

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

Weekly Notices
23rd March 2025
Third Sunday of Lent

Today's Collect

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today's Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Week's Services

Sunday 30th March 2025: Mothering Sunday

9.30 am	Harvington	Mothering Sunday Family Service
11.00 am	Abbots Morton	Mothering Sunday Morning Service
11.00 am	Church Lench	Mothering Sunday Communion+
11.00 am	Rous Lench	Mothering Sunday Morning Service

Mothering Sunday

A day for Mothers – BUT ALSO why not God Parents?

A day to spoil Mothers BUT also let's invite and spend time with God Parents. So get in touch with God Parents and bring them to the service to acknowledge them and all that they do too.

We look forward to celebrating all those who play a part in our lives – as children and adults too.

For Prayer

Lord, we come to you admitting our weakness and failure. Thank you for giving us the chance to turn around and start afresh with you. Indeed, Lord, you are the God of second chances and we know, in our lifetimes, you have been the God of third and fourth chances, forgiving and restoring us a countless number of times. We are profoundly grateful. We know that without you, we would have no hope and yet, because of your love, we remain your children – even if rather wayward children at times. Lord, we choose to turn back to you.

Help us to start afresh: renewed and restored.

Lord, we think about the times this week when we have wandered away from you; and the times when we have determinedly gone in unwise and selfish directions. Yet you still desire to bring us back. We ponder those moments when we have found ourselves safely back with you. What was it that brought us there? A word of encouragement from a friend? A sign of love from our family? Verses from Scripture that challenged and enabled? Something beautiful that we saw or heard that reminded us of you? Lord, whatever or whoever you used to bring us back, we thank you. Help us to remember those joyful moments of reconciliation so that we are less inclined to wander away again. Lord, we choose to turn back to you.

Help us to start afresh: renewed and restored.

Lord, we bring to you all those we know who are suffering for. We pray for those who are sick... those who are sad... those who have had a difficult diagnosis and don't know what will happen next... the confused and anxious... Lord, you care about each and every situation we face – we do not have to go it alone. We ask that you will bring your peace into each situation we have just prayed for. May there be restoration and healing and renewal of hope no matter how hard everything may seem. Lord, we choose to turn back to you.

Help us to start afresh: renewed and restored.

Lord, as we go forward into the new week, may we go from here restored and refreshed by having spent time with you. Send us out, filled with your love, to be peacemakers and forgivers. Help us to see you in the eyes of everyone we meet this week and to serve them as if it is you we are serving. Give us a new strength and determination to follow your way no matter how hard, challenging, or glorious it is! Lord, we choose to turn back to you.

Help us to start afresh: renewed and restored. Amen

This Week's First Reading: *Isaiah 55:1-9*

The LORD says this: ¹Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. ⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The Murder of Evesham

A presentation on the Battle of Evesham and its consequence on the town

Saturday 29th March, 2.00-3.30 pm at St James' Church, Harvington

Speakers: Mick Hurst and Ian Priest (re-enactor)

Including: Knights in full armour, and perhaps a fight

Tickets £5 including refreshments, available at the door and
via Battle of Evesham website shop

Proceeds shared between St James', Harvington and Battle of Evesham Trust

This Week's Psalm: *Psalm 63:1-9*

- 1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul is athirst for you.
- 2 My flesh also faints for you, as in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.
- 3 So would I gaze upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.
- 4 Your loving-kindness is better than life itself and so my lips shall praise you.
- 5 I will bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.
- 6 My soul shall be satisfied, as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise you with joyful lips,
- 7 When I remember you upon my bed and meditate on you in the watches of the night.
- 8 For you have been my helper and under the shadow of your wings will I rejoice.
- 9 My soul clings to you; your right hand shall hold me fast.

This Week's Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 10:1-13*

¹I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

1 Corinthians 10:1-13 continued

⁶Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.' ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹²So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

This Week's Gospel Reading: *Luke 13:1-9*

¹There were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?' ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them - do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.' ⁶Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his

Luke 13:1-9 continued

vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" ⁸He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."

Next Week's First Reading: *Exodus 2:1-10*

¹A man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. ³When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. ⁵The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. ⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?'

⁸Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because,' she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

Next Week's Psalm: *Psalm 34:11-20*

- 11 Come, my children, and listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
- 12 Who is there who delights in life and longs for days to enjoy good things?
- 13 Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from lying words.
- 14 Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.
- 15 The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous and his ears are open to their cry.
- 16 The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.
- 17 The righteous cry and the Lord hears them and delivers them out of all their troubles.
- 18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and will save those who are crushed in spirit.
- 19 Many are the troubles of the righteous; from them all will the Lord deliver them.
- 20 He keeps all their bones, so that not one of them is broken.

Next Week's Second Reading: *2 Corinthians 1:3-7*

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, ⁴who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. ⁵For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. ⁶If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering. ⁷Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

Next Week's Gospel Reading: *Luke 2:33-35*

³³The child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about Jesus. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'