

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

Weekly Notices

7th April 2024

Second Sunday of Easter

Today's Collect

Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace, to the praise of God the Father.

Today's Post Communion Prayer

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Next Week's Services: Sunday 14th April 2024

9.30 am	Harvington	Holy Communion+
11.00 am	Abbots Morton	Holy Communion+
11.00 am	Church Lench	Morning Service followed by APCM
3.30 pm	Harvington VH	Messy Church

For Prayer

God of Peace, we pray for those who live in areas of conflict, in Gaza where aid workers have been injured and killed; in Ukraine where residents face Russian raids; in Lebanon where United Nations observers have been injured. May your love embrace those in pain and may your wisdom be granted to decision makers and those in authority.

Generous God

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

God of wholeness and health, we pray for those who are in pain or sorrow. We remember those in hospital, those awaiting tests and results, those who are anxious either for themselves or for loved ones. We ask for your healing touch on all those suffering from cancer especially the King and the Duchess of Cambridge. We ask you to support the children, staff, governors and friends of Harvington First School as they mourn the loss of their headteacher.

Generous God

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

God of plenty we pray for those who struggle to make ends meet. We seek your blessing on those who volunteer in food banks and on all those who donate groceries. We remember the people in Malawi where inflation runs at 26% and Haiti devastated by gang violence and political violence.

Generous God

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

God of community, we pray for those who are isolated and alone, for those suffering as a result of poor mental health. May our churches be places of welcome where people feel safe and at home and from where your children reach out to our neighbourhoods to share what we have and who we are.

Generous God

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

God, our God, may we be united in your love, embraced by your peace and given the blessing of life forevermore. We pray in the name of Jesus whose generosity took him to the Cross and beyond.

Amen

This Week's First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

³²The whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

This Week's Psalm: Psalm 133:1-5

- 1 Behold how good and pleasant it is to dwell together in unity.
- 2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down upon the beard,
- 3 Even on Aaron's beard, running down upon the collar of his clothing.
- 4 It is like the dew of Hermon running down upon the hills of Zion.
- 5 For there the Lord has promised his blessing: even life for evermore.

This Week's Second Reading: 1 John 1:1-2:2

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life – ²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us – ³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

¹My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

This 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.

Next Week's First Reading: Acts 3:12-19

¹²Peter addressed the people, 'You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷'And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.'

Next Week's Psalm: Psalm 4:1-8

- 1 Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness; you set me at liberty when I was in trouble; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- 2 How long will you nobles dishonour my glory; how long will you love vain things and seek after falsehood?
- 3 But know that the Lord has shown me his marvellous kindness; when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.
- 4 Stand in awe, and sin not; commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.
- 5 Offer the sacrifices of righteousness and put your trust in the Lord.
- 6 There are many that say, 'Who will show us any good?' Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us.
- 7 You have put gladness in my heart, more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.
- 8 In peace I will lie down and sleep, for it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in safety.

Next Week's Second Reading: *1 John 1:3-7*

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.

⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Next Week's Gospel Reading: *Luke 24:36b-48*

³⁶While the eleven and their companions were talking about what they had heard, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?' ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence. ⁴⁴Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you - that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.'