

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

Weekly Notices

1st June 2025

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Today's Collect

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father.

Today's Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Week's Services

Sunday 8th June 2025: Pentecost

8.30 am	Rous Lench	Holy Communion*
9.30 am	Harvington	Family Communion+
11.00 am	Church Lench	Holy Communion+

St James's Harvington Summer Fete

Next Saturday 7th June, 11.00 am - 3.00 pm in the churchyard

Many attractions on display including vintage cars, musical entertainment from local artists, stalls with games for all ages and opportunity to stock up the garden and home with wise purchases

PLUS FOOD AND DRINK

For Prayer

Heavenly Father, we bring before you all those affected by the events in Liverpool on Monday. Please be with the injured, granting them healing of body and mind. Strengthen their loved ones to support them, we pray. We thank you for all the services who helped on the scene and in hospital, and we pray for them and the work they do.

We pray for our own communities; relatively peaceful, perhaps, yet struggling with their own challenges. We bring before you our young people, often disenchanted and vulnerable to voices calling them to danger and self-destruction. In particular, we pray for those whose minds have been ensnared by the dark side of social media, asking that they be freed from those who would seek to exploit them and lead them into harmful ways. We remember, too, our older people, feeling lost and bewildered in the midst of great upheavals and change. Lord, let us never become entrenched and unresponsive; help us to keep open minds and open hearts, so that the Holy Spirit may work in us and through us in the places you have called us to serve.

Father, we pray for your Church in these increasingly difficult times, when your message of salvation is misunderstood. In the mouths of mockers, it is often distorted, just as it was in the days of the first apostles. Lord, open the eyes, hearts and minds of those who are captive to the cynical spirit of our present age; set them free to understand the message of your merciful love.

Heavenly Father, there are so many things which hold us captive; serious illness and its effects on body, mind and spirit; fear of the future, and the shackles of the past; doubting you, O Lord, and doubting ourselves.

We pray for all who are sick in body and mind.

Father, may they know the healing that comes from you.

We pray for all whose fear of the future is paralysing their ability to live in the present.

Father, may fullness of life come through faith in you, for you know the needs of your children.

We pray for all who doubt your ability to care for today's world. Father, may there be an increase of faith to meet the challenges of this age. And we pray for all who doubt themselves.

Father, may we all stand strong in the knowledge that we are empowered by you through your Holy Spirit and the sacrifice of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

This Week's First Reading: Acts 16:16-34

¹⁶One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. ¹⁷While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, 'These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation.' ¹⁸She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, 'I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.' And it came out that very hour.

¹⁹But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. ²⁰When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, 'These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs ²¹that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.' ²²The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. ²³After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. ²⁴Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. ²⁷When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped.

²⁸But Paul shouted in a loud voice, 'Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.' ²⁹The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰Then he brought them outside and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' ³¹They answered, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your

Acts 16:16-34 continued

household.’³²They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. ³⁴He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

This Week’s Psalm: *Psalm 97:1-12*

- 1 The Lord is king: let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of the isles be glad.
- 2 Clouds and darkness are round about him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.
- 3 Fire goes before him and burns up his enemies on every side.
- 4 His lightnings lit up the world; the earth saw it and trembled.
- 5 The mountains melted like wax at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.
- 6 The heavens declared his righteousness and all the peoples have seen his glory.
- 7 Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in mere idols. Bow down before him, all you gods.
- 8 Zion heard and was glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoiced, because of your judgements, O Lord.
- 9 For you, Lord, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.
- 10 The Lord loves those who hate evil; he preserves the lives of his faithful and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
- 11 Light has sprung up for the righteous and joy for the true of heart.
- 12 Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous and give thanks to his holy name.

This Week's Second Reading:

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

I, John, heard a voice saying to me: ¹²'See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

¹⁴Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.

¹⁶It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.' ¹⁷The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.' And let everyone who hears say, 'Come.' And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

²⁰The one who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! ²¹The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

This Week's Gospel Reading: *John 17:20-26*

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed: 'Holy Father, ²⁰I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

²⁵'Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you;

John 17:20-26 continued

and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.'

Next Week's First Reading: Acts 2:1-21

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.

⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?' ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs – in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' ¹³But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷"In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth

Acts 2:1-21 continued

below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. ²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. ²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Next Week's Psalm: *Psalm 104:26-36, 37b*

- 26 O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.
- 27 There is the sea, spread far and wide, and there move creatures beyond number, both small and great.
- 28 There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan which you have made to play in the deep.
- 29 All of these look to you to give them their food in due season.
- 30 When you give it them, they gather it; you open your hand and they are filled with good.
- 31 When you hide your face they are troubled; when you take away their breath, they die and return again to the dust.
- 32 When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.
- 33 May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; may the Lord rejoice in his works;
- 34 He looks on the earth and it trembles; he touches the mountains and they smoke.
- 35 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will make music to my God while I have my being.
- 36 So shall my song please him while I rejoice in the Lord.
- 37 Bless the Lord, O my soul. Alleluia.

Next Week's Second Reading: *Romans 8:14-17*

¹⁴All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ – if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

Next Week's Gospel Reading: *John 14:8-17*

⁸Philip said to Jesus, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.'
⁹Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.
¹⁵If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever.
¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.