

ARCH Group's aim: *"To show our love for God and You"*

Weekly Notices

11th August 2019

Eighth Sunday after Trinity

This Week's Activities

Monday: Stop date for September issue of the ARCH Messenger

Tuesday: 8.30 am NO Tuesday prayers at Harvington

Wednesday: 3.00 pm **CAMEO** tea at St James', Harvington

Saturday: 9.30 am St James' gardening team working in church gardens

Future Activities: August/September

Wednesday 21st 12.30 pm Community lunch at Ellenden Farmshop, Harvington

Thursday 22nd Home communions

8.30 pm **Men's Night at The Golden Cross, Harvington**

Friday 23rd-Monday 26th Beer festival at The Lenches Club, Church Lench

Saturday 24th 9.00 am Benefice prayers at The Rectory, Harvington

Live music evening at The Lenches Club, Church Lench

Monday 26th Family entertainment at The Lenches Club, Church Lench

Sunday 8th 1.00 pm Big Lunch in the gardens of *****, Rous Lench

Monday 9th Stop date for October issue of the ARCH Messenger

7.30 pm Faith Today meeting (*venue tbc*)

8.00 pm South Lenches Parish Council meeting in Church Lench Village Hall

Want to publicise an activity here?

Details of weekly, monthly or one-off activities required

Please use the "Contact Us" page on the website to tell us

Next Week's Services: Sunday 18th August 2019

8.30 am	Church Lench	Holy Communion*
10.00 am	Harvington	Joint service with Harvington Baptist Church
11.00 am	Abbots Morton	Morning Service
6.30 pm	Harvington	Evensong

Today's Collect

Lord God, your Son left the riches of heaven and became poor for our sake: when we prosper save us from pride, when we are needy save us from despair, that we may trust in you alone; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today's Post Communion Prayer

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have taken holy things; may the ears which have heard your word be deaf to clamour and dispute; may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit; may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love shine with the light of hope; and may the bodies which have been fed with your body be refreshed with the fullness of your life; glory to you for ever.

For Prayer

We give thanks for family and friends and neighbours who we have the opportunity to meet during the summertime

We remember those who suffer from loneliness either because of the loss of loved ones or friends or who feel isolated in their communities or even inside relationships

We pray for the farmers and growers and all who work in our agricultural industries at this busy time of year with the threats of a no-deal Brexit ahead

Finally we give thanks for the loving presence of Jesus in our lives and for all the good things we can know today

This Week's First Reading: *Isaiah 1:1, 10-20*

¹The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! ¹¹What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the LORD; I have had enough of burnt-offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats.

¹²When you come to appear before me, who asked this from your hand? Trample my courts no more; ¹³bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation – I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity. ¹⁴Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates; they have become a burden to me, I am weary of bearing them. ¹⁵When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. ¹⁶Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, ¹⁷learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.

¹⁸Come now, let us argue it out, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. ¹⁹If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; ²⁰but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

This Week's Psalm: *Psalm 50:1-7*

- 1 The Lord, the most mighty God, has spoken and called the world from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- 2 Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth; our God comes and will not keep silence.
- 3 Consuming fire goes out before him and a mighty tempest stirs about him.
- 4 He calls the heaven above, and the earth, that he may judge his people:
- 5 **'Gather to me my faithful, who have sealed my covenant with sacrifice.'**
- 6 Let the heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge.
- 7 **Hear, O my people, and I will speak: 'I will testify against you, O Israel; for I am God, your God.'**

This Week's Second Reading: *Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16*

¹Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 continued

has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old – and Sarah herself was barren – because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one person, **and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, ‘as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.’**

¹³All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

This Week’s Gospel Reading: *Luke 12:32-40*

Jesus said to his disciples, ³²**‘Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.’** ³³Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the

Luke 12:32-40 continued

master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.'

Next Week's First Reading: *Isaiah 5:1-7*

¹Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ²He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watch-tower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. ³And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?

⁵And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. ⁶I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

Next Week's Psalm: *Psalm 80:9-20*

9 You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.

Psalm 80:9-20 continued

- 10 You made room around it, and when it had taken root, it filled the land.
- 11 The hills were covered with its shadow and the cedars of God by its boughs.
- 12 It stretched out its branches to the Sea and its tendrils to the River.
- 13 Why then have you broken down its wall, so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?
- 14 The wild boar out of the wood tears it off, and all the insects of the field devour it.
- 15 Turn again, O God of hosts, look down from heaven and behold;
- 16 Cherish this vine which your right hand has planted, and the branch that you made so strong for yourself.
- 17 Let those who burnt it with fire, who cut it down, perish at the rebuke of your countenance.
- 18 Let your hand be upon the man at your right hand, the son of man you made so strong for yourself.
- 19 And so will we not go back from you; give us life, and we shall call upon your name.
- 20 Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Next Week's Second Reading: *Hebrews 11:29-12:2*

²⁹By faith the people of Israel passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned.

³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³²And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets – ³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in

Hebrews 11:29-12:2 continued

war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented – ³⁸of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Next Week's Gospel Reading: *Luke 12:49-56*

Jesus said to his disciples: ⁴⁹**'I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!** ⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵²From now on, five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'⁵⁴ He also said to the crowds, **'When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, "It is going to rain"; and so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, "There will be scorching heat"; and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?**