

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

Weekly Notices

17th September 2017

Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

This Week's Activities

Monday: 7.30 pm Lenches WI meeting at Church Lench Village Hall

Tuesday: 8.30 am Prayers at Abbots Morton

Future Activities: September/October

Friday 29th 9.00 am **Macmillan coffee morning at the "Golden Cross", Harvington**

Saturday 30th 10.00 am Harvington Art Group Annual Exhibition at the village hall

Sunday 1st 12.00 noon Harvest lunch at Church Lench Village Hall

Wednesday 4th 10.30 am Lenches WI book group

Thursday 5th 9.30 am Open morning at Church Lench First School

Friday 6th 7.30 pm Harvest supper at Abbots Morton Village Hall

Saturday 7th 7.00 pm Bingo night at Rous Lench Village Hall

Monday 9th Stop date for the November issue of the ARCH Messenger

7.30 pm **Faith Today at "*****," ***** , Harvington**

Wednesday 11th 12.30 pm Lunch at St James, Harvington

3.00 pm **CAMEO tea at St James', Harvington**

Want to publicise an activity here?

Details of weekly, monthly or one-off activities required

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

Next Week's Services: Sunday 24th September 2017

10.00 am

Rous Lench

Benefice Eucharist

Today's Collect

Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; 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 affected by the recent natural disasters

Pray for all those injured by the tube blast on Friday, and for the emergency services who came to their aid

In the light of our Exodus reading, pray for those being abused and threatened, especially the Rohingya in Myanmar. Pray also for those doing the abusing

Pray for the Grenfell Tower inquiry to provide answers that prove useful and just

Pray for those who work in care homes providing support and care for those we can no longer look after at home

Pray for those to be baptised in the coming weeks:
Esme, Ben and Emily

Give thanks for Fran and her "Leap of Faith" yesterday in aid of the Alzheimer's Society

Give thanks for the writers of the Bible and the insights offered by the scriptures

This Week's First Reading: *Exodus 14:19-31*

¹⁹The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²²The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea **after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers.** ²⁴At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with **difficulty. The Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.'**

²⁶**Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.'** ²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

³⁰Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

This Week's Psalm: *Psalm 114:1-8*

- 1 When Israel came out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of a strange tongue,
- 2 Judah became his sanctuary, Israel his dominion.
- 3 The sea saw that, and fled; Jordan was driven back.
- 4 The mountains skipped like rams, the little hills like young sheep.
- 5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? O Jordan, that you were driven back?
- 6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams, you little hills like young sheep?
- 7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob,
- 8 Who turns the hard rock into a pool of water, the flint-stone into a springing well.

This Week's Second Reading: *Romans 14:1-12*

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds.

⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to

Romans 14:-12 continued

the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the **Lord's**. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. ¹¹**For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.'** ¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

This Week's Gospel Reading: *Matthew 18:21-35*

²¹**Peter came and said to Jesus, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?'** ²²**Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.**

²³For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, **saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything."** ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing **him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe."** ²⁹Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, **"Have patience with me, and I will pay you."** ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord **summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all**

Matthew 18:2-35 continued

that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

Next Week's First Reading: Exodus 16:2-15

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³**The Israelites said to them, 'If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.'**

⁴**Then the LORD said to Moses, 'I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. ⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.'** ⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, **'In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?'** ⁸And Moses said, **'When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him – what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD.'**

⁹**Then Moses said to Aaron, 'Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, "Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining."'**

¹⁰And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked towards the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹The LORD spoke to Moses and said, ¹²**'I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, "At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God."'**

Exodus 16:2-15 continued

¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, **they said to one another, ‘What is it?’ For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, ‘It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.’**

Next Week’s Psalm: *Psalm 105:37-45*

- 37 Then he brought them out with silver and gold; there was not one among their tribes that stumbled.
- 38 Egypt was glad at their departing, for a dread of them had fallen upon them.
- 39 He spread out a cloud for a covering and a fire to light up the night.
- 40 They asked and he brought them quails; he satisfied them with the bread of heaven.
- 41 He opened the rock, and the waters gushed out and ran in the dry places like a river.
- 42 For he remembered his holy word and Abraham, his servant.
- 43 So he brought forth his people with joy, his chosen ones with singing.
- 44 He gave them the lands of the nations and they took possession of the fruit of their toil,
- 45 That they might keep his statutes and faithfully observe his laws.
Alleluia.

Next Week’s Second Reading: *Philippians 1:21-30*

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Philippians 1:21-30 continued

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of **your salvation. And this is God's doing.** ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well – ³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Next Week's Gospel Reading: *Matthew 20:1-16*

Jesus said to his disciples: ¹**The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner** who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; ⁴**and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went.** ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; ⁷**and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?"** ⁸They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, ⁹**"You also go into the vineyard."** ¹⁰When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ¹¹**"Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first."** ¹²When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹³Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹⁴And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹⁵**saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat."** ¹⁶But he replied to one of them, ¹⁷**"Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?"** ¹⁸Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁹Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" ²⁰So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'