

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

Weekly Notices

24th September 2017

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

This Week's Activities

Tuesday: 8.30 am Prayers at Abbots Morton

6.30 pm Harvington Youth Group 'Come and See (CAS)' at
Harvington Baptist Church

Thursday: 6.00 pm Harvington Youth Group 'Adventurers' meet at
Harvington Baptist Church

Friday: 9.00 am Macmillan coffee morning at the "Golden Cross",
Harvington

Saturday: 10.00 am Harvington Art Group Annual Exhibition at village hall
10.00 am North Avon Group Pilgrimage – meet at St Peter's Church,
Inkberrow, for a gentle 8-mile walk around churches

Sunday: 12.00 noon Harvest lunch at Church Lench Village Hall

Future Activities: October

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

Want to publicise an activity here?

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

Next Week's Services: Sunday 1st October 2017

8.30 am	Rous Lench	Holy Communion*
9.30 am	Harvington	Morning Service
11.00 am	Abbots Morton	Harvest Service
11.00 am	Church Lench	Thanksgiving Service
6.30 pm	Harvington	Holy Communion*

Today's Collect

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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 – earthquakes in Mexico, hurricanes Maria and Irma, floods in South Asia

Pray for those contemplating terrorist attacks and for the authorities tracking them

In the light of our Exodus reading, let us give thanks to God for all his provision

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

Give thanks for our farmers and the harvest they have worked so hard to bring in, and for the harvest they are preparing for next year

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

This Week's First Reading: *Exodus 16:2-15*

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The 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.'

This Week's Psalm: *Psalm 105:37-45*

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

This 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.

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.

This 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; ⁴and 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; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all**

Matthew 20:1-16 continued

day?” ⁷They said to him, “Because no one has hired us.” He said to them, “You also go into the vineyard.” ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, “Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and **then going to the first.**” ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, “**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.**” ¹³But he replied to one of them, “Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious **because I am generous?**” ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.’

Next Week's First Reading: *Exodus 17:1-7*

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, ‘Give us water to drink.’ Moses said to them, ‘Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?’ ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, ‘Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?’ ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, ‘What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.’ ⁵The LORD said to Moses, ‘Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you

Exodus 17:1-7 continued

struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the LORD, saying, 'Is the LORD among us or not?'

Next Week's Psalm: *Psalm 78:1-7*

- 1 Hear my teaching, O my people; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
- 2 I will open my mouth in a parable; I will pour forth mysteries from of old,
- 3 Such as we have heard and known, which our forebears have told us.
- 4 We will not hide from their children, but will recount to generations to come, the praises of the Lord and his power and the wonderful works he has done.
- 5 He laid a solemn charge on Jacob and made it a law in Israel, which he commanded them to teach their children,
- 6 That the generations to come might know, and the children yet unborn, that they in turn might tell it to their children,
- 7 So that they might put their trust in God and not forget the deeds of God, but keep his commandments.

Next Week's Second Reading: *Philippians 2:1-13*

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in

Philippians 2:1-13 continued

human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Next Week's Gospel Reading: *Matthew 21:23-32*

²³When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?' ²⁴Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?' And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven," he will say to us, "Why then did you not believe him?"' ²⁶But if we say, "Of human origin," we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' ²⁷So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." ²⁹He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.'