

Sunday 18th January

Epiphany 2

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

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 Services: Sunday 25th January

9:30am	Harvington	Holy Communion BCP
11:00am	Church Lench	Family Service
11:00am	Abbots Morton	Morning Service
3:30pm	Harvington Village Hall	Messy Church

Notice; Opportunity to sing at Worcester Cathedral as choir in residence on 18th / 19th April 2026. This gives singers from smaller church choirs the opportunity to learn and perform music on a larger scale (with smaller rehearsals leading up to the final performance).

If you or anyone you know would be interested, please email Mark at markblackwell96@gmail.com or on 07768 146879.

Deadline for expressions of interest is 20th January

This Week's First Reading: *Isaiah 49.1-7.*

49 Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mothers womb he named me. ² He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. ³ And he said to me, You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified. ⁴ But I said, I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God. ⁵ And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honoured in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength- ⁶ he says, It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth. ⁷ Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.

This Week's Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 1.1-9*

1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, ² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind- ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you- ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you

to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This Week's Gospel Reading: *John 1.29 – 42.*

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!' ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me."

³¹ I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' ³² And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." ³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.'

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which is translated to Teacher), 'where are you staying?' ³⁹ He said to them, 'Come and see.'

They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). ⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).

Prayer of Intercession

Everlasting God, as we give thanks for this new day and focus on the Baptism of our Lord, help us to remember our own Baptisms and our callings to follow your Son. May we be filled with strength and love for all the people you have called upon to serve here in this parish. Help us to live our lives for you and be mindful of your presence with us each day.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Father God, we pray today for our Christian friends that united by our common baptism we may serve your Son our Lord by welcoming the newcomer, the stranger and all who are vulnerable and in need of your love and care.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Loving God, we pray for all who are facing difficulties in their personal lives. All who are sick or in pain, those with depression or facing mental health problems, those with problems in their relationships, their neighbourhoods or in their workplaces. Give them a patient faith in their troubles and pain, and the knowledge of your love, peace and healing in their lives.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Eternal God, as we remember those whom we have loved who are no longer here with us, we give you thanks for their lives and for happy memories. We pray for all who mourn their passing, especially those people who have lost loved ones recently. We pray that they will find your comfort and peace for their sorrow and pain.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Faithful God, we thank you for making us your children, for feeding us with your spiritual food and for the promise that you listen to our prayers and answer our needs. Rejoicing in the fellowship within the ARCH Benefice, we commend ourselves and all Christian people to your unfailing love.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen