

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



**Weekly Notices**  
**10<sup>th</sup> December 2017**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**



**This Week's Activities**

Tuesday: 8.30 am Prayers at Harvington

Wednesday: 11.00 am **CAMEO Carol Service** in St James', Harvington

12.30 pm CAMEO Christmas Lunch at the Kings Court Hotel, Alcester

6.30 pm Carols on the Green in Rous Lench

Thursday: 8.30 pm **Men's Night** at The Lenches Club, Church Lench

7.30 pm Craft evening: *Christmas wreaths* at Rous Lench Village Hall

Friday: 6.30 pm Carols on the Green in Abbots Morton

Saturday: 9.00 am Benefice prayers at The Rectory, Harvington

**Future Activities: December/January**

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> Home communions

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> 2.00 pm Christingle-making in St James' Church, Harvington

7.00 pm "At Home for Christmas" at Rous Lench Village Hall

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> NO 11am Holy Communion Service at Harvington

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> Stop date for the February issue of the ARCH Messenger

7.30 pm Faith Today at "Breslau," Leys Rd, Harvington

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> NO 11am Holy Communion Service at Harvington

3.00 pm CAMEO tea in St James', Harvington

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> 9.00 am Benefice prayers at The Rectory, Harvington

Want to publicise an activity here?

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

## Next Week's Services: Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2017

8.30 am	Church Lench	Holy Communion*
9.30 am	Harvington	Holy Communion+
6.30 pm	Harvington	Carol Service
6.30 pm	Church Lench	Carol Service
6.30 pm	Rous Lench	Carol Service

### Today's Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen

### For Prayer

Take delight in the Advent season—preparing for meeting with the risen Lord Jesus

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 Israeli and Palestinian relationships in the light of President **Trump's acknowledgement of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel**

Pray for the Brexit negotiations, that a just way forward for all may be found

Pray for our Carol Services that they may truly connect people to the risen Lord Jesus

Pray for those who will find this Christmas season difficult because of finances or broken relationships

Pray for those travelling in difficult weather conditions

## **This Week's First Reading: *Isaiah 40:1-11***

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that **her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's** hand double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>**A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,** make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of **the LORD has spoken.'**

<sup>6</sup>**A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people** are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

<sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good **tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!'** <sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

**This Week's Psalm:** *Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13*

- 1 Lord, you were gracious to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- 2 You forgave the offence of your people and covered all their sins.
- 3 I will listen to what the Lord God will say, for he shall speak peace to his people and to the faithful, that they turn not again to folly.
- 4 Truly, his salvation is near to those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 5 Mercy and truth are met together, righteousness and peace have kissed each other;
- 6 Truth shall spring up from the earth and righteousness look down from heaven.
- 7 The Lord will indeed give all that is good, and our land will yield its increase.
- 8 Righteousness shall go before him and direct his steps in the way.

**This Week's Second Reading:** *2 Peter 3:8-15a*

<sup>8</sup>Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

## *2 Peter 3:8-15 continued*

<sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. <sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

### **This Week's Gospel Reading:** *Mark 1:1-8*

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>**As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; <sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight"',** <sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with **camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.** <sup>7</sup>**He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'**

## **Next Week's First Reading: *Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11***

The servant of the Lord said:

<sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; <sup>2</sup>**to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God;** to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion – to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. <sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

<sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. <sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. <sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

## **Next Week's Cantic: *Magnificat***

- 1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.
- 2 From this day all generations will call me blessed; the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.
- 3 He has mercy on those who fear him, from generation to generation.

## *Magnificat continued*

- 4 He has shown strength with his arm and has scattered the proud in their conceit,
- 5 Casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.
- 6 He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.
- 7 He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, to remember his promise of mercy,
- 8 The promise made to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children for ever.

*Luke 1.46-55*

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever.  
Amen.

## Next **Week's Second Reading:** *1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

My brothers and sisters, <sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; <sup>21</sup>hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

## Next **Week's Gospel Reading:** *John 1:6-8, 19-28*

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and **Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?'** <sup>20</sup>He confessed and **did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.'** <sup>21</sup>And they asked

*John 1:6-8, 19-28 continued*

him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' <sup>23</sup>He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said.

<sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' <sup>26</sup>John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.