 14th

*and usually every second
Saturday of the month*
Childrens activity table

The Ministry Area Prayer Group

Thursdays at 7.00

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.

SERVICES IN OUR CHURCHES

TODAY

The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

11th October 2026

10 a.m. Sung Eucharist
at St Arvan's
Harvest Thanksgiving
11.30 a.m. Harvest Thanksgiving
Liturgy at St Deiniol's, Itton

NEXT SUNDAY

The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

18th October 2026

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, Kilgwrnwg

Readings:

Isaiah 25.1-9

Psalms 23

Philippians 4.1-9

St Matthew 22.1-14

*For all services in the wider Ministry
Area please see*

www.severnwyema.co.uk

Please note: this week the Eucharist will only be celebrated at St Arvans on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 10.00

There will be a live-streamed only Reflection, meditation and celebration of Night Prayer on Tuesday (6th) at 19.00

A Homily for Harvest Thanksgiving

+ In a world of change, one thing seems to remain constant – at least here in the British Isles. We really do love to talk about the weather. And we all do it. We grumble about it, not

without cause most years, whether it's, like this summer and, as is likely, most summers to come, far too hot or, whether it's too damp, or – increasingly – extreme and impossible to predict with any degree of accuracy. People from overseas – particularly from those with less changeable climates, are usually amazed about how much of our small talk does, in fact, revolve around the weather. If you forgive the pun, it's a way of breaking the ice.

The weather, though, is crucial to our celebration of harvest thanksgiving. Even as our climate turns wetter – and that has huge implications for the production of crops, of course – we've been spared, so far at least, the hugely destructive weather events we are seeing in so many other parts of the world. Without being complacent, we can be grateful at least for that, although this summer has challenged even that. Gratitude, they tell us, along with a sense of wonder, is one of the keys both to personal happiness and a huge step towards making those around us happy too.

I suppose the celebration of Harvest Thanksgiving is in itself an indication that we don't regard ourselves – as individuals – as the centre of the universe. It's a clear sign that we are prepared to live gratefully and not selfishly. We are saying that we recognise our dependence, not only on all those people who are part of the long process of bringing our food to our kitchens and to our tables, not only on the forces of nature which enable germination and growth and the somewhat unpredictable British sunshine which brings about ripening, but ultimately our dependence on God himself, not as another word for nature, but as the creator and sustainer of everything that is. What we are doing today is an indication that we are prepared to recognise our place in a sacramental universe, a place where material things can transmit to us the reality of the mysterious presence of God.

The Christian faith is shot through with a concern to see the hand of God even in the tiniest details of life, and in the natural world of which we are a part, however much modern ways of living tend to insulate us from it. The Christian tradition tells us that the natural world reflects much of the beauty and glory and order of the love of God the Holy Trinity. – the same love we see displayed in the life and death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the unlimited life of God poured out for the life of the world.

We look upon the world as essentially sacramental – that is, that they speak to us in concrete ways about the eternal things which matter and the sacredness of this world of time and space which we inhabit for a little while.

So, when we celebrate harvest thanksgiving we can't but be reminded that a successful harvest depends not only on human community but on responsible stewardship. And that raises all kinds of questions in a world in which it becomes clearer every day that passes that our stewardship is anything but responsible.

Responsibility in most things involves the respecting of limits, of recognising boundaries and not overstepping them. Our dominant culture seems at times to be based on the complete reverse of that. And we can see it all around us unless we can be persuaded not to look. We are breaching the limits of what our planet – the common home of all of us, whatever our differences – can stand. Our fellow living creatures are being forced into extinction at an ever increasing rate, our young people particularly are suffering from an anxiety about the future. After all, they have more of a stake in it and more reason to protest about our reluctance – and sometimes a weaponised and politicised reluctance – to face up to reality.

Whatever we think of the disruptive methods of some climate protestors, it's concerning that politicians here and

in many other parts of the world appear to be far more agitated about those drawing our attention to the emergency, than to provide us with even halfway adequate strategies to address the looming disaster itself. Whatever you do, don't look up; don't engage with reality. It's becoming very apparent that the life of the earth itself is being put at risk by the reluctance of those, some of whom help control the world's news agenda, to implement anything which will put their fossil fuel investments at risk.

Part of the problem we have is a philosophy – a theology even – which has divorced humanity from the rest of the natural world, which itself has been regarded as just another resource, another raw material to be exploited in any way we choose. More than that, since the advent of the industrial revolution, we've *desacralised* nature, robbed it of its holiness, regarding ourselves as existing over and above it – even at times defining ourselves against it. It's something to be overcome and conquered, even to be ravaged and mistreated. Not that far west from here we still see the scars which have been inflicted on the wasted land, and its inhabitants, even as the inexhaustible force flowing through nature begins to disguise our handiwork.

