

NEWSLETTER

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

Today's Hymns

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

See hymn boards or Service Pages

Collect:

Midnight: Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; 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.

Day: Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; 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.

Psalm Response:

All the ends the earth have seen the victory of our God.

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.



"A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called messenger of great counsel".

This prayer reminds us of the hope that lies behind our Christmas celebrations. The birth of any child is an occasion of great joy for family and friends. Yet, at Christmas we have a child who is 'born for us'. His reason for being (our salvation) has been determined from before his existence on earth occurred. At Christmas we are called again to explore the joy and comfort this brings to us as disciples of Jesus. We are called also to share this joy with those who need it most. Perhaps this could be intent behind our Christian greeting of 'Merry

The Nativity of Our Lord

St Catherine's - 11:15 Midnight Mass (Christmas Eve); 10:30 Sung Eucharist;

St John's - 5:00 pm Crib Service (Christmas Eve); 9:15 Sung Eucharist;

St Luke's - 11:15 Midnight Mass (Christmas Eve; **in St Luke's Hall**);

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

Today's Readings

Psalm 98 (Midnight Mass Only)

1 O sing unto the Lord a / new / song: for / he hath • done / marvellous / things; **2** With his own right hand and with his / holy / arm: hath he / gotten • him-/self the / victory. **3** The Lord hath made / known his / victory: his righteousness hath he openly / shewed • in the / sight • of the / nations. **4** He hath remembered his mercy and faithfulness toward the / house of / Israel: and all the ends of the world have seen the / victory / of our / God. **5** Shew yourselves joyful in the Lord, / all ye / lands: sing and re-/jice • with the / sound of / melody. **6** Make melody unto the Lord up-/on the / harp: even up-/on the / harp and / psaltery. **7** With trumpets / also • and / horns: shout with joy be-/fore the / Lord the / King. **8** Let the sea roar and all that / therein / is: the world and / they that / dwell there-/in. **9** Let the rivers / clap their / hands: and let the hills rejoice to-/gether • be-/fore the / Lord; **10** For he cometh to / judge the / earth: in righteousness shall he judge the world, * and the / peoples / with / equity.

Next week's readings: Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 8; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:15-21

Benefice Notes:

Christmas Week Services All of our Weekday services will also be in St John's this week beginning at 10:30 except for Friday and Saturday when there will be no services scheduled. **Please note, next Sunday is a Benefice Together Service in St John's at 10:30 am. There will be no other services in the benefice that day.**

Holy Communion - From now on it is permitted for those who are baptised to receive Holy Communion. We will have a renewed focus on the meaning and practice of celebrating the Eucharist in the coming months.

Youth Club Games Night - From 20 Jan 2017 the Canton Churches Youth Club returns to St Catherine's hall on Friday evenings from 7-8:30pm. It is open to children in school years 5 and 6. We will focus on table tennis, chess, backgammon and other games with the usual tuck shop and chill zone. This event can only go ahead if we have enough adults available to supervise. For more details ask Fr Phelim or Sarah Burton burton-sarah@hotmail.co.uk.

Confirmation Christmas Outing - To winter wonderland this Friday 30 December meeting at 1:00pm in St John's. This is open to those who were confirmed this year and last year plus their families. Contact Sarah Burton for details (see above).

PCC and Action Teams - The next PCC meeting is on Sunday 15 Jan 2017 at 6:30pm at St John's. The dates and times for the action teams (finance, buildings, pastoral care, youth) will be sent out in the new year.

St Catherine's Notes:

Volunteers needed to join the rota for counting the collection - please see Diana Fletcher for details.

Hall Bookings - To book the Hall contact the clergy or email Bev on hall.stcatherines@gmail.com.

Midweek Services: No Holy Eucharist this Wednesday but is in St John's at 10:30

St John's Notes:

Ty Bronna - This month's collection for the Ty Bronna centre is for sweets and chocolate.

Church Booking - To book the church please contact the clergy. For concerts contact Gill Winton (see website).

Midweek Services: Holy Eucharist Monday to Thursday at 10:30 am

St Luke's Notes:

Church Heating - Unfortunately, the heater is still out of action. The hall will be used on Sundays instead of the church until it is fixed. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Thank You - An anonymous donor has kindly agreed to pay over £4000 to pay for the heating prayers. Please keep this donor and all of our benefactors in your prayers for their generous support of God's mission and work in this place.

