

BENEFICE OF ARICONIUM

11th October
19th Sunday after Trinity

Collect

O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings

Old Testament

Exodus 32. 1-14.

New Testament

Philippians 4. 1-9.

Gospel

Matthew 22. 1-14.

As a young Curate, I gained a great deal of experience in hospital chaplaincy under two experienced Rectors. My first parish in North Devon had three small hospitals - one General, another a Geriatric and the third a Recovery Unit. We visited all the patients between us once a week. The second, in Guildford, had a considerably larger setup and when I looked after the parish on my own for five months, after the Rector moved on, it too, involved visiting every patient once a week (around 250 of them, I would guess). All this, as well as conducting ward services and being on call 24 hours round for emergencies. There were daily services in Church, as well as pastoral visits. and a school to attend to, in addition. Life was busy, but I never grumbled about the hospital, because it was there that I learned a great deal about life - and death. The ways that some people dealt with their problems, were truly inspirational. I always hoped that I brought a little bit of comfort in their adversity, but every time I came away with a lot more than I took in. Often, I would be amazed when the most chronically sick person in the ward (there being as many as 38 patients in a single ward in those days!) would tell me that there were plenty worse off than they were. One elderly lady was very ill, but for a long time it was not obvious. Blood transfusions would help for a while, but then she refused to have any more. When asked why, she replied that she had experienced a good life and saw no reason to hang around any longer. She was looking forward to Heaven; to meeting up with her husband, as well as family and friends who had gone before her. She got really quite excited about the prospect and displayed a really strong, simple and straightforward faith. She could have moaned about her illness and cursed it, but she saw the big picture. If, as she believed, eternal life is so wonderful, why not continue with it as soon as possible?

Jesus taught about the Kingdom of Heaven in many parables. Today's Gospel likens it to a wedding feast. Everything is prepared beforehand and then the invitations are sent out. Those invited, turn it down with a series of lame excuses and even kill those who bring the message. Those who turn up

eventually are not the self-obsessed, but those who were looking out for what is coming next. Everything was provided, even down to something smart to wear, but we are told that one couldn't even be bothered to put it on. Look at what happened to him! We can all learn a lot from others - particularly like those in hospital who coped so well that they were able to see the big picture and rejoice in God's goodness and provision for them. But we are told that many are called, but few chosen!
Martin.

Services next Sunday 18th October – 20th Sunday after Trinity

Weston-under-Penyard	Family Communion	11.00 a.m.
The Lea	Parish Communion	9.30 a.m.
Hope Mansell	Parish Communion	9.30 a.m.
Aston Ingham	Village Praise	10.30 a.m.
Linton	Bible Book Club	10.30 a.m.
Upton Bishop	Harvest Festival	11.00 a.m.

Midweek Services - 19th Sunday after Trinity

LEA	Adoration of the blessed	
Wednesday 14th October	Sacrament	5.00 p.m.
SATURDAY 17th October	ASTON INGHAM	5.00 p.m.

Forthcoming Services & Events

WESTON. Christmas Bingo Friday November 27th @ Weston Village Hall.

LEA I.T. SKILLS WORKSHOP. Build confidence with your phone or tablet with our FREE 3-week course. Lea Village Hall from 10.30am to 12.30pm Tuesday 27th October, Tuesday 3rd November, and Tuesday 10th November.

LEA SHOEBOX APPEAL. leaflets should be in all your respective churches from now. Any Questions call 01989 750808. Marion. **Pew Sheet email has more info**
Bible Book Club on Sunday, October 18th at Linton will be discussing the book of Hebrews. Hopefully it'll be a good follow-up book to Leviticus and explain how Jesus is the fulfilment of the sacrifices in the Old Testament and ultimate High Priest.

Please be aware that if you have any events you would like to advertise here, do please contact Debs directly (details below) and she will be pleased to include them.

Please pray for all who are sick, Annette Howell (WuP),

Please pray for all who have died, Geoff Phelps (WuP), Adrian Bowkett (Lin), Gwen Charles (AI), Ruby Nesta Price (Lin), Tony Ayres (UB), David Minnett (AI),

Rev David Howell: 07903 790049 email: revdavidhowell@icloud.com

Rev Ewan Gillings: 07568 515628 email: revgillings@gmail.com

If you would like to receive this pew sheet via email, please email Debs

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