

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



**Weekly Notices**  
**1<sup>st</sup> December 2024**  
**Advent Sunday**



**Today's Collect**

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Today's Post Communion Prayer**

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**Next Week's Services: Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

9.30 am	Harvington	Holy Communion+
11.00 am	Church Lench	Morning Service
4.00 pm	Abbots Morton	Carol and Gift Service

## **For Prayer**

Heavenly Father, as Advent begins and we turn our minds to preparations for Christmas, we pray especially today for those whose lives have been turned upside down by recent weather events; for those who have lost loved ones in storms and floods; for those who have lost their homes or have been temporarily displaced; and for those whose livelihoods have been destroyed or seriously disrupted.

Lord of light in times of darkness,

**Let there always be hope.**

As we face the challenges of climate change, we pray for all those in charge of our councils and our country, who have difficult decisions to make on the way forward; and we thank you for the hope held out by COP29 – the hope of nations working together to tackle the causes of climate breakdown.

Lord of light in times of darkness,

**Let there always be hope.**

Father, for Christians, the new year begins today, with thoughts of a journey to Bethlehem, and hope in the form of a new baby, Jesus, who would change the world; but we have ahead of us four hectic, challenging weeks. December is a difficult time for many people, but especially for those who are lonely, with no family or friends to gather round the table, and those who are struggling to pay for presents to put under the tree. Many reflect on the past at this time, and become sad because of loved ones lost to them, or situations in life which haven't worked out. May your Church in each community, and we as Christians, be aware of the needs of those around us, and respond with love, holding out hope through friendship and a helping hand. Bless the special efforts made by individual congregations at this time, to be a beacon of hope and Christian love in their communities.

Lord of light in times of darkness,

**Let there always be hope.**

### **For Prayer (continued)**

Lord, we live in times of change and great uncertainty, when faith is challenged and the Church is often found lacking; but in this season when even those who have strayed far from you, or those who have never learned of you, hear about the infant Jesus, may there be a response to the invitation held out by your Church worldwide – an invitation to celebrate the coming of light at the darkest time of the year, and to find hope for the way ahead.

Lord of light in times of darkness,

**Let there always be hope.**

**Our hope is in you. Amen**

### **This Week's First Reading: *Jeremiah 33:14-16***

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

### **This Week's Psalm: *Psalms 25:1-9***

- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame, but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated.

*Psalm 25:1-9 continued*

- 3 Make me to know your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you have I hoped all the day long.
- 5 Remember, Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions, but think on me in your goodness, O Lord, according to your steadfast love.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; therefore shall he teach sinners in the way.
- 8 He will guide the humble in doing right and teach his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

**This Week's Second Reading: *1 Thessalonians 3:9-13***

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

## **This Week's Gospel Reading: *Luke 21:25-36***

Jesus said to his disciples: <sup>25</sup>'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

<sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup>Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, <sup>35</sup>and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

## **Next Week's First Reading: *Malachi 3:1-4***

Thus says the Lord God: <sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

## **Next Week's Cantic: *Benedictus***

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, who has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, born of the house of his servant David.
- 3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,
- 4 To show mercy to our ancestors, and to remember his holy covenant.
- 5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- 6 Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.
- 7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of all their sins.
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

## **Next Week's Second Reading: *Philippians 1:3-11***

My brothers and sisters, <sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup>constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup>because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup>to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup>having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

## **Next Week's Gospel Reading: *Luke 3:1-6***

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. <sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; <sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"