

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

Weekly Notices

23rd June 2024

Fourth Sunday after Trinity

Today's Collect

Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus you brought salvation to our wayward world: draw us into harmony with your will, that we may find all things restored in him, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Today's Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken, you have fed us at the table of life and hope: teach us the ways of gentleness and peace, that all the world may acknowledge the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Week's Services

Sunday 30th June 2024: 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 God as we come to you in the stillness, help us to focus on you. Keep our minds firmly fixed on what YOU can do, not on our own strength. As we pray for the week ahead, give us the confidence to know that you go before us into every situation. Help us to remember that your strength is so much greater than ours and you offer it to us freely. Give us the humility to ask for your courage and strength rather than seeking to do things our way.

Lord, our confidence is in you: **Help us to step out in faith.**

Lord, we think about the battles we have to face in the week ahead. We know there will be giants and storms along the way, and we ask you to give us trust. To know that you are holding all things together. Give us the courage to believe that, even though storms may seem to be raging, you are in control.

Lord, our confidence is in you: **Help us to step out in faith.**

Lord, at the end of refugee week, we pray for justice. We cry out to you for all the situations in our world that are causing people to leave their homes and seek sanctuary elsewhere. We pray for those who are trafficked; for those who are abused; for those who are in forced marriages; those who have no hope but to try and find safety in a culture so far from their own. Give the leaders of the nations compassion as they see the refugee crisis developing. Help them to look through the lens of your love and seek caring solutions that bring lasting security for all whose lives are in turmoil.

Lord, our confidence is in you: **Help us to step out in faith.**

Finally, Lord, we turn to the week ahead. There may be so much we know about what will happen and who we will meet. There may also be so little... Help us to go into every situation equipped not with our armour, but with yours. Show us the gifts you have given us to use... Teach us to look to you for strength and courage rather than trying to solve our own problems. Still our storms with your peace and help us to keep our eyes fixed firmly on you.

Lord, our confidence is in you:

Help us to step out in faith. Lead us forward in your strength. Go before us and shine your light. Help us to be people of confidence in you and you alone. Amen.

This Week's First Reading: *Genesis 1:1-2:3*

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' ⁷So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights – the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night – and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' ²¹So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of

Genesis 1:1-2:3 continued

every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. ²⁵God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' ²⁷So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.'

²⁹God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food.' ³⁰And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. ³¹God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

¹Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude.

²And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

This Week's Psalm: *Psalm 104:1-15, 31-34*

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!
- 2 You are clothed with majesty and honour, wrapped in light as in a garment.
- 3 You spread out the heavens like a curtain and lay the beams of your dwelling place in the waters above.
- 4 You make the clouds your chariot and ride on the wings of the wind.
- 5 You make the winds your messengers and flames of fire your servants.
- 6 You laid the foundations of the earth, that it never should move at any time.
- 7 You covered it with the deep like a garment; the waters stood high above the hills.
- 8 At your rebuke they fled; at the voice of your thunder they hastened away.
- 9 They rose up to the hills and flowed down to the valleys beneath, to the place which you had appointed for them.
- 10 You have set them their bounds that they should not pass, nor turn again to cover the earth.
- 11 You send the springs into the brooks, which run among the hills.
- 12 They give drink to every beast of the field, and the wild asses quench their thirst.
- 13 Beside them the birds of the air make their nests and sing among the branches.
- 14 You water the hills from your dwelling on high; the earth is filled with the fruit of your works.
- 15 You make grass to grow for the cattle and plants to meet our needs,
- 31 When you hide your face they are troubled; when you take away their breath, they die and return again to the dust.
- 32 When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.

Psalm 104:1-15, 31-34 continued

- 33 May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; may the Lord rejoice in his works;
- 34 He looks on the earth and it trembles; he touches the mountains and they smoke.

This Week's Second Reading: *Philippians 4:4-9*

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

This Week's Gospel Reading: *Matthew 6:25-34*

Jesus taught his disciples, saying: ²⁵Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you— you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry,

Matthew 6:25-34 continued

saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

³⁴So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.’

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

¹King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. ²He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. ³After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.) ⁴When 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. ⁵While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him.

⁶The 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. ⁷Suddenly 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. ⁸The 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.’ ⁹Peter 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. ¹⁰After 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. ¹¹Then 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.

Psalm 125:1-5 continued

- 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.
- 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: ¹⁹It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If 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. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. ²²'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.' ²³When 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. ²⁴He 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. ²⁵For 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

¹³When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' ¹⁴And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' ¹⁵He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' ¹⁷And 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. ¹⁸And 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. ¹⁹I 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.'