

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

**Weekly Notices**

**4<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

**Second Sunday before Lent**

**This Week's Activities**

Monday: Stop date for the March issue of the ARCH Messenger  
7.30 pm Quiz night at The Lenches Club

Tuesday: 8.30 am Prayers at Rous Lench  
6.30 pm HYP: CAS at Harvington Baptist Church

Wednesday: 10.30 am Lenches WI book club

Thursday: 6.30 pm HYP: Adventurers at Harvington Baptist Church  
8.30 pm **Men's Night at the "Wheelbarrow Castle," Radford**

Friday: 8.00 pm Pub night with music at Rous Lench Village Hall

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

Sunday: 12.00 noon Abbots Morton Village Hall 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party

**Future Activities: February**

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm Faith Today at \*\*\*\*\*, Harvington  
7.30 pm Quiz night at The Lenches Club

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> 12 noon Lent lunch at The Lenches Club  
3.00 pm **CAMEO** tea at St James', Harvington

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> Home communions

12.30 pm **Workers' lunch** at Ellenden Farmshop's Farmhouse Kitchen café

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> 7.00 pm **GLADS "Five Valentines"** at Church Lench Village Hall

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> 7.00 pm **GLADS "Five Valentines"** at Church Lench Village Hall

**Lent Course "The Beatitudes" begins on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>**  
*February – see back cover for further information*

## Next Week's Services

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2018

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

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018: Ash Wednesday

11.00 am	Harvington	<b>Holy Communion with "Ashing"</b>
7.30 pm	Church Lench	<b>Holy Communion with "Ashing"</b>

## Today's Collect

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. Amen

## For Prayer

### **Pray for the Church's Call to be a light in the world**

Pray for Caring Hands, Diane Bennett (its founder and manager), her volunteers and those who need their services

Pray for the preparations being made for Universal Credit being introduced to Worcestershire, soon

Pray for your preparations for Lent – what to take up, what to change

Pray for the preparations for the forthcoming Lent Course being held in the North Avon Group

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

<sup>1</sup>Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? <sup>22</sup>The LORD created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. <sup>23</sup>Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. <sup>24</sup>When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. <sup>25</sup>Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth – <sup>26</sup>when he had not yet **made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil.** <sup>27</sup>When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, <sup>28</sup>when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, <sup>29</sup>when 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, <sup>30</sup>then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, <sup>31</sup>rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

## **This Week's Psalm:** *104:26-37*

- 1 O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.
- 2 There is the sea, spread far and wide, and there move creatures beyond number, both small and great.
- 3 There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan which you have made to play in the deep.
- 4 All of these look to you to give them their food in due season.
- 5 When you give it them, they gather it; you open your hand and they are filled with good.

*Psalm 144:26-37 continued*

- 6 When you hide your face they are troubled; when you take away their breath, they die and return again to the dust.
- 7 When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.
- 8 May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; may the Lord rejoice in his works;
- 9 He looks on the earth and it trembles; he touches the mountains and they smoke.
- 10 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will make music to my God while I have my being.
- 11 So shall my song please him while I rejoice in the Lord.
- 12 Let sinners be consumed out of the earth and the wicked be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul. Alleluia.

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

<sup>15</sup>Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; <sup>16</sup>for 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. <sup>17</sup>He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>He 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. <sup>19</sup>For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup>and 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.

## **This Week's Gospel Reading:** *John 1:1-14*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. <sup>4</sup>What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <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>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And 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.**

## **Next Week's First Reading:** *2 Kings 2:1-12*

<sup>1</sup>When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup>Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel. <sup>3</sup>The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?' And he said, 'Yes, I know; keep silent.'

## *2 Kings 2:1-12 continued*

<sup>4</sup>Elijah said to him, 'Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.' But he said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they came to Jericho. <sup>5</sup>The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?' And he answered, 'Yes, I know; be silent.'

<sup>6</sup>Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.' But he said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them went on. <sup>7</sup>Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup>Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

<sup>9</sup>When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.' Elisha said, 'Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.' <sup>10</sup>He responded, 'You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.' <sup>11</sup>As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. <sup>12</sup>Elisha kept watching and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

### **Next Week's Psalm:** *Psalm 50:1-6*

- 1 The Lord, the most mighty God, has spoken and called the world from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- 2 Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth; our God comes and will not keep silence.
- 3 Consuming fire goes out before him and a mighty tempest stirs about him.
- 4 He calls the heaven above, and the earth, that he may judge his people:

## *Psalm 50:1-6 continued*

- 5 'Gather to me my faithful, who have sealed my covenant with sacrifice.'
- 6 Let the heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge.

## Next **Week's Second Reading:** *2 Corinthians 4:3-6*

<sup>3</sup>Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup>For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves **for Jesus' sake.** <sup>6</sup>**For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

## Next **Week's Gospel Reading:** *Mark 9:2-9*

<sup>2</sup>Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup>and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup>**Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.'** <sup>6</sup>He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup>Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a **voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!'** <sup>8</sup>Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. <sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

## 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 20<sup>th</sup> February    Session 1    Church Lench Village Hall

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February    Session 2    PEC, Inkberrow

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March    Session 3    Church Lench Village Hall

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March    Session 4    PEC, Inkberrow

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March    Session 5    Church Lench Village Hall

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March    Session 6    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](mailto: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.*