

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

Weekly Notices

31st December 2017

First Sunday of Christmas

Happy New
Year

This Week's Activities

Tuesday: 8.30 am Prayers at Abbots Morton

Future Activities: January

Monday 8th Stop date for the February issue of the ARCH Messenger
7.30 pm Faith Today at "*****," ***** , 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

Next Week's Services

Sunday 7th January 2018: Baptism of Christ

8.30 am	Rous Lench	Holy Communion*
9.30 am	Harvington	All Age Service
11.00 am	Church Lench	All Age Communion+
11.00 am	Abbots Morton	All Age Service
6.30 pm	Harvington	Holy Communion*

Today's Collect

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

For Prayer

Give thanks for Jesus coming to be with us at Christmas

Give thanks for family gatherings and generosity

Pray for 2018 arriving tomorrow; may the world be blessed by the unexpected

Give thanks for our Christmas gatherings of the community and friends

Pray for wisdom for our leaders and pray for them to have courage to make wise decisions

Pray for those who have found Christmas difficult

Give thanks for all those who have worked during the Christmas season enabling us to enjoy ourselves

Pray that 2018 sees the world make good progress towards the resolution of conflicts and the end of famine, that people may live in peace and safety in their own homes and communities

This Week's First Reading: *Isaiah 61:10-62:3*

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.

¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

This Week's Psalm: *Psalms 148:7-14*

- 7 Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;
- 8 Fire and hail, snow and mist, tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word;
- 9 Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;
- 10 Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and birds on the wing;

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

Psalm 148:7-14 continued

- 11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;
- 12 Young men and women, old and young together; let them praise the name of the Lord.
- 13 For his name only is exalted, his splendour above earth and heaven.
- 14 He has raised up the horn of his people and praise for all his faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Alleluia.

This Week's Second Reading: *Galatians 3:4-7*

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the **Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'** ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

This Week's Gospel Reading: *Luke 2:15-21*

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

Luke 2:15-21 continued

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.

²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Next Week's First Reading: *Genesis 1:1-5*

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God **said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light.** ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Next Week's Psalm: *Psalms 29:1-10*

- 1 Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
- 3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters.
- 4 The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation; the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.
- 5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf and Sirion like a young wild ox.

Psalm 29:1-10 continued

- 7 The voice of the Lord splits the flash of lightning; the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the **forests bare; in his temple all cry, 'Glory!'**
- 9 The Lord sits enthroned above the water flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.
- 10 The Lord shall give strength to his people; the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Next **Week's Second Reading:** *Acts 19:1-7*

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, **'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?'** They replied, **'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.'** ³Then he said, **'Into what then were you baptized?'** They answered, **'Into John's baptism.'** ⁴Paul said, **'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.'** ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied – ⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

Next **Week's Gospel Reading:** *Mark 1:4-11*

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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. ⁶**Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.** ⁷**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.** ⁸I have baptized you with

Mark 1:4-11 continued

water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.

¹¹**And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'**