

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



Weekly Notices
17th December 2017
Third Sunday of Advent



This Week's Activities

Tuesday: 8.30 am Prayers at Harvington

Thursday: Home communions

Saturday: 2.00 pm Christingle-making in St James' Church, Harvington
7.00 pm "At Home for Christmas" at Rous Lench Village Hall

Future Activities: December/January

Wednesday 27th NO 11am Holy Communion Service at Harvington

Monday 8th Stop date for the February issue of the ARCH Messenger
7.30 pm Faith Today at "Breslau," Leys Rd, Harvington

Wednesday 10th NO 11am Holy Communion Service at Harvington
3.00 pm CAMEO tea in St James', Harvington

Saturday 13th 9.00 am Benefice prayers at The Rectory, Harvington

Wednesday 17th 12.30 pm Lunch at Ellenden Farmshop's Farmhouse Kitchen
café

Thursday 18th Home communions

8.30 pm Men's Night at the "Golden Cross," Harvington

Friday 26th 7.00 pm "Parlour Concert with Mr Keith" at Church Lench VH

Saturday 27th 9.00 am Benefice prayers at The Rectory, 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

Christmas Services

Sunday 24th December 2017: Christmas Eve

4.00 pm	Church Lench	Christingle All Age Service
5.30 pm	Harvington	Christingle All Age Service
9.00 pm	Abbots Morton	Christmas Communion+
11.30 pm	Harvington	Midnight Communion by xtn+
11.30 pm	Church Lench	Midnight Communion+

Monday 25th December 2017: Christmas Day

9.30 am	Harvington	Holy Communion+
11.00 am	Rous Lench	Holy Communion+

Sunday 31st December 2017

10.00 am	Harvington	Benefice Eucharist+
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For Prayer

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

Pray for refugees caught in conflicts

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 sound decisions are made

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, that they maybe kept safe and be patient

Pray for those enjoying seasonal parties; that good times will be had,
and not bad memories the morning after

Today's Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

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

The servant of the Lord said:

¹The 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; ²to proclaim the **year of the LORD's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God**; to comfort all who mourn; ³to 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. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁸For 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. ⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 continued

peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰I 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.

¹¹For 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.

This Week's Canticle: *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.
- 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,

Magnificat continued

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.

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

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

²³May 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. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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

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

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

John 1:6-8, 19-28 continued

He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.'
²²Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' ²³He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said.
²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' ²⁶John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Next Week's First Reading: *Isaiah 62:6-12*

Thus says the LORD: ⁶Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest, ⁷and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. ⁸The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have laboured; ⁹but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. ¹⁰Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. ¹¹The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, 'See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.' ¹²They shall be called, 'The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD'; and you shall be called, 'Sought Out'.

Next Week's Psalm: *Psalm 97:1-12*

- 1 The Lord is king: let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of the isles be glad.
- 2 Clouds and darkness are round about him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.
- 3 Fire goes before him and burns up his enemies on every side.
- 4 His lightnings lit up the world; the earth saw it and trembled.
- 5 The mountains melted like wax at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.
- 6 The heavens declared his righteousness and all the peoples have seen his glory.
- 7 Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in mere idols. Bow down before him, all you gods.
- 8 Zion heard and was glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoiced, because of your judgements, O Lord.

- 9 For you, Lord, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.
- 10 The Lord loves those who hate evil; he preserves the lives of his faithful and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
- 11 Light has sprung up for the righteous and joy for the true of heart.
- 12 Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous and give thanks to his holy name.

Next Week's Second Reading: *Titus 3:4-7*

⁴When the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Next Week's Gospel Reading: *Luke 2:8-20*

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

¹⁰**But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.'** ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴**'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'**

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds **said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.'** ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.