

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

Weekly Notices

21st January 2018

Third Sunday of Epiphany

This Week's Activities

Monday: 1.30 pm Pip Stone's funeral at St James', Harvington

Tuesday: 8.30 am Prayers at Abbots Morton

6.30 pm HYP: CAS at Harvington Baptist Church

Wednesday: NO mid-week Eucharist at St James'

Thursday: 6.30 pm HYP: Adventurers at Harvington Baptist Church

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

Saturday: 9.00 am Benefice prayers at The Rectory, Harvington

Future Activities: January/February

Saturday 3rd 10.00 am Coffee morning at Harvington Village Hall in aid of
Caring Hands in the Vale

7.30 pm Mumbo Jumbo in concert at Rous Lench Village Hall

Monday 5th Stop date for the March issue of the ARCH Messenger

7.30 pm Quiz night at The Lenches Club

Wednesday 7th 10.30 am Lenches WI book club

Thursday 8th 8.30 pm **Men's Night** at the "Wheelbarrow Castle," Radford

Friday 9th 8.00 pm Pub Night with music at Rous Lench Village Hall

Lent course details on the back cover

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

Next Week's Services:

Saturday 27th January 2018

4.00 pm Church Lench All Age Service

Sunday 28th January 2018: Presentation of Christ

10.00 am Church Lench All Age Benefice Communion+

Today's Collect

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; 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

Half term Holiday Club 20th – 22nd February

I will be running a Holiday Club at *****

on these dates. The theme is the "Tree of Life".

Children and helpers are most welcome.

Contact Revd Richard on 01386 870527 or

holidayclub@archbenefice.org.uk

For Prayer

Pray for Christian Unity

Pray for those trapped in slavery as victims or exploiters

Pray for all those affected by the liquidation of Carillion

Pray for the plight of the Rohingya people and those offering support

Give thanks for our Christian monastic communities and their call to prayer, mission and hospitality

This Week's First Reading: *Genesis 14:17-20*

¹⁷After Abram's return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).

¹⁸And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. ¹⁹He blessed him and said, 'Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth; ²⁰and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!' And Abram gave him one-tenth of everything.

This Week's Psalm: *Psalms 128:1-6*

- 1 Blessed are all those who fear the Lord, and walk in his ways.
- 2 You shall eat the fruit of the toil of your hands; it shall go well with you, and happy shall you be.
- 3 Your wife within your house shall be like a fruitful vine; your children round your table, like fresh olive branches.
- 4 Thus shall the one be blest who fears the Lord.
- 5 The Lord from out of Zion bless you, that you may see Jerusalem in prosperity all the days of your life.
- 6 **May you see your children's children and may there be peace upon Israel.**

This Week's Second Reading: *Revelation 19:6-10*

⁶I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out, 'Hallelujah! For the Lord our God

Revelation 19:6-10 continued

the Almighty reigns. ⁷Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready; ⁸to her it has been granted to be **clothed with fine linen, bright and pure'** – for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

⁹**And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'** And he said to me, **'These are true words of God.'** ¹⁰Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, **'You must not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'**

This Week's Gospel Reading: *John 2:1-11*

¹On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine gave out, **the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.'** ⁴And Jesus said to her, **'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.'** ⁵His mother said to the servants, **'Do whatever he tells you.'** ⁶Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷**Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.'** And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸He said to them, **'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.'** So they took it. ⁹When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the

John 2:1-11 continued

steward called the bridegroom and said to him, ¹⁰**'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.'** ¹¹Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Next Week's First Reading: *Malachi 3:1-5*

Thus says the Lord God: ¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? **For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap;** ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

⁵Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

Next Week's Psalm: *Psalms 24:7-10*

7 Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

8 **'Who is the King of glory?' 'The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord who is mighty in battle.'**

Psalm 24:7-10 continued

- 9 Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.
- 10 **'Who is this King of glory?' 'The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.'**

Next **Week's Second Reading:** *Hebrews 2:14-18*

¹⁴Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Next **Week's Gospel Reading:** *Luke 2:22-40*

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. ²³**(as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'),** ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, **'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'**

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the **Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.** ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹**'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to**

Luke 2:22-40 continued

your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the **Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.**'

³³**And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'**

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Lent Course 2018 – the Beatitudes

During Lent you are invited to join a 6-week course that will explore the Beatitudes. The aim is to provide us an opportunity to reflect on these famous sayings of Jesus which introduce us to the challenges of the Christian life and calling.

We will follow a course and a booklet is provided which offers a scripture, reflections and questions for us to discuss in small groups

This year we are joining friends from Inkberrow and surrounding parishes at:

Tuesday 20th February Church Lench Village Hall

Tuesday 27th February The PEC, Inkberrow

Tuesday 6th March Church Lench Village Hall

Tuesday 13th March The PEC, Inkberrow

Tuesday 20th March Church Lench Village Hall

Tuesday 27th March The PEC, Inkberrow

(the PEC is the church hall next to St Peter's Church in Inkberrow)

We gather at 7.15 pm for a 7.30 pm start and finish by 9.00 pm

Please get in touch with me Reverend Richard Thorniley,
01386 870527 or rector@archbenefice.org.uk
if you would like to join and a course book will be supplied
at a cost of £5.00.

Transport can be organised too if required.