

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

**Weekly Notices**  
**16<sup>th</sup> March 2025**  
**Second Sunday of Lent**

**Today's Collect**

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Today's Post Communion Prayer**

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Next Week's Services: Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025**

8.30 am	Church Lench	Holy Communion*
9.30 am	Harvington	Holy Communion+
3.30 pm	Harvington VH	Messy Church

**The Murder of Evesham**

***A presentation on the Battle of Evesham and its  
consequence on Evesham***

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2.00-3.30 pm at St James' Church, Harvington**

**Speakers:** Mick Hurst and Ian Priest (re-enactor)

**Including:** Knights in full armour, and perhaps a fight

Tickets £5 including refreshments, available at the door and  
via Battle of Evesham website shop

*Proceeds shared between St James', Harvington and Battle of Evesham Trust*

## **For Prayer**

Lord of the universe, thank you for all the beauty in our world. We think of the new growth blooming at the start of spring. We are amazed by the incredible night sky, the stars, the planets: everything we can see and everything that is beyond our comprehension. All of it crafted by your hands; all of it upheld by you. Lord, as we look at the stars, help us to remember your promise to Abram and your promises to us. Abram never saw the full fruit of the promises and yet he carried on following your word. We may not understand, we may be confused but help us, whenever we see the night sky, to remember that you are a faithful God. Lord, as we wait for your promises to be fulfilled,

**Help us to keep trusting your faithfulness.**

Father, we pray for our community. We think of those places that seem dark or dangerous. We pray for the places that we would rather not go through and we think of the places that give us pleasure. We pray for those who work in our community and we pause to think of our neighbours, those we meet on the bus, in our office, our classroom, in the park as we walk the dog. Lord, you are Lord of all these people and places whether we recognise it or not. You have a plan for our community. Help us to listen for the part you want us to play in bringing that plan to fruition. Give us the courage, as a church and as individual people of God, to tell others of your amazing faithfulness and love. Draw people to your light, we pray and fill our streets with your praise.

Lord, as we wait for your promises to be fulfilled,

**Help us to keep trusting your faithfulness.**

Lord we thank you for the times when we have glimpses of your glory; when we see your promises coming true even when we don't expect it. We think of all the good things that have happened to us this week and we pause to smile. We thank you for good news stories; for those unexpected moments of joy; for fun; for laughter; for a job well done. We thank you that you are with us in these small moments as well as the life-changing situations. As we prepare for the coming week, help us to look forward to travelling with you. Go before us, Lord, and light our way. Help us to see you in the trivial and the timeless; in the life-changing and the mundane. Keep us from following our own feeble footsteps but instead lead us on and take us where you are going, Lord. Surprise us with your presence; startle us with answers to our unspoken prayers; bring us back here next week with stories to tell of your goodness.

Lord, as we wait for your promises to be fulfilled

**Help us to keep trusting your faithfulness and to keep following your wonderful, winding, challenging path. Amen**

## **This Week's First Reading: *Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18***

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, 'O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' <sup>4</sup>But the word of the LORD came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' <sup>5</sup>He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' <sup>6</sup>And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness. <sup>7</sup>Then he said to him, 'I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.' <sup>8</sup>But he said, 'O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' <sup>9</sup>He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' <sup>10</sup>He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup>And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. <sup>12</sup>As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. <sup>17</sup>When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup>On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.'

## **This Week's Psalm: *Psalm 27:1-17***

- 1 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?
- 2 When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.
- 3 Though a host encamp against me, my heart shall not be afraid, and though there rise up war against me, yet will I put my trust in him.
- 4 One thing have I asked of the Lord and that alone I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
- 5 To behold the fair beauty of the Lord and to seek his will in his temple.
- 6 For in the day of trouble he shall hide me in his shelter; in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me and set me high upon a rock.
- 7 And now shall he lift up my head above my enemies round about me;
- 8 Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation with great gladness; I will sing and make music to the Lord.
- 9 Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call; have mercy upon me and answer me.
- 10 My heart tells of your word, 'Seek my face.' Your face, Lord, will I seek.
- 11 Hide not your face from me, nor cast your servant away in displeasure.
- 12 You have been my helper; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.

*Psalm 27:1-17 continued*

- 13 Though my father and my mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up.
- 14 Teach me your way, O Lord; lead me on a level path, because of those who lie in wait for me.
- 15 Deliver me not into the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen up against me, and those who breathe out violence.
- 16 I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
- 17 Wait for the Lord; be strong and he shall comfort your heart; wait patiently for the Lord.

**This Week's Second Reading: *Philippians 3:17-4:1***

<sup>17</sup>Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup>For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup>Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup>He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. <sup>1</sup>Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

## **This Week's Gospel Reading: *Luke 13:31-35***

<sup>31</sup>At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' <sup>32</sup>He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup>Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." <sup>34</sup>Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup>See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

## **Next Week's First Reading: *Isaiah 55:1-9***

The LORD says this: <sup>1</sup>Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. <sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. <sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. <sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. <sup>5</sup>See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. <sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; <sup>7</sup>let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. <sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. <sup>9</sup>For as the

## *Isaiah 55:1-9 continued*

heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

## **Next Week's Psalm: *Psalm 63:1-9***

- 1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul is athirst for you.
- 2 My flesh also faints for you, as in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.
- 3 So would I gaze upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.
- 4 Your loving-kindness is better than life itself and so my lips shall praise you.
- 5 I will bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.
- 6 My soul shall be satisfied, as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise you with joyful lips,
- 7 When I remember you upon my bed and meditate on you in the watches of the night.
- 8 For you have been my helper and under the shadow of your wings will I rejoice.
- 9 My soul clings to you; your right hand shall hold me fast.

## **Next Week's Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 10:1-13***

<sup>1</sup>I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup>Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup>Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to

## *1 Corinthians 10:1-13 continued*

play.’<sup>8</sup>We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day.<sup>9</sup>We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents.<sup>10</sup>And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer.<sup>11</sup>These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come.<sup>12</sup>So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall.<sup>13</sup>No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

## **Next Week’s Gospel Reading: *Luke 13:1-9***

<sup>1</sup>There were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.<sup>2</sup>He asked them, ‘Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?’<sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.<sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them - do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?’<sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.’

<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: ‘A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none.<sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, “See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?”<sup>8</sup>He replied, “Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it.<sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.”’