

Sunday 27th September
Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

Today's Collect

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; 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

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Week Services: Sunday 4th October

10am	Norton & Lenchwick	Harvest Eucharist
10am	Harvington	Church @10
11.00	Church Lench	Harvest Eucharist
11.00	Abbots Morton	Church @ 11
6.30pm	Harvington	Holy Communion Trad Lang

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

Events

Harvest Festival Celebrations!

4th Oct – Church Lench, Service at 11am, Harvest Lunch 12:15pm.

Norton & Lenchwick, Service at 10am, Harvest Lunch 12:30pm.

11th Oct – Harvington, Service at 11am followed by Bring and Share lunch.

16th Oct – Abbots Morton VH, Harvest Supper 6:30pm Pippa: pippa@p1g.co.uk.

18th Oct – Abbots Morton, Harvest Service 11am.

24th Oct – Rous Lench VH, 7pm. £15 entry. Fran: herdmanfrances@gmail.com.

25th Oct – Rous Lench, Harvest Service at 10am.

This Week's First Reading: *Ezekiel 18.1-4, 25-end.*

¹⁸ The word of the Lord came to me:² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? ³ As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel.⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is unfair.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die.²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life.

²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die.

²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is unfair.' O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God . Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin.

³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God . Turn, then, and live.

This Weeks Psalm: *Psalms 25.1-8.*

This Week's Second Reading: *Philippians 2.1-13.*

² If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born

in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death- even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

This Week's Gospel Reading: *Matthew 21.23-32.*

²³ When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?'

²⁴ Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?' And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven", he will say to us, "Why then did you not believe him?"'

²⁶ But if we say, "Of human origin", we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁸ What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." ²⁹ He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went.

³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Prayer of Intercession

Almighty and all-knowing God, You alone see the big picture. You alone know your plans, plans to prosper with no harm. And yet it is hard not to feel anxious and uncertain when we look around us and see so much need for prayer. Yours is a path of generosity, grace and peace, but your children are led astray with greed, intolerance and violence. We ask your blessing on the peace-makers - those seeking to mediate between warring nations and factions and individuals. Encourage and strengthen them, giving them the right words to say. May your Holy Spirit infuse the hearts of those who wield power and influence, that they may prioritise justice, safety and wellbeing for all. May we use our votes prayerfully and our voices wisely, unafraid to speak truth to power.

Help us trust your love and your leading, as we journey on together.

God, who led your people to safety in treacherous times, we pray for those who are in danger at this time; those who make the news such as the victims of the floods in Nepal and China, the volcano in Indonesia or the collapsed building in Delhi, and those whose situation goes unnoticed by others. We pray for those who put their lives at risk to seek sanctuary in another country due to danger at home, not knowing what kind of welcome they will receive. Bless all who work to support those in danger and in need, and may our hearts be filled with compassion and understanding.

Help us trust your love and your leading, as we journey on together.

Creator and carer of all, you see the needs of each individual and long to lead them from all that holds them back from living life in all its fullness. We pray for those whose mental health is affected by their situation, those who are limited by lack of understanding when navigating the circumstances they find themselves in. We bring before you all whose quality of life is marred by poverty, unemployment, homelessness, and lack of opportunity. We pray for those who are sick or who feel held back by weakness or impairment, and for those who mourn. May your love and comfort envelop them, your strength infuse them, your spirit encourage them. Strengthen and equip those who work amongst them and move us with compassion to help where we can, whether it be practically, emotionally or financially.

Help us trust your love and your leading, as we journey on together.