

# NEWSLETTER

St Catherine's | St John's | St Luke's

## Today's Hymns

St Catherine's	St John's	St Luke's
263	263	480
655	128	263
128	480	343
480		685

## Collect:

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

## Psalm Response:

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

## Gospel Acclamation:

St John's:  
Alleluia ...  
Speak Lord your servant is listening, you have the words, you have the words of everlasting life.  
Alleluia ...

St Luke's: Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: keep watch take heart.  
Then verse 1 from hymn 949.

If you know of a church member, or anyone, who is unwell or would appreciate contact from our priests, please inform the clergy at the earliest opportunity.



Advent is not Christmas! Yet, for many people this season of preparation for Christ's birth is just part of Christmas. The coming of Christ into our history and our world is so important that we need time to prepare ourselves spiritually; to allow the immensity of this festival and belief to sink in. Over the next four Sundays our focus will be on waiting and longing for Christ - our hope, our joy and our peace. Spiritual preparation requires us to look inward to our own readiness for receiving again the gift of Christ's incarnation. Advent calls us also to look outward, to consider how we might spread this good news and become good news for our world.

## 1st Sunday of Advent - year C

St Catherine's - 8:00 Holy Eucharist; 10:30 Choral Eucharist; 6:00 pm Advent Carols

St John's - 8:00 Holy Eucharist; 9:15 Sung Eucharist and Church Parade

St Luke's - 10:30 Sung Mass

For Weekday Services and Regular Events see the Website or Church Notice boards for times and days.

## Today's Readings

Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thess 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

Psalm 25 v1-9 29 Nov

1 Unto thee O Lord will I lift up my soul; \* my God I have put my / trust in / thee: O let me not be disappointed, \* neither let mine / ene-mies / triumph / over me.

2 For all they that hope in thee shall / not • be a-/shamed: but such as deal untruly / shall be / put • to con-/fusion.

3 Shew me thy / ways O / Lord: and / teach me / thy / paths.

4 Lead me forth in thy / truth and / teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; \* in thee hath been my / hope / all the • day / long.

5 Call to remembrance O Lord thy / tender / mercies: and thy loving-kindnesses, which / have been / ever • of / old.

6 O remember not the sins and offences / of my / youth: but according to thy mercy \* think thou upon me O / Lord / in thy / goodness.

7 Gracious and righteous / is the / Lord: therefore will he teach / sinners / in the / way.

8 Them that are meek shall he guide in / right / paths: and such as are gentle, / them • shall he / teach his / way.

†9 All the paths of the Lord are / mercy • and / truth: unto such as keep his / cove • nant / and his / testimonies.

Next week's readings: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

## Benefice Notes:

**Advent Carols** - Please join us in St Catherine's this evening at 6:00 pm to celebrate prayerfully the beginning of Advent. Refreshments will be available afterwards. It is a wonderful occasion of choral music and reflective passages from scripture.

**Meetings** - Youth Team - Tuesday 8 Dec at 6pm at the vicarage; Messy Christmas Planning - Sun 6 Dec in St John's at 4pm.  
**Messy Christmas** - Next Messy Church is in St John's on 13 December at 5:30 pm. It is a bring and share occasion: if your surname begins with A to M could you bring something savoury and N to Z something sweet. If you can't bring food don't worry, just come along anyway, there will be enough to go round.  
**Advent and Christmas Supplement** - There are some additional prayers and information on the purple coloured page that we'll use during the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Flyer with all the services for Christmas available next Sunday.  
**Night shelter** - Many thanks to all who volunteered to help with the night shelter. The next step is a training evening at Calvary Baptist on 7 December at 7pm. For more details: <http://www.cantonchurches.org.uk/night-shelter.html>.  
**Advent Group:** 4 week bible study and exploration of faith through scripture and C.S Lewis 'The Lion The Witch and the Wardrobe Advent in Narnia starts this Thur 26 Nov 7-9pm in the vestry at St Johns. Contact Andrew Sims (see next item).  
**Living Faith Study Group** - Tuesdays at 7:30 pm in St John's. For info: Andrew Sims [maxsims@hotmail.com](mailto:maxsims@hotmail.com) 029 2034 4641  
**Newsletter Email** - If you'd like an email copy of the newsletter and readings please ask Sheila on [mgsmkelly1@gmail.com](mailto:mgsmkelly1@gmail.com)  
**PARADISE RUN** is on Sat, 5 Dec 5. Please can **everyone** bring food to Diana's house this time between 6-7pm.  
**Lectionary 2015-2016** - If you'd like a list of the Sunday readings we use throughout the year please contact the clergy.  
**Benefice Magazine** - Article for the Winter Edition of the magazine to be with Jean Williams by Tuesday 8 December.