Elizabeth Singers - Many thanks to all who attended and supported the carol service. Over £266 was raised.

Hall Bookings - To book the Hall please contact Jackie Page on 029 2091 3808.

Midweek Services: No services this week (see St John's)

Recently Departed: David Bickel, Hannah Anderson, Jesu Marie Musonere

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

Sun 25 Llansantffraid, Bettws & Aberkenfig, Stephen Pare (Pin C); Kitale -(Kenya); **NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**

Mon 26 Newcastle (Bridgend), David Lloyd (V); Kiteto -(Tanzania); **St Stephen, Deacon & Protomartyr**

Tues 27 Troedrhigarth, Chris Reaney (V); Kitgum (Uganda); **ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST (patronal feast day)**

Wed 28 Hospital Chaplains in the diocese and beyond; Kitui - (Kenya); **The Holy Innocents**

Thur 29 Coity, Nolton & Brackla w Coychurch: Canon Michael Komor (R) Jayne Shaw (C), Pauline Smith Kivu - (Rwanda)

Fri 30 Deanery of Margam, Philip Masson (AD); Kobe (Japan); **St Tathan, Abbot;**

Sat 31 Baglan, Stephen Jenkyns (PinC), Elaine Jenkyns (C); Koforidua (Ghana); **John Wycliffe, Priest and Translator**

Sun 1 Cwmafan, Elaine Jenkyns (PinC), Stephen Jenkyns (C); Kolhapur (India); **The Naming of Jesus; Benefice Together.**

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)

24/25 December – Christmas Day (Set III) – Midnight Mass

Collect of the Day

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; 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.

First Reading

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.
Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Isaiah 52.7-10

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 98

R All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.
With his right hand and his holy arm
has he won for himself the victory.

R

The Lord has made known his victory;
his righteousness has he openly shown
in the sight of the nations.
He remembers his mercy and faithfulness
to the house of Israel,
and all the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.

R

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice and sing.
Sing to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.

R

Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it,
the lands and those who dwell therein.
Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
when he comes to judge the earth.
In righteousness shall he judge the world,
and the peoples with equity.

R

R All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Second Reading

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Hebrews 1.1-4

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.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

John 1.1-14

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

25 December – Christmas Day (Set II)

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; 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.

First Reading

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD:

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem,

I have posted sentinels;

all day and all night they shall never be silent.

You who remind the LORD, take no rest,

and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem

and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

The LORD has sworn by his right hand

and by his mighty arm:

I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies,

and foreigners shall not drink the wine

for which you have laboured;

but those who garner it shall eat it

and praise the LORD,

and those who gather it shall drink it

in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates,

prepare the way for the people;

build up, build up the highway,

clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples.

The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth:

Say to daughter Zion,

‘See, your salvation comes;

his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him.’

They shall be called, ‘The Holy People,

The Redeemed of the LORD’;

and you shall be called, ‘Sought Out,

A City Not Forsaken.’

Isaiah 62.6-12

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.*Psalm 97*

- 1 The Lord is King, * let the earth be / glad there-/of:
yea let the multitude of the / isles be / glad there-/of.
- 2 Clouds and darkness are / round a-/bout him:
righteousness and judgement are the foun-/dation / of his / throne.
- 3 There goeth a / fire be-/fore him:
and burneth up his / enemies · on / every / side.
- 4 His lightnings give shine / unto · the / world:
the earth / seeth · it / and · is a-/fraid.
- 5 The mountains melt like wax at the / presence · of the / Lord:
at the presence of the / Lord · of the / whole / earth.
- 6 The heavens de-/clare his / righteousness:
and all the / peoples / see his / glory.
- 7 Confounded be all they that worship carved images, *
and that delight in / vain / gods:
bow down be-/fore him / all ye / gods.
- 8 Zion heard of it and rejoiced, * and the cities of / Judah · were / glad:
be-/cause of · thy / judgements · O / Lord.
- 9 For thou Lord art most high over / all the / earth:
thou art exalted / far a-/bove all / gods.
- 10 The Lord loveth / them that · hate / evil:
he preserveth the lives of his servants, * and shall deliver them from the / hand of / the un-/
godly.
- 11 There is sprung up a / light · for the / righteous:
and joyful gladness for / such · as are / true of / heart.
- 12 Rejoice in the / Lord ye / righteous:
and give thanks at the re-/membrance / of his / holiness.

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus.

When the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3.4-7

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.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Luke 2.8-20

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.