

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

Weekly Notices

16th July 2017

Fifth Sunday after Trinity

The Reverend Richard Thorniley is now *The Reverend Canon Richard Thorniley* – a title that comes from being an Honorary Canon at Worcester Cathedral. The actual licensing is taking place at 5.00 pm on Saturday 23rd September at the Cathedral.

Honorary Canons form a link between the diocese and the Cathedral. There are 17 clerical representatives which are in the gift of the Bishop. As an honorary appointment, this will have little effect on his role within the benefice – but it does come **with a seat (a 'stall') in the Cathedral, and a fancy title.**

This Week's Activities

Sunday: 1.00 pm FRAME festival at the Lenches Sports Club

Monday: 2.30 pm Harvington pastoral support team meeting

7.30 pm Harvington Handbell Ringers rehearsing in school hall
Lenches WI garden party

Tuesday: 8.30 am Prayers at Church Lench

Thursday: Home communions

8.30 pm **Men's Night at the "Wheelbarrow Castle," Radford**

Saturday: 9.00 am Benefice prayers at The Rectory, Harvington

4.00 pm **RBL garden party at "*****," Rous Lench**

Future Activities: July/August

Tuesday 25th - Thursday 27th Holiday club at Harvington First School

Wednesday 2nd 10.30 am Lenches WI book club

11.00 am **RBL meeting at the "Wheelbarrow Castle," Radford**

Next Week's Services: Sunday 23rd July 2017

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| 8.30 am | Abbots Morton | Holy Communion* |
| 9.30 am | Harvington | Holy Communion+ |
| 11.00 am | Church Lench | Holy Baptism and Communion+ |
| 6.30 pm | Harvington | Evensong |

Today's Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

For Prayer

Prayer leaflet available to make it a daily prayer

Pray for those working for the NHS as they try to provide good outcomes for all while feeling under financial and patient pressure

Pray for Syria and all the nations involved in their civil war,
and for a just peace to be achieved

Pray for everyone in our schools: pupils, teachers, governors and all other staff as they come to the end of another academic year

Pray for our forthcoming holiday club, that the preparations will go well and that we will get good weather and a good team of helpers

Want to publicise an activity here?

Please use the "Contact Us" page on the website to tell us

This Week's First Reading: *Genesis 25:19-34*

¹⁹These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, ²⁰and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. ²¹Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. ²²The children struggled together within her; and she said, 'If it is to be this way, why do I live?' So she went to inquire of the LORD. ²³And the LORD said to her, 'Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger.' ²⁴When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. ²⁵The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. ²⁶Afterwards his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

²⁷When the boys grew up, Esau was a skilful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. ²⁸Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

²⁹Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. ³⁰Esau said to Jacob, 'Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!' (Therefore he was called Edom.) ³¹Jacob said, 'First sell me your birthright.' ³²Esau said, 'I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?' ³³Jacob said, 'Swear to me first.' So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob.

³⁴Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

This Week's Psalm: *Psalms 119:105-112*

105 Your word is a lantern to my feet and a light upon my path.

106 I have sworn and will fulfil it, to keep your righteous judgements.

Psalm 119:105-112 continued

- 107 I am troubled above measure; give me life, O Lord, according to your word.
- 108 Accept the freewill offering of my mouth, O Lord, and teach me your judgements.
- 109 My soul is ever in my hand, yet I do not forget your law.
- 110 The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I have not strayed from your commandments.
- 111 Your testimonies have I claimed as my heritage for ever; for they are the very joy of my heart.
- 112 I have applied my heart to fulfil your statutes: always, even to the end.

This Week's Second Reading: *Romans 8:1-11*

¹There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to **God; it does not submit to God's law** – indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ

Romans 8:1-11 continued

does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

This Week's Gospel Reading: *Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23*

¹Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them **many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow.** ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!
¹⁸Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 continued

who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

Next Week's First Reading: *Genesis 28:10-19a*

¹⁰Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran. ¹¹He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. ¹²And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³**And the LORD stood beside him and said, 'I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; ¹⁴and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. ¹⁵Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.'** ¹⁶**Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the LORD is in this place – and I did not know it!'** ¹⁷And he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'

¹⁸So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ¹⁹He called that place Bethel.

Next Week's Psalm: *Psalms 139:1-11*

- 1 O Lord, you have searched me out and known me; you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You mark out my journeys and my resting place and are acquainted with all my ways.

- 3 For there is not a word on my tongue, but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
- 4 You encompass me behind and before and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, so high that I cannot attain it.
- 6 Where can I go then from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?
- 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- 8 If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 9 Even there your hand shall lead me, your right hand hold me fast.
- 10 **If I say, 'Surely the darkness will cover me and the light around me turn to night,'**
- 11 Even darkness is no darkness with you; the night is as clear as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike.

Next **Week's Second Reading:** *Romans 8:12-25*

¹²Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh - ¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a **spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!'** ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ – if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves,

Romans 8:12-25 continued

who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Next Week's Gospel Reading:

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-42

²⁴**Jesus put before the crowd another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?" ²⁸He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" ²⁹But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but **gather the wheat into my barn."****

³⁶Then Jesus left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples **approached him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.'** ³⁷He answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears **listen!**'