

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

Weekly Notices
28th January 2018
Presentation of Christ



This Week's Activities

Monday: 7.30 pm Quiz night at The Lenches Club

Tuesday: 8.30 am NO prayers at Abbots Morton
6.30 pm HYP: CAS at Harvington Baptist Church

Thursday: 6.30 pm HYP: Adventurers at Harvington Baptist Church

Saturday: 10.00 am Coffee morning at Harvington Village Hall in aid of
Caring Hands in the Vale
7.30 pm Mumbo Jumbo concert at Rous Lench Village Hall

Future Activities: February

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

Saturday 10th 9.00 am Benefice prayers at The Rectory, Harvington
Big Breakfast at Church Lench Village Hall

Sunday 11th 12.00 noon Abbots Morton Village Hall 20th Anniversary Party

Monday 12th 7.30 pm Faith Today at *****, Harvington
7.30 pm Quiz night at The Lenches Club

If you would like to be kept up to date on local church news or other local news via e-mail, please send your e-mail address to Reverend Richard Thorniley on rector@archbenefice.org.uk and he will include you on the e-mail list.

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: Sunday 4th February 2018

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

Today's Collect

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ 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 *****.

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 the Church's Call to be a light in the world

Pray for the NHS, for those who are working hard to keep the services running and for the Government as it needs to make wise and radical decisions on reforming it.

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: *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.

This 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.'**
- 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.'**

This 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.

This 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 your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,

Luke 2:22-40 continued

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.

Next Week's First Reading: *Proverbs 8:1, 22-31*

¹Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice?

²²The LORD created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. ²³Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. ²⁴When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. ²⁵Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth – ²⁶when he had not yet **made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil.** ²⁷When he

Proverbs 8:1, 22-31 continued

established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, ²⁸when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, ²⁹when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, ³⁰then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, ³¹rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

Next Week's Psalm: *Psalm 104:25-37*

- 26 O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.
- 27 There is the sea, spread far and wide, and there move creatures beyond number, both small and great.
- 28 There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan which you have made to play in the deep.
- 29 All of these look to you to give them their food in due season.
- 30 When you give it them, they gather it; you open your hand and they are filled with good.
- 31 When you hide your face they are troubled; when you take away their breath, they die and return again to the dust.
- 32 When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.
- 33 May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; may the Lord rejoice in his works;
- 34 He looks on the earth and it trembles; he touches the mountains and they smoke.
- 35 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will make music to my God while I have my being.
- 36 So shall my song please him while I rejoice in the Lord.
- 37 Let sinners be consumed out of the earth and the wicked be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul. Alleluia.

Next **Week's Second Reading:** *Colossians 1:15-20*

¹⁵Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers – all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Next **Week's Gospel Reading:** *John 1:1-14*

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. ⁴What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 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. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his **glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.**