

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

**Weekly Notices**

**2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025**

**The Presentation of Christ in the Temple**

**Today's Collect**

Lord Jesus Christ, light of the nations and glory of Israel: make your home among us, and present us pure and holy to your heavenly Father, your God, and our God.

**Today's Post Communion Prayer**

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

**Next Week's Services: Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

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

**Harvington Youth Project – Volunteers required**

Harvington Youth Project is reaching out to children across the Benefice age 7-16+ offering a time of story telling, spiritual reflection and games. It needs adult volunteers for its 3 groups that meet on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings between 6.30-8.00 pm or 7.00-9.00 pm on Mondays.

If you are able to help please get in touch with Matt Cook the Youth Project Worker ([harvingtonyouth@gmail.com](mailto:harvingtonyouth@gmail.com)) or me (01386 870527).

*Richard Thorniley*

## **For Prayer**

God of strength and gentleness, we bring to you in prayer: those whose lives are really tough, those whose homes have been damaged by storms or flood or fire, those who have no homes and no resources, those struggling to meet the needs of those they care for, and those denied access to education and the basic joys of life, especially the women of Afghanistan.

**Lord Jesus hear our prayer**

We pray for all those called to speak tough words. We especially pray for: your Church throughout the world that she would be the voice of truth and justice and mercy, those persecuted for sharing the gospel, and our fellowship of faith here, that we would be people of integrity and courage as we tackle the challenges that face our communities and our nation.

**Lord Jesus hear our prayer**

We pray for all those entrusted with making tough decisions: we pray for our politicians as they manage budgets and make policies affecting so many lives, we pray for those in the NHS as they manage both crisis and the day-to-day needs of patients, we pray for all managing household budgets that are stretched and for those overwhelmed with anxiety.

**Lord Jesus hear our prayer**

We pray for those making tough journeys: for the people of Gaza as they return home to rubble, for those in the DR Congo fleeing their homes as violence rages in the streets, for those being forcibly removed from their homes, for those going to refuges who are fleeing abuse, for those visiting loved ones who no longer recognise them, for all those whose journeys end in tragedy, especially those killed in Washington, for those going on their final journey and for those who journey alongside them.

**Lord Jesus hear our prayer**

We pray for everyone struggling to cope with the tough headlines we see on our screens and in our papers day after day. We pray for those whose lives we glimpse and are moved by: for all the young lives threatened by and lost to violence, for all those impacted by the dark web, for all struggling with the pressures of social media, and we pray for one another and for all in need of your tough love today - your challenging, affirming and transformational love.

**Lord Jesus hear our prayer Amen.**

## **This Week's First Reading: *Malachi 3:1-5***

Thus says the Lord God: <sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. <sup>5</sup>Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

## **This Week's Psalm: *Psalms 24:1-10***

- 1 The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it, the compass of the world and all who dwell therein.
- 2 For he has founded it upon the seas and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep.
- 3 'Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord, or who can rise up in his holy place?'
- 4 'Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, who have not lifted up their soul to an idol, nor sworn an oath to a lie;

*Psalm 24:1-10 continued*

- 5 'They shall receive a blessing from the Lord, a just reward from the God of their salvation.'
- 6 Such is the company of those who seek him, of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.
- 7 Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.
- 8 'Who is the King of glory?' 'The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord who is mighty in battle.'
- 9 Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.
- 10 'Who is this King of glory?' 'The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.'

**This Week's Second Reading: *Hebrews 2:14-18***

<sup>14</sup>Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup>and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup>For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham.

<sup>17</sup>Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

## **This Week's Gospel Reading: *Luke 2:22-40***

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup>'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

<sup>33</sup>And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow

## *Luke 2:22-40 continued*

to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

## **Next Week's First Reading: *Isaiah 6:1-8***

<sup>1</sup>In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew.

<sup>3</sup>And one called to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.' <sup>4</sup>The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!'

<sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup>The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.' <sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'

## **Next Week's Psalm: *Psalm 138:1-8***

- 1 I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods will I sing praise to you.
- 2 I will bow down towards your holy temple and praise your name, because of your love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.
- 3 In the day that I called to you, you answered me; you put new strength in my soul.
- 4 All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord, for they have heard the words of your mouth.
- 5 They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, that great is the glory of the Lord.
- 6 Though the Lord be high, he watches over the lowly; as for the proud, he regards them from afar.
- 7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you will preserve me; you will stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand will save me.
- 8 The Lord shall make good his purpose for me; your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever; forsake not the work of your hands.

## **Next Week's Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 15:1-11***

<sup>1</sup>I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup>through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you – unless you have come to believe in vain. <sup>3</sup>For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the

## *1 Corinthians 15:1-11 continued*

apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them – though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

<sup>11</sup>Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

## **Next Week's Gospel Reading: *Luke 5:1-11***

<sup>1</sup>While Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, <sup>2</sup>he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup>He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. <sup>4</sup>When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' <sup>5</sup>Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.' <sup>6</sup>When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. <sup>7</sup>So they signalled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. <sup>8</sup>But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!' <sup>9</sup>For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; <sup>10</sup>and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.' <sup>11</sup>When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed Jesus.