

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

Weekly Notices

8th September 2024

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Today's Collect

Lord God, defend your Church from all false teaching and give to your people knowledge of your truth, that we may enjoy eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today's Post Communion Prayer

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Week's Services: Sunday 15th September 2024

8.30 am	Church Lench	Holy Communion*
11.00 am	Rous Lench	Morning Service
11.00 am	Abbots Morton	Morning Service
6.00 pm	Harvington	Thanksgiving Service

October issue of the *ARCH Messenger*

The stop date for the October issue of the *ARCH Messenger* is **tomorrow, Monday 9th September.**

For Prayer

God of harmony, we pray for peace throughout the world. We think of the Ukrainians after all they have suffered and for the residents of Gaza living in fear. We ask that you will give them comfort and strength. It is hard for us to pray for the aggressors in these conflicts but we commend them to you with all their needs and apprehensions.

Give us the courage and discernment

Not to take sides in our prayers.

God of compassion, we pray for the government and all members of parliament as they make decisions about the economy of our country. At times we will rejoice; at times we will be angry. May decision-makers, those in authority and those whose role is opposition be guided and inspired by compassion and the general good.

Give us the courage and discernment

Not to take sides in our prayers.

God of healing, we pray for those who are waiting for tests or results; for families and friends who are anxious. We think of those who will receive bad news this week and those who have to deliver bad news. We commend to you all who are ill at home and in hospital and those who look after them. Give wisdom and discernment to those who make management decisions.

Give us the courage and discernment

Not to take sides in our prayers.

God present with and within us, we pray for ourselves especially concerning any decisions we have to make this week. Grant us wisdom that we may exercise good judgment. Grant us equity in all that we say and help us to ensure that our thoughts and attitudes are not biased. May we show fairness in all our relationships and interactions.

Give us the courage and discernment

Not to take sides in our prayers.

We ask that in the name of the one who loves all with the same boundless, immeasurable love.

Amen

This Week's First Reading: *Isaiah 35:4-7a*

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

This Week's Psalm: *Psalms 146:1-10*

- 1 Alleluia. Praise the Lord, O my soul: while I live will I praise the Lord; as long as I have any being, I will sing praises to my God.
- 2 Put not your trust in princes, nor in any human power, for there is no help in them.
- 3 When their breath goes forth, they return to the earth; on that day all their thoughts perish.
- 4 Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the Lord their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them; who keeps his promise for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those that suffer wrong and bread to those who hunger.
- 7 The Lord looses those that are bound; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;
- 8 The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous;

Psalm 146:1-10 continued

- 9 The Lord watches over the stranger in the land; he upholds the orphan and widow; but the way of the wicked he turns upside down.
- 10 The Lord shall reign for ever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Alleluia.

This Week's Second Reading: *James 2:1-17*

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please,' while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there,' or, 'Sit at my feet,' ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. ¹¹For the one who said, 'You shall not commit adultery,' also said, 'You

James 2:1-17 continued

shall not murder.’ Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgement will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgement.

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,’ and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?

¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

This Week’s Gospel Reading: *Mark 7:24-37*

²⁴Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, ‘Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.’ ²⁸But she answered him, ‘Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.’ ²⁹Then he said to her, ‘For saying that, you may go – the demon has left your daughter.’ ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the

Mark 7:24-37 continued

Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, ‘Ephphatha,’ that is, ‘Be opened.’ ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, ‘He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.’

Next Week’s First Reading: *Isaiah 50:4-9a*

The servant of the LORD said: ⁴The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens – wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ⁹It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

Next Week's Psalm: *Psalm 116:1-8*

- 1 I love the Lord, for he has heard the voice of my supplication; because he inclined his ear to me on the day I called to him.
- 2 The snares of death encompassed me; the pains of hell took hold of me; by grief and sorrow was I held.
- 3 Then I called upon the name of the Lord: 'O Lord, I beg you, deliver my soul.'
- 4 Gracious is the Lord and righteous; our God is full of compassion.
- 5 The Lord watches over the simple; I was brought very low and he saved me.
- 6 Turn again to your rest, O my soul, for the Lord has been gracious to you.
- 7 For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears and my feet from falling.
- 8 I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

Next Week's Second Reading: *James 3:1-12*

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle.

³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue - a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in

James 3:1-12 continued

the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Next Week's Gospel Reading: *Mark 8:27-38*

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' ²⁸And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' ²⁹Jesus asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.' ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'