

Sunday 13th September
Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Today's Collect

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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.

Post Communion Prayer

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Week Services: Sunday 20th September

10.00am	Norton & Lenchwick	Holy Communion
10.00am	Harvington	Church @ 10
11.00am	Church Lench	Holy Communion BCP
11.00am	Abbots Morton	Holy Communion

Mid Week Eucharist: 11:00 am Wednesday, St James, Harvington

Events

- Rous Lench Family Pub Night 18th September 6:30pm.
- Harvest Suppers in October :
 - 16th Oct – Abbots Morton HS, 6:30-7pm. Pippa: pippa@p1g.co.uk.
 - 24th Oct – Rous Lench HS, 7pm. £15 entry. Fran: herdmanfrances@gmail.com.
 - 11th Oct – St. James' Harvington Bring & Share Harvest Lunch, 11:45am.

This Week's First Reading: *Genesis 50.15-21.*

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷ 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept. ¹⁸ His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹ So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

This Weeks Psalm: *Psalm 103.1-13.*

This Week's Second Reading: *Romans 14.1-12.*

14 Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. ² One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. ³ The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. ⁴ Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. ⁶ Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. ⁸ If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. ⁹ For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰ You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister?

Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. ¹¹ It is written: "As surely as I live," says the Lord, every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God."

¹² So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

This Week's Gospel Reading: *Matthew 18. 21-35.*

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"

²² Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³ "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

²⁶ "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go.

²⁸ "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

²⁹ "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.'

³⁰ "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

³² "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵ "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Next Weeks Readings: *Jonah 3.10-end of 4, Psalm 145. 1-8, Philippians 1. 21-end, Matthew 20. 1-16.*

Prayer of Intercession

We turn with confidence to our heavenly Father and place before him the needs of our community and the world in which we live.

We pray for the church, that she may be a place of reconciliation and healing, helping all people to encounter the mercy and love of Christ. Let the love within our parish community shape the way we speak, the choices we make and the way we care for one another.

May our families and communities experiencing division find the courage to forgive, seek peace and rebuild stronger relationships.

Lord God, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for our children and young people beginning a new school or college year. We pray that they may grow in confidence, wisdom and compassion. That all children listen to what the world has to offer and find their own voice to contribute to society and help welcome in others.

Lord God, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are sick, anxious or carrying heavy burdens: that they may know the closeness of Christ and experience the care of those around them. We also pray for all who live in fear because of war or violence, so that they may find safety, protection and hope.

Lord God, **hear our prayer.**

We give our love for those who have recently past away, that they may be welcomed into the fullness of life in God's presence. We pray that all those feeling left behind find the strength to continue to share God's love on earth as the Lord intended.

Lord God, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father, hear the prayers we place before you and strengthen us to live faithfully in your love. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord, **Amen.**