

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

**Weekly Notices**  
**21<sup>st</sup> January 2024**  
**Third Sunday of Epiphany**

**Today's Collect**

God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord.

**Today's Post Communion Prayer**

Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

**Next Week's Services**  
**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024: Candlemas – Presentation**  
**of Christ in the Temple**

9.30 am	Harvington	Holy Communion+
11.00 am	Church Lench	Family Service
11.00 am	Abbots Morton	Morning Service

**Holiday Club 13-15<sup>th</sup> February**

Are you able to help? Would you like a place for your children?

Get in touch with Richard Thorniley **01386 870527**  
**holidayclub@archbenefice.org.uk**

## For Prayer

You are our strength, O God. As we face the troubles of our own lives and the pain of the world you made and love, may we know your voice and trust your promises.

Be our guide; shelter and shape us: **we place our trust in you.**

In the humble tasks and daily routines that keep our churches and communities functioning; when we sometimes feel exhausted and wonder if we are in the right place,

Be our guide; shelter and shape us: **we place our trust in you.**

In food banks and in Citizens Advice offices across our country, when the needs are greater than the resources to meet them and the world is becoming increasingly unequal, call us to respond with what we have.

Be our guide; shelter and shape us: **we place our trust in you.**

In parliament, in local government and in public life; when we long for society to be rebuilt and for hope to be restored, keep us prayerful for the leaders in our country and for the king.

Be our guide; shelter and shape us: **we place our trust in you..**

In the Middle East, in Ukraine, Ecuador and in Somalia, when conflict threatens to spiral out of control and peace is a distant dream: may we imagine your future.

Be our guide; shelter and shape us: **we place our trust in you.**

In our doubts and failures, when we can't find our way in life and trouble surrounds us on every side:

Be our guide; shelter and shape us: **we place our trust in you.**

In your Word and in the company of your people, when we hear your call to trust and we know the time for action is now:

Be our guide; shelter and shape us: **we place our trust in you.**

You are our strength, O God. As we face the troubles of our own lives and the pain of the world you made and love, may we know your voice and trust your promises.

Be our guide; shelter and shape us: **we place our trust in you.**

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

<sup>17</sup>After 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).

<sup>18</sup>And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. <sup>19</sup>He blessed him and said, 'Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth; <sup>20</sup>and 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***

<sup>6</sup>I 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. <sup>7</sup>Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready; <sup>8</sup>to 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.

<sup>9</sup>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.' <sup>10</sup>Then 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***

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

## *John 2:1-11 continued*

steward.’ So they took it. <sup>9</sup>When 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, <sup>10</sup>‘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.’ <sup>11</sup>Jesus 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: <sup>1</sup>See, 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. <sup>2</sup>But 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; <sup>3</sup>he 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. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

<sup>5</sup>Then 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: *Psalm 24:1-10***

- 1 The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it, the compass of the world and all who dwell therein.
- 2 For he has founded it upon the seas and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep.
- 3 'Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord, or who can rise up in his holy place?'
- 4 'Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, who have not lifted up their soul to an idol, nor sworn an oath to a lie;
- 5 'They shall receive a blessing from the Lord, a just reward from the God of their salvation.'
- 6 Such is the company of those who seek him, of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.
- 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.'

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

<sup>14</sup>Since 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, <sup>15</sup>and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup>For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup>Therefore 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. <sup>18</sup>Because 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*

<sup>22</sup>When 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. <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

<sup>25</sup>Now 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. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided 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, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup>'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

<sup>33</sup>And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then 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 <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

<sup>36</sup>There 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, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At 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.

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