

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

Weekly Notices

2nd June 2024

First Sunday after Trinity

Today's Collect

God of truth, help us to keep your law of love and to walk in ways of wisdom, that we may find true life in Jesus Christ your Son.

Today's Post Communion Prayer

Eternal Father, we thank you for nourishing us with these heavenly gifts: may our communion strengthen us in faith, build us up in hope, and make us grow in love; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Week's Services: Sunday 9th June 2024

9.30 am	Harvington	Holy Communion+
11.00 am	Church Lench	Morning Service
11.00 am	Abbots Morton	Holy Communion+
5.30 pm	Harvington	Songs of Praise

July/August issue of the ARCH Messenger

The stop date for the combined July/August issue of the
ARCH Messenger is **next Monday, 10th June.**

For Prayer

Many countries of the world will have elections this year> We pray for the leaders of the nations, that you will raise up women and men of integrity and peace. We pray for those who serve their country in whatever capacity; may they be people who seek to put the needs of others before themselves. We pray for Christian politicians, that they will not be torn between their faith and their job. Give them courage to speak and act for you and to be an influence for good. We also pray for ourselves, that you will show us how and where we can be influencers for you, Lord. We think of where you have placed us: in our families, our homes and streets, our work or school, our leisure. Help us to bring your wholeness into every situation this week and always.

O Lord, when you call, let us answer: **Speak, Lord, we are listening.**

We pray for our church community and bring before you any pressing needs or concerns.... We pray for the work of this church during the week ahead. Show us where we can be your hands, eyes, ears and voice in our local area. Lord, is there someone or somewhere you particularly want us to go to this week? We pause in silence to listen again for your still, small voice.... Help us to take our love for you out into our streets, shops, schools and businesses this week. We pray that our community will be flooded with your love and glory.

O Lord, when you call, let us answer: **Speak, Lord, we are listening.**

We pray for the young people of our community, particularly those taking exams at the moment. Lord, may there be an air of calm and peace in their hearts and in the exam rooms. Help the revision to go well and the students to do their best. Give wisdom to those who are marking the exam papers. Help parents, teachers and friends to speak words of encouragement and support and may all our young people be safe in the knowledge that they are loved and valued by you no matter what the outcome of their exams.

O Lord, when you call, let us answer: **Speak, Lord, we are listening.**

Finally, Lord, we offer the coming week to you. In the stillness, we picture the places where we are expecting to be and the people we are expecting to be with. Go before us to prepare our way. Smooth the path where there might be friction and ease the path where there might be pain. Help us to be ready for any event that may take up more time or effort than we might have hoped. Help us to see your presence in every situation and to follow where you lead.

O Lord, when you call, let us answer: **Speak, Lord, we are listening.**

Go before us and guide us and help us to follow. Amen.

This Week's First Reading: *Deuteronomy 5:12-15*

The LORD says this: ¹²Observe the sabbath day and keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. ¹³Six days you shall labour and do all your work. ¹⁴But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work - you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you. ¹⁵Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.

This Week's Psalm: *Psalms 81:1-10*

- 1 Sing merrily to God our strength, shout for joy to the God of Jacob.
- 2 Take up the song and sound the timbrel, the tuneful lyre with the harp.
- 3 Blow the trumpet at the new moon, as at the full moon, upon our solemn feast day.
- 4 For this is a statute for Israel, a law of the God of Jacob,
- 5 The charge he laid on the people of Joseph, when they came out of the land of Egypt.
- 6 I heard a voice I did not know, that said: 'I eased their shoulder from the burden; their hands were set free from bearing the load.
- 7 'You called upon me in trouble and I delivered you; I answered you from the secret place of thunder and proved you at the waters of Meribah.

Psalm 81:1-10 continued

- 8 'Hear, O my people, and I will admonish you: O Israel, if you would but listen to me!
- 9 'There shall be no strange god among you; you shall not worship a foreign god.
- 10 'I am the Lord your God, who brought you up from the land of Egypt; open your mouth wide and I shall fill it.'

This Week's Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:5-12

⁵We do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

⁷But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. ⁸We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. ¹¹For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh.

¹²So death is at work in us, but life in you.

This Week's Gospel Reading: *Mark 2:23-3:6*

²³One sabbath Jesus was going through the cornfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. ²⁴The Pharisees said to him, 'Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?' ²⁵And he said to them, 'Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? ²⁶He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions.' ²⁷Then he said to them, 'The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; ²⁸so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath.'

¹Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. ²They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. ³And he said to the man who had the withered hand, 'Come forward.' ⁴Then he said to them, 'Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?' But they were silent. ⁵He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. ⁶The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

Next Week's First Reading: *Genesis 3:8-15*

⁸They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' ¹⁰He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' ¹¹He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' ¹²The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' ¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.'

Next Week's Psalm: *Psalms 130:1-7*

- 1 Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice; let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
- 2 If you, Lord, were to mark what is done amiss, O Lord, who could stand?
- 3 But there is forgiveness with you, so that you shall be feared.
- 4 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; in his word is my hope.
- 5 My soul waits for the Lord, more than the night watch for the morning, more than the night watch for the morning.
- 6 O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy;
- 7 With him is plenteous redemption and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

Next Week's Second Reading: *2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1*

¹³Just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture – ‘I believed, and so I spoke’ – we also believe, and so we speak, ¹⁴because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence.

¹⁵Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

¹⁶So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, ¹⁸because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

¹For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Next Week's Gospel Reading: *Mark 3:20-35*

²⁰The crowd came together again, so that Jesus and his companions could not even eat. ²¹When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, ‘He has gone out of his mind.’ ²²And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, ‘He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.’ ²³And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, ‘How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. ²⁷But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

²⁸Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; ²⁹but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin’ – ³⁰for they had said, ‘He has an unclean spirit.’

Mark 3:20-35 continued

³¹Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. ³²A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, 'Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.' ³³And he replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' ³⁴And looking at those who sat around him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.'