

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

Weekly Notices

15th September 2024

Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

Today's Collect

Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us: open our eyes to your wonders, that we may serve you with reverence and know your peace at our lives' end, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today's Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Week's Services: Sunday 22nd September 2024

| | | |
|----------|---------------|----------------------|
| 9.30 am | Harvington | Holy Communion+ |
| 11.00 am | Abbots Morton | Morning Service |
| 11.00 am | Church Lench | Thanksgiving Service |
| 3.30 pm | Harvington VH | Messy Church |

*Please remember **Caring Hands** while you're shopping and add an extra item or two to your basket. They need toiletries and toilet rolls, tins and dried goods, and items that can be cooked via a kettle, single-ring hob or microwave.*

For Prayer

Loving Lord, the challenge of climate change seems so great. We read of nations and businesses polluting our world and damaging the planet. We hope that the earth may be saved but the magnitude of the task seems more than we can even face, let alone accomplish. Show us that how we live and what we do plays a part in conserving our world for future generations. May our actions and words

Bring life changing grace.

Loving Lord as more and more people join the queues at food banks; as patients wait on trolleys for hospital beds to become available; as people fear the cost of fuel to keep their homes warm as winter approaches; we feel helpless and look on in dismay. We fear for the future of our country and the plight of those living in poverty. Teach us that if our lives are shaped by kingdom values our country will become a better place May our actions and words

Bring life changing grace.

Loving Lord at times we look on and weep as we hear of those suffering from pain and disease, disability and discomfort. We pray for those who watch and wait as their loved ones suffer. We hope to offer comfort but the words won't come; we want to show we care but we don't know what to say. Help us to know when to be silent and when to speak. Give us the words that will help and reassure and show that however alone and unloved they feel, God is with them and his love will embrace them. May our actions and words

Bring life changing grace.

We remember all those who grieve. We commend to you those who lost loved ones in the Grenfell Tower fire. Sometimes we just don't know what action we should take or what we should say to them. Help us to live out the truth of Jesus's promise that those who mourn will be comforted. May our actions and words

Bring life changing grace.

Loving God, teach us, guide us, show us that our actions and speech have power to bring life-changing harm or grace. We pray in the name of Jesus who changed and changes our world. **Amen**

This 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.

This Week's Psalm: *Psalms 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.

Psalm 116:1-8 continued

- 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.

This 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 the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not

James 3:1-12 continued

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.

This 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

Mark 8:27-38 continued

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.'

Next Week's First Reading: *Jeremiah 11:18-20*

¹⁸It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds. ¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying, 'Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!' ²⁰But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

Next Week's Psalm: *Psalms 54:1-7*

- 1 Save me, O God, by your name and vindicate me by your power.
- 2 Hear my prayer, O God; give heed to the words of my mouth.
- 3 For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless seek after my life; they have not set God before them.
- 4 Behold, God is my helper; it is the Lord who upholds my life.
- 5 May evil rebound on those who lie in wait for me; destroy them in your faithfulness.
- 6 An offering of a free heart will I give you and praise your name, O Lord, for it is gracious.
- 7 For he has delivered me out of all my trouble, and my eye has seen the downfall of my enemies.

Next Week's Second Reading: *James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a*

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. ¹Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Next Week's Gospel Reading: *Mark 9:30-37*

After leaving the mountain ³⁰Jesus and his disciples went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, 'The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.' ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. ³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'