

# NEWSLETTER

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

## Today's Hymns

St John's

128

263

405

## 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 and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## Psalm Response:

God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

## Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord; Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name. Speak to us, Lord, your servant hear. You have the words of eternal life.



The coming of Christ, the messiah, in human form remains a mystery forever. As we wait, we are called to be a watching people. Watching with those who are suffering in our world: with those made homeless by war; with those affected by Ebola; with those who are lacking the basics we take for granted; and with the those coping with ordinary everyday suffering in our community. Advent teaches us how we can wait for the Lord: with self-examination, with hope and with joy in a faithful God.

## Advent 1 - Keep Watch and Pray!

St Catherine's - 4:30 pm Advent Carol Service

St John's - 10:30 Benefice Service

St Luke's - No Service Today

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

## Today's Readings

Isaiah 64:1-9, Ps 80:1-7 17-19, 1 Cor 1:2-9, Mark 13:24-37

**Next week's readings:** Isaiah 40.1-11, Psalm 85.1-2, 8-13, 2 Peter 3.8-15a, Mark 1.1-8

## Benefice Notes:

**Advent Year B** - Today is **BENEFICE SUNDAY** in **St John's** and is also the first Sunday of Advent, a season to help us prepare for the birth of Jesus. To celebrate this there'll be an **Advent Carol Service** this evening in St Catherine's at **4.30 pm**. This year we have changed the format of the Carol Service. Jesus, as the light shining in the darkness, will be our theme and so there will be lots of candles alight.

**2020 Conversation Days** about our faith identity, our direction as a Church and our readiness for mission in the 21st century take place on the following dates:

**St Catherine's will be on Sat 6 December at 10:30 am in the Church;**

**St Luke's will be on Sat 13 Dec at 11:00 am; St John's will be on Sun 14 Dec at 4:00 pm (no 'Explore' that evening).**

**Posada** - In the run up to Christmas, we follow the Posada tradition where nativity sets of Joseph and Mary receive hospitality in individual homes throughout the benefice on a roster basis. It helps us reconnect with the Christmas story. Let us know if you interested and would like to sign up.

**Advent Bible Study** - Continues this Thursday 4 Dec from 7-9pm in St John's vestry. The course is a weekly informal exploration of the Advent readings. All are welcome! Contact Andrew Sims for details [maxsims@hotmail.com](mailto:maxsims@hotmail.com) 02920344641

**Paradise Run** - The next run is on 6 December. Please bring your food to Sylvia's house (114 Pencisely Road) or to Diana (23 Greenfield Avenue) on the day itself between 6-7pm. For more details on this work of charity please see the website. We are so grateful for your support. Finally, at this time of year warm clothes would be greatly appreciated.

**Youth Ministry Group** - We would like to invite people interested in youth ministry to become part of a new team to help us co-ordinate our provision across the benefice, e.g., youth club, holiday clubs, day trips etc. Please contact the clergy.

**Benefice Noticeboard** - If you would like to include something in the notes please send it to [linsaycoolhouse@hotmail.com](mailto:linsaycoolhouse@hotmail.com).

**Messy Church** - A big thank you to all who helped make the recent Messy Church go so well. We are delighted with how this is continuing to grow. The next event is Messy Christmas, on SATURDAY 20 December at 4:00 pm. There will be a [planning meeting](#) in St John's next Sunday 7 December at 4:15 pm.

**Season of Invitation 4: Advent** - The next opportunity to invite a guest to one of our services is next Sunday. Please take an invite card to give to a friend, family member or colleague.

**Benefice Pilgrimage to Assisi, Montecasino and Rome** 6-10 July 2015. If you are interested please contact Fr Phelim for more details and likely costs. Price would include flights, transfers, transport within Italy and staying at the Irish College.

See the link for more details about the facilities and history of the Pontifical Irish College <http://www.irishcollege.org>

**Benefice Magazine** - Articles for the Winter Edition must be in by Tuesday 15 Dec. If you would like to put a greeting in this edition please fill in the forms on display in the churches. It costs £5 which will be donated to charity.

## St Catherine's Notes:

**Conversation Day** - Next Saturday, 6 December at 10:30 in the Church. All are welcome. Refreshments provided.

**Hall Bookings** - To book the Hall please contact Angharad Elias 07989 747026 [hall.stcatherines@gmail.com](mailto:hall.stcatherines@gmail.com)

**Advent Service** - There is a special service to celebrate the beginning of Advent in St Catherine's THIS EVENING at 4:30 pm. We would be delighted to see as many of you as possible there to help us prepare spiritually for the nativity of Jesus.

**Lessons and Carols for Christmas** - In St Catherine's on Sunday 21 December at 4:30 pm.

## St John's Notes:

**Christmas Tree Festival** - There'll be a craft and homemade stall during the festival. Cakes needed please for this throughout the weekend. [Preview:](#) 4 Dec 7-9pm, £3 entry, which includes mulled wine and mince pies. [Open for Viewing on:](#) Friday 5 Dec from 10-4pm. Sat 6 Dec from 10-12 when there'll be a coffee morning. Sun 7 Dec from 2-4pm.

**Ty Bronna** - In December we'll be collecting toiletries for the Ty Bronna Hostel for young people, run by the Church Army.

## St Luke's Notes:

**Afternoon Tea** - A huge thank you to all who helped with the Afternoon Tea yesterday.

**St Luke's Meditation Group** - The next two Friday afternoon meditation sessions will be on Fridays, 5 and 19 December at 5.30 at St Luke's. Why not join us, unwind and enjoy 30 minutes of silence? For details, contact Diana (02921 400367)

**St Luke's Lunch** on Sun Jan 18th tickets on sale from today 3 COURSE MEAL £8.50

**Shrove Tuesday Banger and Bingo** - A family fun night on Tuesday 17 Feb 2015. Tickets on sale after Christmas.

**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)

Recently Departed: Jean Allen, Margaret Sanders.

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

**Sun 30** Gelligaer, Gary Powell (PinC); Falkland Islands; **Benefice Sunday; Advent Carol Service 4.30 pm (St C)**  
**Mon 1** Ystrad Mynach & Llanbradach, Canon Steven Kirk (V); Kibungo - (Rwanda) **World Aids Day**  
**Tues 2** Cynon Valley Area Dean: Michael Jones; Kigali & Kigeme (Rwanda); **St Andrew, Apostle**  
**Wed 3** Vocations Officers; Kigezi & North Kigezi - (Uganda), **St Francis Xavier**  
**Thur 4** Aberaman & Abercwmboi w Cwmaman, David Way (V); Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh- (Ireland)  
**Fri 5** Abercynon Dr Sarah Rogers (PinC) Kimberley & Kuruman- Southern Africa  
**Sat 6** Aberdare, Robert Davies (V); Kindu (Congo); **St Nicholas;**

## 30<sup>th</sup> November 2014 – Advent Sunday

### 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. Amen.

### First Reading

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence – as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil – to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

*Isaiah 64.1–9*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 80.1–7, 16–18

**Restore us, O God of hosts, Show the light of your face and we shall be saved.**

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.  
In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us. **R**

O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered  
despite the prayers of your people? **R**

You have fed them with the bread of tears;

you have given them bowls of tears to drink.  
You have made us the derision of our neighbours,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn. **R**

Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand,  
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.  
And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

**Restored us, O God of hosts, Show the light of your face and we shall be saved.**

## Second Reading

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

My brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind – just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you – so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*1 Corinthians 1.3–9*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

*Mark 13.24–37*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**