

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

Weekly Notices

11th May 2025

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Today's Collect

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father.

Today's Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Week's Services: Sunday 18th May 2025

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| 8.30 am | Church Lench | Holy Communion* |
| 10.00 am | Harvington | Rogation <i>with Harvington Baptist Church</i> |
| 11.00 am | Rous Lench | Morning Service |

June issue of the *ARCH Messenger*

The stop date for the June issue of the *ARCH Messenger* is **tomorrow, Monday 12th May.**

For Prayer

Almighty God, you have called us and blessed us and in faith and with trust in you, we bring ourselves and our prayers for others. In a world where values seem to shift almost daily we pray for the marginalised and excluded; for the nameless, homeless, stateless people who seem endlessly to slip through the net of care and respect.

Almighty God, may someone show them love and offer them good news,
that they may know they are cared for in life and in death.

We pray for the Church worldwide that it may hold fast to the gospel message to love one another as God has loved us. May the Church seek and strive and yearn to speak of the love of God, proclaiming only God and not our own self-importance. We pray for both the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches as they appoint new leaders to lead them in the present age.

Almighty God, may someone show them love and offer them good news,
that they may know they are cared for in life and in death.

After a week in which we marked 80 years since VE day, we pray for those affected by current day conflicts. We pray for the war-torn, war-weary nations, where ordinary everyday people just seek peace and comfort, food, drink and shelter to sustain and enrich them. We remember especially the ordinary everyday folk of Ukraine, Russia, Sudan, Gaza, Israel and Yemen,
Almighty God, may someone show them love and offer them good news,
that they may know they are cared for in life and in death.

We pray for countries of the world who teeter on the edge of poverty, hunger and thirst due to climate change. May all who have a choice and a hand in how they live choose to live carefully and tread lightly on the world's precious resources. May we and they choose sharing and caring over waste and excess.
Almighty God, may someone show them love and offer them good news,
that they may know they are cared for in life and in death.

We pray for the ill and the dying, the grieving and the bereaved, the lonely and the lost, the frightened and fearful.

Almighty God, may someone show them love and offer them good news,
that they may know they are cared for in life and in death.

Almighty God, we trust and we entrust ourselves and these prayers to you now that, together with you, we may reach out to those in need and love and care for others as you do for us.

Amen

This Week's First Reading: Acts 9:36-43

³⁶In Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.' ³⁹So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴²This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

⁴³Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

*Please remember **Caring Hands** while you're shopping and add an extra item or two to your basket.*

The following items are always in demand:

- ◆ *Toiletries and toilet rolls*
- ◆ *Tinned and dried goods*
- ◆ *Items that can be cooked via a kettle/single-ring hob/microwave*

Thank you for your past and on-going generosity.

This Week's Psalm: *Psalm 23:1-6*

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He shall refresh my soul and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.
- 6 Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

This Week's Second Reading: *Revelation 7:9-17*

⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.

¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!' ¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, ¹²singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are

Revelation 7:9-17 continued

these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' ¹⁴I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. ¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; ¹⁷for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

This Week's Gospel Reading: *John 10:22-30*

²²At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.' ²⁵Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; ²⁶but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one.'

Next Week's First Reading: *Acts 11:1-18*

¹The apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?' ⁴Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." ⁸But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth." ⁹But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." ¹⁰This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹²The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved." ¹⁵And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁷If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?' ¹⁸When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.'

Next Week's Psalm: *Psalms 148:1-14*

- 1 Alleluia. Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights.
- 2 Praise him, all you his angels; praise him, all his host.
- 3 Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you stars of light.

Psalm 148:1-14 continued

- 4 Praise him, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.
- 5 Let them praise the name of the Lord; for he commanded and they were created.
- 6 He made them fast for ever and ever; he gave them a law which shall not pass away.
- 7 Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;
- 8 Fire and hail, snow and mist, tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word;
- 9 Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;
- 10 Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and birds on the wing;
- 11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;
- 12 Young men and women, old and young together; let them praise the name of the Lord.
- 13 For his name only is exalted, his splendour above earth and heaven.
- 14 He has raised up the horn of his people and praise for all his faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Alleluia.

Next Week's Second Reading: *Revelation 21:1-6*

¹I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.'

⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' ⁶Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.'

Next Week's Gospel Reading: *John 13:31-35*

³¹During the supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'