

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

**Weekly Notices**

**19<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

**Second Sunday before Advent**

**This Week's Activities**

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

Tuesday: 8.30 am Prayers at Church Lench

6.30 pm Harvington Youth Project: CAS at Harvington Baptist Church

Thursday: 6.30 pm HYP: Adventurers at Harvington Baptist Church

7.30 pm Craft evening: *Anita's surprise!* at Rous Lench Village Hall

Friday: 8.00 pm Pub night at Rous Lench Village Hall

Saturday: 9.00 am Benefice prayers at The Rectory, Harvington

7.00 pm Birmingham Community Gospel Choir performing at All Saints', Church Lench, followed by a winter warmer meal in the Village Hall. Tickets £18 available from Kerrith Powell (\*\*\*\*\*), Judith Selcuk or Jane Powell (\*\*\*\*\*)

7.30 pm American evening with quiz at Rous Lench Village Hall

**Future Activities: November/December**

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm Craft evening: *Christmas ornaments* at Rous Lench Village Hall

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> 12.00 noon Christmas Fayre at Harvington Village Hall

2.30 pm Christmas Fayre at Church Lench Village Hall

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> 7.00 pm **GLADS: "Trafford Tales"** at Church Lench Village Hall

7.30 pm Craft evening: *Cork horses* at Rous Lench Village Hall

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> 7.00 pm **GLADS: "Trafford Tales"** at Church Lench Village Hall

Want to publicise an activity here?

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

## **Next Week's Services**

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2017: Christ the King

10.00 am      Abbots Morton      Benefice Eucharist+  
*led by the Dean of Worcester Cathedral*

## **Today's Collect**

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he 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 the Rohingya people in the refugee camps in Bangladesh and those still in Myanmar, and for the aid agencies trying to help them

Pray for the Yemeni population caught by the Saudi blockade, and for those trying to bring in supplies

Pray for those who serve in our courts of justice

Pray for those who work in our emergency services and put their lives at risk to keep us well and secure

Remember the lonely and the bereaved

Pray for those working in social services with ever smaller budgets

Pray for carers, both professional and family

## **This Week's First Reading:** *Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18*

<sup>7</sup>Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests.

<sup>12</sup>At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say **in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm.'**

<sup>13</sup>Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste.

Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.

<sup>14</sup>The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there.

<sup>15</sup>That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, <sup>16</sup>a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. <sup>17</sup>I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. <sup>18</sup>Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to **save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his** passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

## **This Week's Psalm:** *Psalms 90:1-8*

- 1 Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.
- 2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or the earth and the world were formed, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
- 3 **You turn us back to dust and say: 'Turn back, O children of earth.'**

*Psalm 90:1-8 continued*

- 4 For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday, which passes like a watch in the night.
- 5 You sweep them away like a dream; they fade away suddenly like the grass.
- 6 In the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered.
- 7 For we consume away in your displeasure; we are afraid at your wrathful indignation.
- 8 You have set our misdeeds before you and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

**This Week's Second Reading:** *1 Thessalonians 5:1-11*

<sup>1</sup>Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>**When they say, 'There is peace and security,' then** sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! <sup>4</sup>But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; <sup>5</sup>for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup>for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore

## *1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 continued*

encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

### **This Week's Gospel Reading:** *Matthew 25:14-30*

Jesus said to his disciples, <sup>14</sup>**The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.**

<sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."

<sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."

<sup>24</sup>Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did

## *Matthew 25:14-30 continued*

not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” <sup>26</sup>But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

## **Next Week’s First Reading:** *Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24*

<sup>11</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. <sup>14</sup>I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. <sup>16</sup>I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. <sup>20</sup>Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you

## *Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 continued*

scattered them far and wide, <sup>22</sup>I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

<sup>23</sup>I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

### **Next Week's Psalm:** *Psalm 95:1-7*

- 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.
- 2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving and be glad in him with psalms.
- 3 For the Lord is a great God and a great king above all gods.
- 4 In his hand are the depths of the earth and the heights of the mountains are his also.
- 5 The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands have moulded the dry land.
- 6 Come, let us worship and bow down and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
- 7 For he is our God.

### **Next Week's Second Reading:** *Ephesians 1:15-23*

<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power

## *Ephesians 1:15-23 continued*

and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

### **Next Week's Gospel Reading: *Matthew 25:31-46***

Jesus said to his disciples: <sup>31</sup>**When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory.** <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup>and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup>**Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."** <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, **"Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?"** <sup>40</sup>And the king will answer them, **"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."** <sup>41</sup>Then he will say to those at his left hand, **"You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me."** <sup>44</sup>Then they also will answer, **"Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?"** <sup>45</sup>Then he will answer them, **"Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me."** <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'