I'm old fashioned enough to think that until we get our thoughts and beliefs right, we won't begin to *do* what is right. What we believe about the world determines the way we treat it. So, in the last few centuries we've seen the triumph of the idea of a carefully defined and confined God whose dwelling is elsewhere, and whose nature is to dominate and control, and who operates almost exclusively through human history, rather a belief in the indefinable One who is being itself, who pours overflowing divine life into all things, which in turn reflect that goodness and that sacred presence which moves through all creation. We are being told very forcibly at harvest time that we are always

stewards of the natural world not its absolute owners. When we try to play God – as we have done - when we ignore the realities of nature – disaster follows.

It may be fashionable, but it's an unavoidable fact that Harvest is also about conservation and ecology; its about sustainability and the endangered future of the planet which has been entrusted to us. Ultimately we preserve our environment – and now the challenge is to restore it - in order to survive, to make the harvests of the future a possibility, to keep faith with our forebears and more importantly with our children. The theologian might also say that we do these things to honour the God who made them.

So at harvest thanksgiving all these things come together in a way those who have gone before us - for all their faults and failings - would have understood very well, even if they wouldn't have put it things in quite the same way as we do....

Ultimately, then, Harvest Thanksgiving is saying to us that we are meant by God to live thankfully, as responsible and wise stewards who will be accountable for the things entrusted to us, as those who travel together on the pilgrimage of life and faith, as companions who share the Bread of Life, as those who receive our good things from God. And, of course, not only are we intended to live in such a way, but that our very survival ultimately depends upon it. +

Daily Prayer this week

On Sunday we hear of the King who invited many to his son's banquet but the invitation was rejected. This might be a good place for us to begin our prayers this week, pondering the invitation from Jesus in our lives.

Whether or not we have a clear picture of where we are being called by Jesus, we can feel the invitation, the call to our hearts, in the silence. We can take just a

few minutes each morning as we awaken to sit by the side of the bed and open our hands and hearts and pray, "Jesus, in this quiet moment, I feel my heart being drawn to you. Help me to see where you are calling me this day."

We can repeat this small prayer on our way to work, taking our children to school and walking to the store. "I know you are in my heart, Jesus. I know you are calling me this day, but my heart is not always open to listen. Help me to answer your call today. At the end of this day, help me to be joyful in answering your call through those in my life."

So many of the stories this week are clashes between Jesus and the Pharisees. We can ask ourselves: Where in my life do I worry more about appearances than I worry about the poor who are in front of me? Who are "the poor" in my life? Who are the outcasts, the unpopular or the rejected people I see each day? How can I minister to those people and be a leaven in this world?

At the end of each day this week, we can be grateful for the many opportunities we were given to follow along with Jesus. We can ask the Holy Spirit to help us see the invitation in our lives every day and ask for the clarity to recognize "the poor." When I see the poor, the outcasts, those whose health or habits make them unappealing, do I love them the way Jesus would? Can I look at the brusque and rude people in my life as people Jesus would have gravitated toward, sensing how much they need love? Anxiety about getting things done, fear of losing wealth and a lack of compassion for our neighbors are all themes in this week's gospel. This can be a week of asking God for the wisdom and discernment we need to find the balance in our lives and a sense of where our focus should really be.

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

Clothes for Homeless People

Please donate warm clothes clean and in good condition for homeless people this winter

Please bring to

St Arvan's Church, NP16 6ET
or
St Thomas a Becket,
Shirenewton NP16 6RQ
(both are open daily)

Underwear and socks
to be new, please

The collection will be open
until Sunday 18 October

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY!**

Harvest Appeal : St Arvans Church 2026. Knickers or Snickers!

Last year we very successfully collected chocolate for our Harvest Appeal. We were overwhelmed by your generosity in response and the women and children at the Refuge were so grateful.

This year we will be collecting SNICKERS CHOCOLATE BARS (or any chocolate) and most importantly packs of small KNICKERS (Tesco/Peacocks? sell reasonably priced packs of ladies size 8/10/12 small) .

The girls at the Refuge are so grateful for these personal items.....you are all life savers.

So for our KNICKERS OR SNICKERS APPEAL a box will appear at the back of St Arvans Church so that we can collect during September/October for distribution to the relevant centres in early November.

Aging Well

As we get older some things in life become more of a challenge, physically, legally and often from advances in technology.

We are running a set of talks

by people who may be able to help
in some of these on **the first Monday
of the month from 1.00 till 2.00
at St. Christophers Church,
Bulwark, CHEPSTOW**

We have been able to secure people
who can help lead us through some of
these matters and we have a number
of other organisations in the wings for
future dates in the New Year.

Monday November 2nd
First Aid and advice on what to do in
the event of trips or falls at home

Monday December 7th
Police and Monmouthshire Building
Society staff helping on cyber
security and scams

Monday January 4th
A local solicitor talking about wills,
power of attorney etc.

Monday February 8th
MIND 5 ways to wellbeing
(Due to holidays this will be on the
2nd Monday)

This is open to all the churches
within the Ministry Area

St Arvans

Harvest Meal

Friday 23rd October
in the Meeting Rooms

Tickets £25

More details soon