

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

Weekly Notices

1st September 2024

Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

Today's Collect

Merciful God, your Son came to save us and bore our sins on the cross:
may we trust in your mercy and know your love, rejoicing in the
righteousness that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today's Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles'
teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Week's Services: Sunday 8th September 2024

9.30 am	Harvington	Holy Communion+
11.00 am	Abbots Morton	Holy Communion+
11.00 am	Church Lench	Morning Service

New Youth Group Leader

On 4th September, Matthew Cook will be starting as the new Harvington Youth Project Youth Group Leader on a full time contract. This is possible through a generous 5-year grant provided by the Diocese to assist communities to grow and develop Youth outreach. Matthew has a brief to reach out across the whole Benefice and neighbouring villages.

There will be opportunities to meet Matthew in the near future; in the meantime please pray for him as he settles in and gets to know his community.

For Prayer

Loving God, we pray for peace in our world, remembering all those directly affected by conflict in Russia and Ukraine, in Gaza and in all the places round the world that don't at present make the headlines. Teach us not only to long for peace, but also to be examples of peaceful living. May our words and our hopes
Be transformed by your love into actions and change.

Loving God, we pray for all those who are victims of crimes of violence. We continue to pray for the families of the children who lost their lives in Southport, for victims of violence at the Notting Hill Carnival and for all who suffer as a result of domestic abuse. Teach us not only to long for an end to this pain but also to live in harmony with our neighbours. May our words and our hopes
Be transformed by your love into actions and change.

Loving God, we pray for the Church throughout the world; we thank you for all that our own church means to us and for its witness in the community. We ask your blessing on all social action taken in the name of the church and pray for success for funding bids. Teach us not only to long for all people to experience your love, but to play our part in showing your love in action. May our words and our hopes

Be transformed by your love into actions and change.

Loving God, we pray for all children and young people: for those preparing to return to schools, colleges and universities; for those beginning new courses; for those starting at new institutions. We remember also all those who work in education and education policy makers. Teach us to support those who have challenging roles and to live in ways that accept, honour and respect those of all ages. May our words and our hopes

Be transformed by your love into actions and change.

Loving God, we commend to you those with particular needs at this time; the sick and the sorrowful, the lonely and the persecuted, the poor and the homeless. Teach us to see needs around us and to respond appropriately. May our words and our hopes

Be transformed by your love into actions and change.

Loving God, we bring you our own needs and aspirations. We pray that you will help us to fulfil our potential as children of God, created in God's image and serving our neighbours in your world. May our words and our hopes

Be transformed by your love into actions and change.

In the name of your Son who lived a life of words made real in action,
Amen.

This Week's First Reading: *Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9*

Moses spoke to the people; he said: ¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!' ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? ⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

This Week's Psalm: *Psalms 15:1-8*

- 1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may rest upon your holy hill?
- 2 Whoever leads an uncorrupt life and does the thing that is right;
- 3 Who speaks the truth from the heart and bears no deceit on the tongue;
- 4 Who does no evil to a friend and pours no scorn on a neighbour;

Psalm 15:1-8 continued

- 5 In whose sight the wicked are not esteemed, but who honours those who fear the Lord.
- 6 Whoever has sworn to a neighbour and never goes back on that word;
- 7 Who does not lend money in hope of gain, nor takes a bribe against the innocent;
- 8 Whoever does these things shall never fall.

This Week's Second Reading: *James 1:17-27*

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfilment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act – they will be blessed in their doing.

James 1:17-27 continued

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

This Week's Gospel Reading: *Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23*

¹When the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?' ⁶He said to them, 'Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, "This people honours me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; ⁷in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.'"

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.' ²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy,

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 continued

slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.'

Next Week's First Reading: *Isaiah 35:4-7a*

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

Next Week's Psalm: *Psalms 146:1-10*

- 1 Alleluia.
Praise the Lord, O my soul: while I live will I praise the Lord; as long as I have any being, I will sing praises to my God.
- 2 Put not your trust in princes, nor in any human power, for there is no help in them.
- 3 When their breath goes forth, they return to the earth; on that day all their thoughts perish.
- 4 Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the Lord their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them; who keeps his promise for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those that suffer wrong and bread to those who hunger.
- 7 The Lord looses those that are bound; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;

Psalm 146:1-10 continued

- 8 The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous;
- 9 The Lord watches over the stranger in the land; he upholds the orphan and widow; but the way of the wicked he turns upside down.
- 10 The Lord shall reign for ever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Alleluia.

Next Week's Second Reading: *James 2:1-17*

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please,' while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there,' or, 'Sit at my feet,' ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. ¹¹For the one who said, 'You shall not commit adultery,' also said, 'You shall not murder.' Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgement will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgement. ¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but

James 2:1-17 continued

do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,' and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Next Week's Gospel Reading: *Mark 7:24-37*

²⁴Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' ²⁸But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' ²⁹Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go – the demon has left your daughter.' ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'