## St Catherine's Notes:

**Christmas Carols** - Please join us on Sunday 20 Dec at 4:30 pm for our service of 9 Lessons and Carols for Christmas.  
**Bookings** - To book the Hall contact the clergy or email [hall.stcatherines@gmail.com](mailto:hall.stcatherines@gmail.com).  
**Logs** - contact Clive 07931522683, Gareth 07527268461 or Diana 07909961256. From £5 per boot (depends on volume).  
**Midweek Services:** Holy Eucharist at 11:00 am on Wednesday.

## St John's Notes:

**Christmas Tree Festival** - from Friday 4 to Sunday 6 December. To put up a tree forms are available from Jean Williams. Fri 11am to 3pm - Local school singing 11am & 12 noon; Sat 10 -1pm - Coffee Morning; Sun 2pm to 4pm - Prize Draw 3.30pm. Volunteers needed plus cakes for the Home made stall. Please return all Prize Draw stubs and money by 2pm Sunday.  
**Midweek Services:** Holy Eucharist at 10:30 am on Thursday.

## St Luke's Notes:

**The Advent Stations** - Next Sunday, between 4.00 - 6.00pm 'drop-in' Stations of Advent- an interactive experience for all ages in St Luke's Church.  
**Hall Bookings** - To book the Hall please contact Jackie or Haydn Page on 029 2091 3808 [haydnpage@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:haydnpage@hotmail.co.uk)  
**Sunday School** - Sun 13 Dec at 10.30 in the Church Hall will be a party, then an invitation to the congregation to join us after Mass for tea/coffee, mince pies, a Nativity presentation plus a singalong. Please join us if you can.  
**Community Carols** - Monday 21 December 6.30 pm in St Luke's church carol service with the Elizabeth Singers.  
**Midweek Services:** Masses at 10:00 am on Tuesday and Wednesday; 6:30 pm on Friday; 10:30 am on Saturday.

**Recently Departed:** Audrey Woodcock, Pilar Bermudez, Gail Jepras, Kate Woodcock & Maureen Brooks

## This Week in the Benefice: (Diocesan Prayer / Anglican Prayer Cycle / Events and Services)

**Sun 29** Margam Deanery, Philip Masson (AD); West Malaysia; **Advent Sunday**  
**Mon 30** RB Aberavaon, Nigel Cahill (TR); Ben Rabjohns (TV), Jane Slennett (C), Rhun Ap Robert (C); W. Missouri; **St Andrew**  
**Tues 1** Baglan, Stephen Jenkins (PinC); Elaine Evans (C); West Tennessee; **Nicholas Ferrer, Deacon;**  
**Wed 2** Provincial Safeguarding Team, Elaine Cloak; West Texas;  
**Thur 3** Cwmafan, Elaine Evans (PinC); Stephen Jenkyns (C); W. Virginia; **St Francis Xavier;**  
**Fri 4** Glyncorwg Upper Valley w Caerau St Cyfelin, Bev Reaney (PinC); W. Izo, Nigeria;  
**Sat 5** Kenfig Hill, Jon Durley (PinC), Claire Stowell (C); W. Kansas  
**Sun 6** Margam; W. Louisiana; **St Ambrose, Advent 2**

## 29 November 2015 – First Sunday of Advent

### Collect of the Day

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### First Reading

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

*Jeremiah 33.14-16*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm 25.1-10*

**R To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.**

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;  
my God, I put my trust in you;  
let me not be humiliated,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.  
Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes. **R**

Show me your ways, O Lord,  
and teach me your paths.  
Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long. **R**

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.  
Remember not the sins of my youth  
and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord. **R**  
Gracious and upright is the Lord;  
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

He guides the humble in doing right  
and teaches his way to the lowly.

**R**

All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness  
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

For your name's sake, O Lord,  
forgive my sin, for it is great.

**R**

**R To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.**

## **Second Reading**

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

*1 Thessalonians 3.9-13*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel**

Hear the holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.'

'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who

live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

*Luke 21.25-36*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Post Communion Prayer**

O Lord our God,  
make us watchful and keep us faithful  
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;  
that, when he shall appear,  
he may not find us sleeping in sin  
but active in his service  
and joyful in his praise;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.