

Sunday 1st March

Second Sunday of Lent

Today's Collect

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Next Week Services: Sunday 8th March

9:30am	Harvington	Holy Communion
10:00am	Norton & Lenchwick	
11:00am	Abbots Morton	Holy Communion
11:00am	Church Lench	Lay-Led Morning Service

Mid-week Eucharist: 11:00am Wednesdays at St James', Harvington

Notices;

- ❖ On Friday 6th there's a Nigerian written service at St. James, Harvington for anyone who would like to attend. All are welcome!
- ❖ Adverts for the Arch Messenger must be emailed to tom@archbenefice.org.uk by 9th March

Upcoming Events

Tue 3 rd March	Community Coffee Morning – Abbots Morton Village Hall.
4 th , 11 th , 18 th & 25 th March	Lent Lunch - The Lenches Club.
Fri 27 th March	'EggHeads' Easter Quiz! – Abbots Morton Village Hall - £6 per person, Provide your own drinks.

ALL WELCOME!

This Week's First Reading: *Genesis 12.1-4a.*

12 The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. ² I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran.

This Week's Second Reading: *Romans 4.1-5, 13-17,*

4 What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? ² If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. ³ What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

⁴ Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation.⁵ However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness. ¹³ It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.¹⁴ For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless,¹⁵ because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶ Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. ¹⁷ As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

This Week's Gospel Reading: *John 3.1-17.*

3 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."

³ Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

⁴ "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

⁹ "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰ "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? ¹¹ Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Next Weeks Readings: *Exodus 17.1-7, Psalm 95, Romans 5.1-11, John 4.5-42*

Prayer of Intercession

Holy God, as we continue our journey through Lent make us mindful of our potential for good and for growth, as we strive for perfection in your sight despite our human failing and imperfections.

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

Gracious God, we recognise that the work of helping people through life can leave church leaders vulnerable to spiritual attack. We thank you for our church leaders and pray that they won't allow criticism or negativity to blunt their ministry; that they will hear encouragement, and that they will always respond in love and forgiveness when difficulties arise.

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

Creator God, we pray for all in authority that they may never be tempted to abuse or misuse their power. Help and guide them to show wisdom and resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace and so bring peace and prosperity to every corner of the world. We particularly pray for the conflict between Russia and Ukraine as it enters its fourth year – Lord please bring peace.

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

Father God, we pray for our relationships with family, friends and neighbours and we particularly pray that we never lead them into any kind of temptation. Help them to see us as a new creation, still the person that God created, but now also as an active part of God's earthly family.

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

Loving God, our hearts ache when we hear about the pain and suffering that some of our loved ones have to endure especially when illness has come about through the temptations of the world. Come close and bring comfort and healing to those in these difficult times.

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

Everlasting God, may we show and share our love and trust for you wholeheartedly, today, as we go back out into the world and through every day of our Lenten journey.

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