

BENEFICE OF ARICONIUM

07th December
2nd Sunday of Advent

Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

Readings

Old Testament Isaiah 11. 1-10.
New Testament Romans 15. 4-13.
Gospel Matthew 3. 1-12.

Those of you who have been unfortunate enough to have been stuck in a conversation with me about the Book of Common Prayer will know that I am a very big fan of the “old style” of church worship. One of the great joys of the Prayer Book, I think, is the rich and poetic language that it uses; and this is perhaps most clear in its Collects throughout the church’s liturgical year. This week’s, the Second Sunday after Advent, is one of my favourites: “Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ.” When David and I say Morning and Evening prayer together around the parishes this week, as we do every day, we will say that repeat that Collect each time. It is through repetition, and the meditation that it allows, that we can “meet again” the same words and phrases. New ideas jump out at us, or perhaps the words ring true in a way that they haven’t before. I know that, as I approach this week, I will be left wondering about the ways in which I can “hear, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest” all that is going on around me. Life is much like scripture in the round, and we can see the redemptive work of God in all that we do – after all, it is in Him that we live and move and have our being (Acts 17.28), as it is for all of humanity. Let us, then, seek the Word of God not only in our study of scripture, but in our lives and our actions. Think this week of the ways in which you are able to draw near to God, of the opportunities that He has given you to grow in relationship with Him – and mark, learn, and inwardly digest those means by which He shows His love and His grace to you. God bless. *Ewan*

Services next Sunday 14th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent

Weston-under-Penyard	Communion Service	11.00 a.m.
The Lea	Mattins	8.00 a.m.
Hope Mansell		
Aston Ingham	Parish Communion	10.30 a.m.
Linton	Bible Book Club	10.30 a.m.
Upton Bishop	Carol Service	5.00 p.m.
ADDITIONAL SERVICES		
Aston Ingham, WEDNESDAY 17th DEC	Carol Service	6.30 p.m.
WESTON, FRIDAY 19th DEC	Carol Service	6.30 p.m.

Forthcoming Services & Events

WESTON. Mother Hen Christmas Pop Up, Sat 6th Dec, 11am – 4 pm, 8 Hudson Gardens, HR9 7FQ, Wreath Carfts, Pop Up Stall, Mulled Wine & Mince Pies.

LEA. SHOEBOXES. Thank you everyone who filled Shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Child scheme. I am delighted to say that 19 physical boxes were delivered to Gorsley and I have to date another 15 online ones having being completed. God bless you all for thinking of a child this Christmas. *Marion Martin*

WESTON: "Join us for our Autumn series of Bible studies led by David and Ewan as we explore the Pastoral letters of St John. We meet at 2.30 pm. On the Thursday dates below at, Penyard Rise, WUP HR9 7PH. You and your contribution will be most welcome. **27th Nov**, 1 John 2 v 15 to 29, **11th December**, 1 John 3 v 1 to 10, **Christmas break**

Please note if any date changes we’ll let you know. 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, Margaret Minnet (AI)

Please pray for all who have died, Richard Green (WuP), Philip Margrett (HM),

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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