

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



Weekly Notices

29th June 2025

Lenches Flower Festival



Today's Collect

Almighty God, who inspired your apostle Saint Peter to confess Jesus as Christ and Son of the living God: build up your Church upon this rock, that in unity and peace it may proclaim one truth and follow one Lord, your Son our Saviour Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Today's Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God, who on the day of Pentecost sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame, filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel: by the power of the same Spirit strengthen us to witness to your truth and to draw everyone to the fire of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Week's Services: Sunday 6th July 2025

9.00 am	Church Lench	Family Communion+
11.00 am	Harvington	Morning Service

BIG 'THANK YOU' TO

Everyone who has made this Flower Festival so special this weekend. Thanks also for your support — so appreciated.



For Prayer

Heavenly Father, we pray for those around us as we sit here this morning; for our sisters and brothers in Christ, gathered here in this Church. If there is any way we can show love and kindness, please make it known to us. We pray for any among us who especially need kindness at this time; for any who have recently lost a loved one; for those who struggle with health issues; for anybody who is finding life difficult just now, and who needs a kind word and maybe a helping hand. May your Holy Spirit aid us in our efforts to live as Jesus lived, loving our neighbours as ourselves.

Lord, we think of the community that surrounds us outside these walls, and we pray for all the people we know, and also those we don't, who live and work around us. In the coming week, in all our interactions with the neighbours in our streets, with those who work in local businesses or contribute to our community in any way, may we be worthy of Christ in the way we treat them. We pray that your Holy Spirit will help us to bear witness to you in acts of kindness and respect which reflect our life in Christ.

We widen our circle of prayer to take in our nation and the world. These are difficult days for all, Lord, as news of warfare fills our screens, and we struggle along with other nations to contain climate change. Help us not to be overwhelmed by bad news, Father. Prayer is powerful. In situations where we feel helpless, to pray in the power of the Spirit is enough; to hold the world in love, and pray for peace, healing and harmony, for the balm of your love in the midst of humanity's brokenness.

Help us to be free from despair; let us not be ensnared by fears and imaginings and become inward-looking and cynical. Christ has set us free. Therefore help us to allow the light of kindness to shine in our own small corners, to banish the darkness and let love in.

In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

This Week's First Reading: Acts 12:1-11

¹King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. ²He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword.

³After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.)

⁴When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. ⁵While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him.

⁶The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison.

⁷Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, 'Get up quickly.' And the chains fell off his wrists. ⁸The angel said to him, 'Fasten your belt and put on your sandals.' He did so. Then he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.'

⁹Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. ¹¹Then Peter came to himself and said, 'Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.'



This Week's Psalm: *Psalm 125:1-5*

- 1 Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but stands fast for ever.
- 2 As the hills stand about Jerusalem, so the Lord stands round about his people, from this time forth for evermore.
- 3 The sceptre of wickedness shall not hold sway over the land allotted to the righteous, lest the righteous turn their hands to evil.
- 4 Do good, O Lord, to those who are good, and to those who are true of heart.
- 5 Those who turn aside to crooked ways the Lord shall take away with the evildoers; but let there be peace upon Israel.

This Week's Second Reading: *1 Peter 2:19-25*

Brothers and sisters: ¹⁹It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. ²²'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.' ²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.



This Week's Gospel Reading: *Matthew 16:13-19*

¹³When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' ¹⁴And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' ¹⁵He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'

Next Week's First Reading: *2 Kings 5:1-14*

¹Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favour with his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. ²Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³She said to her mistress, 'If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.' ⁴So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. ⁵And the king of Aram said, 'Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel.' He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. ⁶He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, 'When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy.' ⁷When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, 'Am I God, to



2 Kings 5:1-14 continued

give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me.’⁸But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, ‘Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel.’⁹So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha’s house.¹⁰Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, ‘Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean.’¹¹But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, ‘I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy!’¹²Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?’ He turned and went away in a rage.¹³But his servants approached and said to him, ‘Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, “Wash, and be clean”?’¹⁴So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

Next Week’s Psalm: *Psalm 30:1-12*

- 1 I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have raised me up and have not let my foes triumph over me.
- 2 O Lord my God, I cried out to you and you have healed me.
- 3 You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead; you restored me to life from among those that go down to the Pit.
- 4 Sing to the Lord, you servants of his; give thanks to his holy name.
- 5 For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye, his favour for a lifetime. Heaviness may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.



Psalm 30:1-12 continued

- 6 In my prosperity I said, 'I shall never be moved. You, Lord, of your goodness, have made my hill so strong.'
- 7 Then you hid your face from me and I was utterly dismayed.
- 8 To you, O Lord, I cried; to the Lord I made my supplication:
- 9 'What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the Pit? Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?
- 10 'Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me; O Lord, be my helper.'
- 11 You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have put off my sackcloth and girded me with gladness;
- 12 Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

Next Week's Second Reading: *Galatians 6:7-16*

⁷Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. ⁸If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. ⁹So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. ¹⁰So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

¹¹See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! ¹²It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised – only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. ¹⁴May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

¹⁵For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! ¹⁶As for those who will follow this rule peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.



Next Week's Gospel Reading: *Luke 10:1-11, 16-20*

¹The Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. ²He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. ³Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves.

⁴Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road.

⁵Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" ⁶And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. ⁷Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. ⁸Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; ⁹cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you."

¹⁰But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, ¹¹"Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near."

¹⁶Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.'

¹⁷The seventy returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!' ¹⁸He said to them, 'I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. ¹⁹See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. ²⁰Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.'

