

BENEFICE OF ARICONIUM

22nd March
5th Sunday of Lent

Collect

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; 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 Ezekiel 37. ¹⁻¹⁴.
New Testament Romans 8. ⁶⁻¹¹.
Gospel John 11. ¹⁻⁴⁵.

CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOUR

It was a surprise when the United States unleashed a barrage of drones on the country of Iran. What provoked this action escaped me but there was an assurance from the US Government that everything was under control and the war could be brought to an end as quickly as it began.

The result so far has been a grotesque loss of life as self-propelled bombs (drones) rain down on Iran, which responded with attacks on US friendly states in the area within reach. Another casualty has been the supply of oil with the result that heating oil and petrol/diesel have shot up in price although we are assured this will be remedied when the war stops, but we have no inkling when that will be. It is hard not to conclude that the US has bitten off more than it can chew leaving us all wondering when the carnage will cease and oil prices return to normal. Meanwhile I am appalled by the oratory of a US government official demanding that "no mercy" should be shown to their opponents. This official professes to be a practising Christian, so I hope he is familiar with the biblical advice given by the prophet Micah (6 v 8) "What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?". Yes, I know what it says in Deuteronomy with a different exhortation, but that advice relates to a situation a thousand years before Micah and comes in an entirely different context, namely the conquest of Canaan by the Israelites. Besides, it comes just two chapters after the Ten Commandments with their prohibition of killing. Ultimately, I would rather live in a land that practises justice, mercy and humility, not to mention peace and security, which prizes the values embodied in the Ten Commandments and seeks to live up to the advice of Micah and the example of Jesus. As for bringing the war to an

end I am reminded of the advice given by the mother of Rob Roy in the film of that name: "so easy to put the heather on fire, so hard to put it out". Incidentally, two verses before my quotation from Micah there is a promise of ten thousand rivers of oil!

Please pray for peace, justice and an end to the violence.
Noble

Robin

Services next Sunday 29th March – Palm Sunday

Weston-under-Penyard	PALM SUNDAY BENEFICE SERVICE @ LEA	10.30 a.m.
The Lea		
Hope Mansell		
Aston Ingham		
Linton		
Upton Bishop		

Forthcoming Services & Events

LEA. Children's Good Friday Workshop, Fri 3rd April 10am @ LEA Church, Easter Arts & Crafts, Simple Workshop, Egg Hunt. (approx. 2-2.5 hours)

LEA Spring Fayre Sat 28th March 10.30 am – 1.30 pm, Lea Village Hall, Artisan gift stalls, Filled Jacket Potatoes (from 12pm), Produce stall with cakes, Raffle for Christian Aid, Free Entry, proceeds to St John the Baptist Church, Lea.

UPTON BISHOP Bingo Family Fun with Fish and Chips, April 18th @ 5.30 pm, Millenium Hall. £12 in advance (inc Supper) Tickets from Olivia 07496 685 960

LINTON. Bible Book Club Bible Book club is an informal monthly book club reading through the Bible one book at a time. Each session is stand alone and starts with refreshments at 10.30am, everyone welcome. Info Contact Charlotte

WESTON: The new season of Bible Studies will recommence at Penyard Rise, HR9-7PH on 22nd January 2026 at 2.30 pm. Tony & Mary Pitt 07534510614.

UPTON BISHOP have a BCP communion Service at 9.30 am on the first Wednesday of each month. A quiet midweek service. All welcome"

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,

Please pray for all who have died, Mary Salmon (*WuP*) Brian Burson (*WuP*),

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

debsparishsecretary@outlook.com

Website: www.ariconium.church