

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

**Weekly Notices**

**20<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

**Tenth Sunday after Trinity**

**This Week's Activities**

Tuesday: 8.30 am Prayers at Harvington

Friday – Monday: Beer and Cider Festival at The Lenches Club, Church  
Lench

Richard invites you to his installation as an Honorary Canon  
of Worcester Cathedral at a service in the Cathedral on  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 5.30 pm.

*Please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church  
if you wish to attend.*

**Future Activities: August/September**

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> **'Handmade and Homegrown Fayre'** at The Lenches Club

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 5.00 pm **Charity concert at St Peter's, Inkberrow, featuring Michael  
Gieler** (principal viola of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Amsterdam)  
with Lauretta Bloomer in works by Bach, Brahms and Prokofiev. In aid of  
the **"With You in Mind"** dementia-friendly café at Inkberrow Church Hall  
and St Peter's Roof Appeal

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am Lenches WI book group

12.30 pm **Homeworkers' lunch** at St James, Harvington

Want to publicise an activity here?

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

## Next Week's Services: Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2017

10.00 am

Church Lench

Benefice Communion+

### Today's Collect

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

### For Prayer

Pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit to inhabit us all.

*Prayer leaflet available to make it a daily prayer*

Pray for those caught up in slavery both in this country and abroad,  
and for those working to end this injustice

Give thanks for the reduced tension between North Korea  
and the USA

Give thanks for the A-level results and the opportunities opened to  
those who have received them – both for those with good results  
and those whose results are more challenging

Pray for those who are subject to sexual abuse by predatory gangs,  
and for those who think that it is OK

**“No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.” Give thanks**

Pray that whatever situation we are in, we do not abandon  
hope and faith in God

## **This Week's First Reading:** *Genesis 45:1-15*

<sup>1</sup>Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who **stood by him, and he cried out, 'Send everyone away from me.'** So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. <sup>2</sup>And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. <sup>3</sup>Joseph said to his **brothers, 'I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?'** But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. <sup>4</sup>**Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come closer to me.'** And they came closer. He said, **'I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt.'** <sup>5</sup>And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup>For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup>God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup>So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup>**Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay.** <sup>10</sup>You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you **shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children,** as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup>I will provide for you there – since there are five more years of famine to come – so that you and your household, **and all that you have, will not come to poverty."** <sup>12</sup>And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. <sup>13</sup>You must tell my father how greatly I am honoured in Egypt, and all that you have

## *Genesis 45:1-15 continued*

seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.' <sup>14</sup>Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. <sup>15</sup>And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

### **This Week's Psalm:** *Psalm 133:1-5*

- 1 Behold how good and pleasant it is to dwell together in unity.
- 2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down upon the beard,
- 3 **Even on Aaron's beard, running down upon the collar of his clothing.**
- 4 It is like the dew of Hermon running down upon the hills of Zion.
- 5 For there the Lord has promised his blessing: even life for evermore.

### **This Week's Second Reading:** *Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32*

<sup>1</sup>I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>2</sup>God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. <sup>29</sup>For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. <sup>30</sup>Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, <sup>31</sup>so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. <sup>32</sup>For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

## **This Week's Gospel Reading:** *Matthew 15:21-28*

<sup>21</sup>Jesus went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup>A Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' <sup>23</sup>But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' <sup>24</sup>He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' <sup>25</sup>But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' <sup>26</sup>He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' <sup>27</sup>She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' <sup>28</sup>Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

## **Next Week's First Reading:** *Exodus 1:8-2:10*

<sup>8</sup>Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. <sup>9</sup>He said to his people, 'Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. <sup>10</sup>Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.' <sup>11</sup>Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labour. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. <sup>12</sup>But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. <sup>13</sup>The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, <sup>14</sup>and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labour. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

<sup>15</sup>The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, <sup>16</sup>'When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.' <sup>17</sup>But the midwives feared God; they did

## *Exodus 1:8-2:10 continued*

not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live.

<sup>18</sup>So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, 'Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?' <sup>19</sup>The midwives said to Pharaoh, 'Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.'

<sup>20</sup>So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. <sup>21</sup>And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. <sup>22</sup>Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, 'Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.'

<sup>1</sup>Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman.

<sup>2</sup>The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. <sup>3</sup>When 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. <sup>4</sup>His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

<sup>5</sup>The 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. <sup>6</sup>When 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. <sup>7</sup>Then 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?' <sup>8</sup>Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. <sup>9</sup>Pharaoh'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. <sup>10</sup>When 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 124:1-7*

- 1 If the Lord himself had not been on our side, now may Israel say;
- 2 If the Lord had not been on our side, when enemies rose up against us;
- 3 Then would they have swallowed us alive when their anger burned against us;
- 4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us and the torrent gone over our soul; over our soul would have swept the raging waters.
- 5 But blessed be the Lord who has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.
- 6 Our soul has escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowler; the snare is broken and we are delivered.
- 7 Our help is in the name of the Lord, who has made heaven and earth.

## **Next Week's Second Reading:** *Romans 12:1-8*

<sup>1</sup>I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect. <sup>3</sup>For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup>We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup>ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup>the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

## Next Week's Gospel Reading: *Matthew 16:13-20*

<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.' <sup>20</sup>Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

### Charity Tandem Skydive

In a mad impulsive moment, I booked a tandem skydive and I hope to be fit enough to jump on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September. I have several friends who are experiencing the first stages of dementia and so I want to support the **Alzheimer's Society**.

A parachute jump is totally out of character for me and the only sense I can make out of my desire to experience one is that during the fall you have no choice but to put all your trust in another human being, and all your faith in God.

You have one life, one chance of experiencing all it offers. If you have a dream, pursue it; grab opportunities as and when they come.

If you would like to encourage me in my skydive experience you can donate to my charity online at [www.everyclick.com/franbattin](http://www.everyclick.com/franbattin).

*Fran Battin*