

NEWSLETTER

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

The Second Sunday of Advent

Mark's Gospel begins with a bold announcement of good news that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. The readings and prayers today invite us to share that same excitement in the transforming power of Christ and to live, as well as proclaim, the good news.

Collect of the Day

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. AMEN

Today's Readings

First Reading Isaiah 40:1-11

Most scholars see this as the beginning of a new section in Isaiah, written to God's people in exile. The words offer comfort and assurance that God, having judged them, will save them.

Second Reading 2 Peter 3:8-15a

The author addresses a real concern in the early Church: Jesus had not returned. God's time is different from human time, and the passage offers instruction about how to live as we wait.

Gospel Mark 1:1-8

Mark does not have a lengthy narrative of Jesus' birth. Instead, he plunges into the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Everything that follows in his Gospel is an explanation of his vibrant opening.



Second Sunday of Advent

St Catherine's: 8.00am Holy Eucharist; 10.30 am Sung Eucharist

Today's Hymns: 263, 655, 128, 265

St John's: 9.00 am Sung Eucharist; Baptism 12.30pm We welcome Steffan Davies into our Christian family

Today's Hymns: 263, 128, 265

4.00pm Messy Church "No Room at the Inn"

St Luke's: 10:30 am Sung Mass with Archdeacon Peggy Jackson

Today's Hymns: 527, 263, 282

Psalm response: Show us your mercy O Lord and grant us your salvation.

Gospel Acclamation: Wait for the Lord whose day is near. Wait for the Lord, keep watch take heart.

Psalm 85 v 1, 2, 8-13

1 Lord thou art become gracious / unto • thy / land: thou hast restored the pros-/peri-/ty of / Jacob;

2 Thou hast forgiven the of-/fence of • thy / people: and / covered / all their / sins.

8 I will hearken what the Lord / God will / say: for he shall speak peace unto his people and to his servants, * even / unto • the / upright • in / heart.

9 Surely his salvation is nigh / them that / fear him: that his / glory • may / dwell • in our / land.

10 Mercy and truth are / met to-/gether: righteousness and / peace • have em-/braced each / other.

11 Truth shall flourish / out • of the / earth: and righteousness / shall look / down from / heaven.

12 Yea the Lord shall / give pros-/perity: and our / land shall / yield her / increase.

13 Righteousness shall / go be-/fore him: and where he / walketh • there / shall be / peace.

Newsletter: for any items to be included in this newsletter please email Sue Jones (office@beneficeofcanton.org.uk) Deadline is 12 noon on Fridays. For an email copy of the newsletter please contact Sheila at mgsmkelly1@gmail.com

Cardiff Night Shelter – the Benefice is again planning to support the work of the Cardiff Churches Night Shelter every Thursday night / Friday morning at Calvary Baptist Church on Cowbridge Road and we are keen to encourage more volunteers to join us. We have a

particular need on the Breakfast Shift! We provide dinner, bed and breakfast in a warm, safe environment to homeless people during the cold winter months from the week commencing 18 December (our first night would be 21/22 December) usually through until mid-end March. The newsletter from last year can be accessed via the link <http://www.cantonchurches.org.uk/night-shelter.html> to give you some understanding but if you are interested in learning more, please contact Fiona Robinson (St Catherine's Church) on 07957 104356 or fiona.robinson@tesco.net

The Chimes: This Christmas, a new musical production of *The Chimes*, inspired by the biting wit and moral outrage of Dickens's 1844 novel, and prompted by the harsh realities of poverty in 21st-century Britain, will be presented at St John's Church from 7 to 16 December. Directed and produced by Judith Roberts, written by David Willis and composed by Conor Linehan, and presented in partnership with Chapter Arts Centre, *The Chimes* brings together a cast of eight professional actors and an ensemble company from the homeless community in a dynamic new piece of music theatre, packed full of colourful characters and haunting melodies, which will touch your heart and fire your soul. Tickets available from Chapter Arts Centre.

Christmas Flowers: donations towards Christmas flowers are a great way to help at Christmas time. Our churches always look resplendent during the Christmas season and the floral arrangements enhance this. Please give donations to Jean Pritchard in St Catherine's, Cynthia Fowler in St John's and Brenda Shewring or Margaret Charles in St Luke's. Thank you.

St Catherine's Notes:

Hall Bookings: To book the Hall email Bev on hall.stcatherines@gmail.com.

A Festival of Lessons and Carols will take place on Sunday 17 December at 4.30pm. During the service children from our Sunday Club will be presenting scenes from the Christmas story.

Collection Counting: Thank you to all the people who have joined in the collection counting rota this year. As always, we need a few more volunteers for next year. It takes about 10 minutes and comes round once every two months after the Sunday morning service. If you are willing to help or if you wish to stop, please email dianafletcher@hotmail.com. Thank you.

Huge thanks to all who supported the raffle and Christmas Fair – between the two events and with some support from Barclays bank through a friend of Diana's we have managed to raise over £4k – a massive success.

Our condolences to Jan Wainwright and her family on the death of Jan's Mother, Kath Lewis. For many years, Kath was a faithful and active member of St Catherine's congregation. **Midweek Services:** The funeral of Kath Lewis RIP will take place on Wednesday at 11am in place of the Eucharist this week.

St John's Notes:

Ty Bronna: We are collecting sweets and chocolates throughout December. Please leave in the box in church.

Thank you: from St John's Guide unit to all the church family who supported our fundraising event at the church on Thursday 30th November. The girls did an amazing job on their stalls and we raised £430 for Ty Hafan's Children's hospice and are very grateful to the church for their support.

Midweek Services: Holy Eucharist Thursday 10.30 am. Please note this week we are in St Luke's

St Luke's Notes:

Elizabeth Singers: join us for a lunchtime recital of seasonal music from four centuries on Saturday 16th December at 1.00 pm. No tickets, but there will be a retiring collection for the local nightshelter. Festive refreshments will be served during the interval.

Midweek services: Said Mass Tuesday 10.00 am; Friday 6.00pm; Saturday 10.30am.

Recently Departed: Kath Lewis, Doris Thomas, Jim Upton, Eileen Boots, Thelma Edmunds, Jean Hill

Diocesan and Anglican Prayer Cycle

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| Sun Dec 10 th | Llandaff: (The Cathedral Church) The Very Rev'd. Gerwyn Capon, Dean and Incumbent Canon Graham Holcombe, Canon Residentiary | <i>Western North Carolina</i> |
| Mon Dec 11 th | Pentyrch and Chapel Llanilltern: Michael John (V) | <i>Wiawso - (Ghana, West Africa)</i> |
| Tues Dec 12 th | Radyr: Canon Jennifer Wigley (R) | <i>Willochra - South Australia</i> |
| Weds Dec 13 th | Diocesan Board of Nomination: Canon Mike Komor (Sec) | <i>Windward Islands</i> |
| Thurs Dec 14 th | Rectorial Benefice of Whitchurch: Marja Flipse (TV) Peter Motimer (TV) | <i>Loryko, South Sudan</i> |
| Fri Dec 15 th | St. Fagans and Michaelston-super-Ely: Ven. Peggy Jackson (PinC) | <i>Worcester and Winchester</i> |
| Sat Dec 16 th | Tongwynlais: Zoe King (PinC) | <i>Wusasa - (Kaduna, Nigeria)</i> |