

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

**Weekly Notices**

**22<sup>nd</sup> June 2025**

**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 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025: Lenches Flower Festival**

9.30 am	Harvington	Holy Communion+
11.00 am	Abbots Morton	Flower Festival Morning Service
11.00 am	Church Lench	Flower Festival Holy Communion+
6.30 pm	Rous Lench	Flower Festival Songs of Praise

*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**

Lord Jesus, as we reflect on our Bible reading today, remembering that we are all one in Christ, we think about what this means. In our individual congregations, we pray for the humility to remember always that we are all equal in your sight. Nothing makes one of us any better than our neighbour.

**Lord, we are all one in you.**

We pray for the many branches of your Church, worshipping you in different ways; may there be a spirit of unity among us, for we serve the same God.

**Lord, we are all one in you.**

We are only human, Lord, and we often make divisions of the differences between us, building barriers where none should exist. We pray that you will help us all to change for the better, to build bridges and recognise the equal validity of each one of us.

**Lord, we are all one in you. Amen**

Heavenly Father, we bring before you the worsening situation in the cradle of our faith, the Middle East, where nations and religions continue to collide and bring devastation to so many. We pray for all those caught up in the conflict through no choice of their own; for innocent civilians losing loved ones, homes and livelihoods. We pray for peace, in the Middle East and Ukraine, and wherever else in the world war is being waged as we speak; please influence the hearts and minds of leaders of nations, to work for an end to warfare, and a lasting peace.

Lord, we think of the wild weather which has battered some of our communities recently, and the soaring temperatures of this week which are not good news for the frail and vulnerable, and we pray for our planet as we face the consequences of climate change. May each one of us as individuals continue to think about how we live, and what we might do to help save the wonderful world you have given us.

Lord, we pray for all those known to us who are sick in body, mind, or both; we pray for your healing touch to be upon them. We pray also for the newly bereaved, that you will give them strength in their journey of grieving. For ourselves we pray also, that whatever our troubles may be, we will be able to cast them on you, for you are our companion on the way.

**Amen**

## **This Week's First Reading: *1 Kings 19:1-15a***

<sup>1</sup>Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. <sup>2</sup>Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, 'So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.'

<sup>3</sup>Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there.

<sup>4</sup>But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: 'It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.' <sup>5</sup>Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, 'Get up and eat.' <sup>6</sup>He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again.

<sup>7</sup>The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, 'Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.'

<sup>8</sup>He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. <sup>9</sup>At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' <sup>10</sup>He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.'

<sup>11</sup>He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; <sup>12</sup>and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. <sup>13</sup>When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the

## *1 Kings 19:1-15a continued*

entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' <sup>14</sup>He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.' <sup>15</sup>Then the LORD said to him, 'Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram.'

## **This Week's Psalm: *Psalm 42:1-14***

- 1 As the deer longs for the water brooks, so longs my soul for you, O God.
- 2 My soul is athirst for God, even for the living God; when shall I come before the presence of God?
- 3 My tears have been my bread day and night, while all day long they say to me, 'Where is now your God?'
- 4 Now when I think on these things, I pour out my soul: how I went with the multitude and led the procession to the house of God,
- 5 With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, among those who kept holy day.
- 6 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul, and why are you so disquieted within me?
- 7 O put your trust in God; for I will yet give him thanks, who is the help of my countenance, and my God.
- 8 My soul is heavy within me; therefore I will remember you from the land of Jordan, and from Hermon and the hill of Mizar.

## *Psalm 42:1-14 continued*

- 9 Deep calls to deep in the thunder of your waterfalls; all your breakers and waves have gone over me.
- 10 The Lord will grant his loving-kindness in the daytime; through the night his song will be with me, a prayer to the God of my life.
- 11 I say to God my rock, 'Why have you forgotten me? and why go I so heavily, while the enemy oppresses me?'
- 12 As they crush my bones, my enemies mock me; while all day long they say to me, 'Where is now your God?'
- 13 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? and why are you so disquieted within me?
- 14 O put your trust in God; for I will yet give him thanks, who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

## **This Week's Second Reading: *Galatians 3:23-29***

<sup>23</sup>Before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. <sup>24</sup>Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup>But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, <sup>26</sup>for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. <sup>27</sup>As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ; <sup>28</sup>There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup>And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

## **This Week's Gospel Reading: *Luke 8:26-39***

<sup>26</sup>Jesus and his disciples arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. <sup>27</sup>As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. <sup>28</sup>When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, 'What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me' – <sup>29</sup>for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) <sup>30</sup>Jesus then asked him, 'What is your name?' He said, 'Legion'; for many demons had entered him. <sup>31</sup>They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

<sup>32</sup>Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. <sup>33</sup>Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. <sup>34</sup>When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. <sup>35</sup>Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. <sup>36</sup>Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. <sup>37</sup>Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. <sup>38</sup>The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, <sup>39</sup>'Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.' So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

## **Next Week's First Reading: *Acts 12:1-11***

<sup>1</sup>King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. <sup>2</sup>He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. <sup>3</sup>After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.) <sup>4</sup>When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. <sup>5</sup>While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him. <sup>6</sup>The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. <sup>7</sup>Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, 'Get up quickly.' And the chains fell off his wrists. <sup>8</sup>The angel said to him, 'Fasten your belt and put on your sandals.' He did so. Then he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.' <sup>9</sup>Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. <sup>10</sup>After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. <sup>11</sup>Then Peter came to himself and said, 'Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.'

## **Next Week's Psalm: *Psalms 125:1-5***

- 1 Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but stands fast for ever.
- 2 As the hills stand about Jerusalem, so the Lord stands round about his people, from this time forth for evermore.
- 3 The sceptre of wickedness shall not hold sway over the land allotted to the righteous, lest the righteous turn their hands to evil.
- 4 Do good, O Lord, to those who are good, and to those who are true of heart.

## *Psalm 25:1-5 continued*

5 Those who turn aside to crooked ways the Lord shall take away with the evildoers; but let there be peace upon Israel.

## **Next Week's Second Reading: *1 Peter 2:19-25***

Brothers and sisters: <sup>19</sup>It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup>If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. <sup>21</sup>For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup>'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.' <sup>23</sup>When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup>For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

## **Next Week's Gospel Reading: *Matthew 16:13-19***

<sup>13</sup>When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' <sup>14</sup>And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' <sup>15</sup>He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'