

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

Weekly Notices

20th April 2025

Easter Sunday

Alleluia! He is risen! Alleluia!

Today's Collect

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Today's Post Communion Prayer

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Week's Services: Sunday 27th April 2025

9.30 am	Harvington	Holy Communion+
11.00 am	Church Lench	Morning Service
11.00 am	Abbots Morton	Morning Service
3.30 pm	Harvington Village Hall	Messy Church

HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE!!

For Prayer

This Easter, we again celebrate that you, our God, sent your Son to save us. We celebrate that, despite all his suffering, he defeated death and took all the wrong of the world to the cross with him. We celebrate that the darkness of the sky when Jesus cried 'It is finished' was replaced by the light of hope. We celebrate that the tomb was empty, and with those followers who met the resurrected Christ, we celebrate that he lives again.

Christ has been raised from the dead:

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

This Easter, we think of how much the gift of life and salvation we are offered means to us. We think of the joy and hope that you, our God offer us, and the purpose you give to our lives. We think of your Son Jesus who faced pain, torture and humiliation, and did it all for us. We think of how we can follow his example of care, love and service to others, and obey your call on our lives. We think of our calling to bring change and share his love at home, at school, at work, where we volunteer or wherever we are.

Christ has been raised from the dead:

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

This Easter, we pray for all those who are suffering in our own nation. We pray for those who have been injured in incidents and accidents on our roads and in our communities, and whose holidays have turned into times of sadness. We pray for those who face financial challenges and the fear of losing their jobs; for those held in the grip of addiction and substance abuse, and those who are sliding back into reliance on drugs and alcohol. We pray for those facing tough decisions and all who are ill and in pain. We ask that you speak into peoples' lives and show them ways to cope and to thrive.

Christ has been raised from the dead:

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

This Easter, we reflect on the need for quiet and peace in our busy lives. We reflect on all that we do in our churches to serve our communities, and the need for rest. As we spend a few moments in peace and silence now, help us to reflect personally on all your goodness to us, and the many blessings we have... (*pause*). Help us to reflect on the times and moments when we have felt you close to us, and to seek those moments again. God, give us peace in our communities, churches, families, and lives.

Christ has been raised from the dead:

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

This Week's First Reading: *Isaiah 65:17-25*

¹⁷I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. ¹⁸But be glad and rejoice for ever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. ¹⁹I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. ²⁰No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. ²¹They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²²They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. ²³They shall not labour in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD – and their descendants as well. ²⁴Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. ²⁵The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent – its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

This Week's Psalm: *Psalms 118:14-24*

- 14 The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.
- 15 Joyful shouts of salvation sound from the tents of the righteous:

Psalm 118:14-24 continued

- 16 'The right hand of the Lord does mighty deeds; the right hand of the Lord raises up; the right hand of the Lord does mighty deeds.'
- 17 I shall not die, but live and declare the works of the Lord.
- 18 The Lord has punished me sorely, but he has not given me over to death.
- 19 Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter and give thanks to the Lord.
- 20 This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.
- 21 I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me and have become my salvation.
- 22 The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
- 23 This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.
- 24 This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

This Week's Second Reading: *Acts 10:34-43*

³⁴Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius. 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are

Acts 10:34-43 continued

witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

This Week's Gospel Reading: *John 20:1-18*

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.

John 20:1-18 continued

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.’ ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?’ Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.’ ¹⁶Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ which means Teacher. ¹⁷Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.”’ ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Next Week’s First Reading: Acts 5:27-32

²⁷When the temple police had brought the apostles, they made them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, ²⁸‘We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.’ ²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, ‘We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour that he might give repentance to

Acts 5:27-32 continued

Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.'

Next Week's Psalm: *Psalm 150:1-6*

- 1 Alleluia. O praise God in his holiness; praise him in the firmament of his power.
- 2 Praise him for his mighty acts; praise him according to his excellent greatness.
- 3 Praise him with the blast of the trumpet; praise him upon the harp and lyre.
- 4 Praise him with timbrel and dances; praise him upon the strings and pipe.
- 5 Praise him with ringing cymbals; praise him upon the clashing cymbals.
- 6 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Alleluia.

Next Week's Second Reading: *Revelation 1:4-8*

⁴John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. ⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. ⁸'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Next Week's Gospel Reading: *John 20:19-31*

¹⁹When it was evening on the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' ²⁸Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' ²⁹Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.