

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

Weekly Notices

19th January 2025

Second Sunday of Epiphany

Today's Collect

Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today's Post Communion Prayer

God of glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life: fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Week's Services: Sunday 26th January 2025

9.30 am	Harvington	Holy Communion+
11.00 am	Abbots Morton	Christingle
11.00 am	Church Lench	Family Service
3.30 pm	Harvington	Messy Church
6.00 pm	Harvington	Thanksgiving Service

*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.*

Remember to visit our website to keep up to date on church and local activities. So if you have lost your copy of the *ARCH Messenger*, or need to check on weekly notices then visit: www.archbenefice.org.uk

For Prayer

For the places where you are already at work to bring transformation in people's lives. For the sharing of many gifts to build up our church communities. For the surprise of promises fulfilled beyond what we imagined. For the signs of your glory in the ordinary things of life

Give us thankful hearts and hear our prayers.

For the amazing beauty of creation and the fantastic abundance of living things. For recognition of our dependence on nature and for the work needed to protect the delicate balance of ecosystems. For flowers, fauna and fish; for animals and birds; reptiles and insects and all creatures in all their diversity and uniqueness.

For the signs of your glory in the ordinary things of life

Give us thankful hearts and hear our prayers.

For the lost and lonely; for the sick; the disturbed and the despairing; that all will know your light and your life. For ourselves, that our longing to see the kingdom you promise would lead us to action. For the bright hope of a world where all find safety, home and security, and for renewed commitment to bring it closer to reality.

For the signs of your glory in the ordinary things of life

Give us thankful hearts and hear our prayers.

For people who pour out their love or place themselves in danger to make our lives better. For the people we know whose gifts quietly transform lives and serve the need in our communities. For the dreamers, poets, protesters and prophets of our world and their challenge to us to live more faithfully and generously for you.

For the signs of your glory in the ordinary things of life

Give us thankful hearts and hear our prayers.

For fragile signs of peace in the Middle East amongst old hatreds and years of mistrust. For all delicate negotiations that build bridges between communities and make peace possible; and for the ability to resolve conflict and live in peace where we are. For the persistence of hope in the midst of devastation and for the renewal of the fire-scorched, war-torn and famine-ravaged areas of our world.

For the signs of your glory in the ordinary things of life

All: Give us thankful hearts and hear our prayers.

For Prayer (continued)

For moments of beauty that fill us with gratitude and hope, and for the first snowdrop of spring in the midst of frozen earth. For life that pushes its way into the light in spite of the struggle. For signs of growth in our communities and for people who encourage us in our day-to-day faith.

For the signs of your glory in the ordinary things of life

Give us thankful hearts and hear our prayers.

For the feast of love to which all are invited and the taste of your goodness in the here and now. For the water of life you offer us and the promise that you will satisfy our thirst. For your love that calls us daily and fills our hands with more gifts than we can hold.

For the signs of your glory in the ordinary things of life

Give us thankful hearts and hear our prayers.

This Week's First Reading: *Isaiah 62:1-5*

¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give.

³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. ⁴You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married. ⁵For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

This Week's Psalm: *Psalm 36:5-10*

- 5 Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens and your faithfulness to the clouds.
- 6 Your righteousness stands like the strong mountains, your justice like the great deep; you, Lord, shall save both man and beast.
- 7 How precious is your loving mercy, O God! All mortal flesh shall take refuge under the shadow of your wings.
- 8 They shall be satisfied with the abundance of your house; they shall drink from the river of your delights.
- 9 For with you is the well of life and in your light shall we see light.
- 10 O continue your loving-kindness to those who know you and your righteousness to those who are true of heart.

This Week's Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 12:1-11*

¹Concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. ³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit. ⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith

1 Corinthians 12:1-13 continued

by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

This Week's Gospel Reading: *John 2:1-11*

¹On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' ⁴And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' ⁵His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' ⁶Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. ⁹When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, ¹⁰'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' ¹¹Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Next Week's First Reading: *Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10*

¹All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ²Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen,' lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

⁸So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.'

Next Week's Psalm: *Psalms 19:1-6*

- 1 The heavens are telling the glory of God and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
- 2 One day pours out its song to another and one night unfolds knowledge to another.
- 3 They have neither speech nor language and their voices are not heard,
- 4 Yet their sound has gone out into all lands and their words to the ends of the world.

Psalm 19:1-6 continued

- 5 In them has he set a tabernacle for the sun, that comes forth as a bridegroom out of his chamber and rejoices as a champion to run his course.
- 6 It goes forth from the end of the heavens and runs to the very end again, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

Next Week's Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

¹²Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot would say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear would say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' ²²On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, ²⁵that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a continued

teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹But strive for the greater gifts.

Next Week's Gospel Reading: *Luke 4:14-21*

¹⁴Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'