

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

Sunday 30th November Advent Sunday

Today's Collect

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Today's Post Communion

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Week Services: Sunday 7th December

(9:30am- 3 rd Dec	Harvington	School Carols)
08:30am	Rous Lench Village Hall	Holy Communion
09:30am	Harvington	Morning Worship
11:00am	Church Lench	Holy Communion
6:00pm	Harvington	Holy Communion

Please don't forget to donate to **Helping Hands** which will help support people in need during the winter season.

Prayer of Intercession

Everlasting God, as we come before you at the start of the Season of Advent, we ask you to prepare us for the coming, of your son Jesus Christ and to hear us when we pray in faith for the needs of the Church and the world and to thank you for your goodness. Give us a sense of expectation as we come and inspiration as we go.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Lord God help to make a just and gentle rule throughout the world especially where there is conflict: where peace seems so far away and so many have lost everything, even the faint hope of a peaceful future. Govern the hearts and minds of all world leaders and those in authority that they may act justly, honestly, and according to your will.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Father God, we pray for those amongst our families, friends and neighbours who will only see in Advent a hectic and worrying run-up to the excesses of a secular Christmas. Help us as we try to set an example of a true spirit of preparation for that incredibly precious gift of the Christ child.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Lord we bring to you those who worry about money and expectation, those who struggle and who's fight is in the dark. Be with them as we walk in the light of your birth and allow everyone to bask in the joy of your kingdom.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

This Week's First Reading: *Isaiah 2.1-5.*

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ² In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³ Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴ He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

This Week's Psalm: *Psalms 122.*

1. I was glad when they said to me,
'Let us go to the house of the LORD!'
2. Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.
3. Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together.
4. To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,
as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of
the LORD.
5. For there the thrones for judgement were set up,

Continued: *Psalms 122,*

the thrones of the house of David.

6. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

‘May they prosper who love you.

7. Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.’

8. For the sake of my relatives and friends

I will say, ‘Peace be within you.’

9. For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,

I will seek your good.

This Week’s Second Reading: *Romans 13.11-end.*

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; ¹³ let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

This Week's Gospel Reading: *Mathew 24.36-44.*

³⁶ 'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.

⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

Next weeks first reading: *Isaiah 11.1-10.*

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide

Continued Gospel Reading: *Luke 23.33-43.*

equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie

down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all

my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse

shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Next week's Psalm: *Psalm 72.1-7,18,19.*

1. Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.
2. May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.
3. May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
4. May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.
5. May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
6. May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.

Next Week's Psalm continued: *Psalm 72.1-7,18,19.*

7. In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.
18. Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.
19. Blessed be his glorious name for ever;
may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen.

Next Week's Second Reading: *Romans 15.4-13.*

⁴ For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gospel for Jews and Gentiles Alike

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹ and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name';¹⁰ and again he says,

'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people'; ¹¹ and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him'; ¹² and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.' May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Next Week's Gospel Reading: *Luke 23.33-43.*

3 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,² 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.⁵ Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?'⁸ Bear fruit worthy of repentance.⁹ Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.¹⁰ Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.¹² His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'