

NEWSLETTER

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

Today's Hymns

St Catherine's	St John's	St Luke's
35	35	217
673	674	674
674	295	35 (v1)
428		32

Collect:

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Psalm Response:

All the ends of the earth shall turn to you, O Lord.

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:
Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord; Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name

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.



Our gospel today calls us to fruitfulness. As a branch of the 'true vine' any fruit we bear comes from God. Yet, we branches often struggle to bear fruit. The fruits we should bear are, primarily, the witness we must give to others, and the outreach through which we are called to embody the Saviour's presence in our world. However, bearing witness to our faith often makes us uncomfortable and appears a seemingly impossible task. Yet, God calls us to mission - sharing good news and joining in with what God does and is doing in our homes, work and communities. Bearing fruit is sometimes down to simply acknowledging the work of God within us and sharing this with joy.

Easter 5

St Catherine's - 8:00 Eucharist; 10:30 Choral Eucharist; **12:30 Baptism**

St John's - 8:00 Morning Prayer; 9:15 Sung Eucharist;

St Luke's - 10:30 Sung Mass; **6:00 pm Benediction**

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

Today's Readings

Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4: 7-21; John 15:1-8

Psalm 22 Vv25-31

- 25 My praise is of thee in the / great • congre-/gation: my vows will I perform in the / sight of / them that / fear him.
 26 The poor shall / eat • and be / satisfied: they that seek after the Lord shall praise him; * may your / heart / live for / ever.
 27 Let all the ends of the world remember, * and be turned / unto • the / Lord: and let all the families of the / nations / worship • be-/fore him.
 28 For the dominion / is the / Lord's: and he is the / Governor • a-/mong the / nations.
 29 As for all them that sleep in the earth, * / how • shall they / worship him: all they that go down into the dust, * / how • shall they / kneel be-/fore him?
 30 But my life shall be preserved in his sight, * and my / children • shall / worship him: they shall tell of the Lord unto the / gener-/ations • to / come,
 †31 And unto a people that shall be born shall they de-/clare his / righteousness: that / he hath / brought • it to / pass.

Next week's readings: Acts 10: 44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5: 1-6; John 15:9-17

Benefice Notes:

- Messy Church** - The May planning meeting takes place next Sunday at 5:15 pm.
Confirmation Classes - Next week at 4:00 pm during Explore in St John's.
Vestry Report - The Vestry Report now available in our churches and on the website.
Benefice Noticeboard - If you would like to include something in the notes please send it to linsaycoolhouse@hotmail.com.
Vestry Home Group - Thursdays 7-9pm in St John's - Informal bible study exploring the Gospel readings - All are welcome!

Youth Team BBQ - There will be a special meeting and BBQ on Wednesday 6 May at 5:30 pm in St Catherine's. Please bring a dish to share. This is to help us prepare for the launch of our youth club. It is open to everyone and especially those interested in helping us with the youth club. Children are welcome and there'll be a movie and popcorn for them whilst the meeting takes place. We hope to open the youth club after the May half term in the first week of June.

Explore - Next Sunday at 4:00 pm when we'll worship God via the music of Taize and walking around a labyrinth.

Battle of the Bands - this will be a music event for young people from year 9 upwards taking place on Saturday 4 July. Application forms available are now available (see Facebook.com/CantonBOB).

Pastoral Care Team - at the last care team meeting a number of initiatives were proposed to help us care more: to adopt the diocesan code of practice; to explore training for those wanting to get involved in pastoral care; to explain and consult with our congregations about pastoral care in the benefice; to advertise in each church how our community offer help and support to people; and finally to liaise with other Christians locally about ways to support pastoral care even more.

