

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

Weekly Notices

14th January 2024

Second Sunday of Epiphany

Today's Collect

Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today's Post Communion Prayer

God of glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life: fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Week's Services: Sunday 21st January 2024

8.30 am	Church Lench	Holy Communion*
11.00 am	Rous Lench VH	Morning Service
4.00 pm	Harvington	Christingle Service

Christingle Service next week at St James!

Next week St James' is having its Christingle Service at 4.00 pm so let's **meet at 2.15 pm in the church to make the Christingle packs.** Supplies will be brought to church and assembly lines will be set up – *we need people who are good at counting sweets, fruit and cocktail sticks; making crosses in oranges; cutting foil, applying sticky tape.*

*And we'll be doing it all again the following week
at All Saints', Church Lench!*

For Prayer

God of healing and hope, you bring us the challenge of seeking a better way to live – attentive to your voice and ready to respond. In a world full of distractions, teach us to discern the call that is from you. We pray for all who are struggling with God's call to them because the message is tough or because they feel inadequate. May we all learn to trust that you will give us what we need and find courage in your promise that you will never leave us.

Through our lives and by our prayers: **your kingdom come.**

God of healing and hope, your wide and generous love extends to all creation. May we your people extend the same generosity, welcoming friends and strangers into the community you seek to build among us. We pray that anyone who is lonely would find company with us, and that all who are broken by debt worries, destructive relationships or cost-of-living challenges would find in us a listening ear and practical support in life's problems.

Through our lives and by our prayers: **your kingdom come.**

God of healing and hope, your voice is sometimes surprising, coming from the margins and from unexpected people. We pray for children and young people in our community and for all adults who accompany them in their journey of faith, in church, in school and at home. May we all pay attention to the voices of children and young people; help us to learn from one another what it means to follow you and how to build a more inclusive community, where we see others as you see them and no-one is too small or insignificant, too young or too old to be a part of your plans.

Through our lives and by our prayers: **your kingdom come.**

God of healing and hope, you have searched for us and called us by name and our lives are in your hands. May we respond faithfully and humbly to what you ask of us so that your kingdom of hope, justice and love can be seen among us.

Through our lives and by our prayers: **your kingdom come.**

This Week's First Reading: *1 Samuel 3:1-10*

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. ⁶The LORD called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

This Week's Psalm: *Psalm 139:1-9*

- 1 O Lord, you have searched me out and known me; you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You mark out my journeys and my resting place and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 For there is not a word on my tongue, but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
- 4 You encompass me behind and before and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, so high that I cannot attain it.
- 6 Where can I go then from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?
- 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- 8 If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 9 Even there your hand shall lead me, your right hand hold me fast.

This Week's Second Reading: *Revelation 5:1-10*

¹I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; ²and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?' ³And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁴And I began to weep bitterly because

Revelation 5:1-10 continued

no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.

⁵Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.'

⁶Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. ⁸When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹They sing a new song: 'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; ¹⁰you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth.'

This Week's Gospel Reading: *John 1:43-51*

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.'

⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an

John 1:43-51 continued

Israelite in whom there is no deceit!’ ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, ‘Where did you come to know me?’ Jesus answered, ‘I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.’ ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’ ⁵⁰Jesus answered, ‘Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.’ ⁵¹And he said to him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.’

Next 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.

Next 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.

Next 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 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.

⁹And 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.'

Next 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. ⁷Jesus 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 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.