Soul Survivor August 2015 - Soul Survivor is a 5 day event for Christian Youth Groups and teenage Christians (aged 12+) in Shepton Mallet. Application forms at the back of the Church. For more info: soulsurvivor.com

Christian Aid Week (1) - It begins next Sunday (May 10th). It's not too late to sign up for a street - see notice at the back of the church. Alternatively, you might like to **take some envelopes (and a collector's badge to prove that you're authentic) to neighbours, friends, social contacts, workplace or local pub.** Collect info, materials and get information from Lynda (02920 214282) or Diana (02921 400367/07754169373).

Christian Aid Week (2) - This is one of the few occasions when we can give collectively as a church to people more unfortunate than ourselves. This year, the focus is on helping women in Ethiopia. We have invited the local representative from CA to visit each of our Churches and explain something of their work. She'll visit St Luke's on 17 May, St Catherine's on 7 June and St John's on 14 June. Messy Church in May will also look at the work of Christian Aid.

St Catherine's Notes:

Hall Bookings - To book the Hall contact the clergy or email hall.stcatherines@gmail.com. We are looking for a new hall manager to look after lettings, cleaning and maintenance. If you are interested please contact the clergy for details. Many thanks to Angharad Elias, who has stepped down from managing the hall, for all her hard work this past year or so.

St John's Notes:

Schools' Concert - Local primary schools will be visiting St John's for their schools' concert on Monday 18 May at 3:00 pm.
Ty Bronna - The collection this month (May) is cereals.

St Luke's Notes:

Christian Aid - The Sunday school will be learning all about CA on May 10th then will be selling cakes for them on May 17.
Hall Bookings - To book the Hall please contact Jackie or Haydn Page on 029 2091 3808 haydnpage@hotmail.co.uk
Women's Group Thurs May 7 we've a tour of the Mansion House and a very special tea. All welcome. Names to Jeanie.

Recently Departed: Kenneth Keatley, Edward Haines, Ron Teagle, Irene Benson, Roy Iles, Clifford Scantlebury, Anthony Green.

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

Sun 3 Pontypridd St Catherine, Peter Lewis (V); Ngbo (Enugu, Nigeria)

Mon 4 Pontypridd, St Matthew and Cilfynydd w Llanwynno; Niagara - (Canada)

Tues 5 Pwllgwaun and Llandewi Rhondda; Niassa- (Southern Africa); **St Asaph**

Weds 6 The Staff at 39 Cathedral Road, John Shirley; Nicaragua- (central America)

Thurs 7 Glyntaff, Rhydfelin and the Graig, Michael Gable (Pin C); Niger Delta North, Niger Delta West

Fri 8 Rhondda Deanery Area Dean, Hadyn England-Simon; Niger Delta, The Niger; **Julian of Norwich**

Sat 9 Dinas and Penygraig, Christopher Lewis-Jenkins (V); Niger West; **St Gregory of Nazianzus**

Sun 10 Pen Rhondda Fawr, Philip Leyshon (Pin C); Nike, Nigeria

Team Rector: Canon Mark Preece; 029 2056 2022 rector@beneficeofcanton.org.uk (Day off - Monday)

Team Vicar: Fr Phelim O'Hare; 029 2021 0732 vicar@beneficeofcanton.org.uk (Day off - Thursday)

3 May 2015 – Fifth Sunday of Easter**First Reading**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go over to this chariot and join it.’ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ He replied, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

‘Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.’

The eunuch asked Philip, ‘About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?’ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?’ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Acts 8.26-40

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22.24-30

R All the ends of the earth shall turn to you, O Lord.

My praise is of him in the great assembly,

I will perform my vows

in the presence of those who worship him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

and those who seek the Lord shall praise him:

‘May your heart live for ever!’

R

All the ends of the earth

shall remember and turn to the Lord,

and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

For kingship belongs to the Lord;
he rules over the nations.

R

To him alone all who sleep in the earth
bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust fall before him.
My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him;
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.
They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn
the saving deeds that he has done.

R

R All the ends of the earth shall turn to you, O Lord.

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of John.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God,' and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

1 John 4.7-21

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them

bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

John 15.1-8

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.