

BENEFICE OF ARICONIUM

30th August
13th Sunday after Trinity

Collect

Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings

Old Testament
New Testament
Gospel

Exodus 3. 1-15.

Romans 12. 9-end.

Matthew 16. 21-end.

Those of you who often find yourselves lurking around the news pages of diocesan websites or, if you are braver, the *Church Times*, may have seen the interesting baptism that took place in St Matthew's church, Walsall, part of our neighbouring diocese of Litchfield, at the beginning of the month. Local parishioner Carl Perry was baptised by the vicar, Rev'd Jim Trood, using three buckets of water – one labelled "Father", one "Son", and one "Holy Spirit". This bucket-based-baptism was brought about by a desire to save on water during the drought – a full-immersion pool had been planned, but it was decided that the responsible thing to do was to cut down on water. A gold start from South Staffs water for St Matthew's, then.

Aside from its segmentation into Trinitarian tubs, though, this water was special in another way – it had been blessed by the priest, and made holy. People are often very confused about holy water, and what it is. It is not some special supply that comes out of the vicarage tap – it is simply normal water that has been blessed. At the same time, once it is blessed it becomes something more than normal water. That is why after a baptism in a font, the water is returned to consecrated ground, normally through a plug in the font leading right through the floor.

Holy water was traditionally made through the addition of salt, which was exorcised first, and then blessed. This is not because it was somehow possessed beforehand – instead, it signifies that it has been set apart, and made holy, for the good of God's people. This salt was used both in the making of holy water, as mentioned, and also in baptisms, where a few grains were placed into the infant's mouth, whilst the priest prayed the prayer "Receive the salt of wisdom; may it be for you a propitiation unto eternal life."

This Sunday, at our Benefice Service, we have the blessing of the well at Aston Ingham, and the sprinkling (or *asperges*) of holy water – a reminder both

of our baptism, and also the fact that we, like the blessed water and salt, have been set apart from the rest of creation for a definitive purpose – that of union with God. I look forward to seeing many of you there, as we remember the promises that we have made to God, and recall the promises that He has given to us. *Ewan*

Services next Sunday 06th September – Creation in Christ

Weston-under-Penyard	Morning Worship	11.00 a.m.
The Lea	Family Communion	9.30 a.m.
Hope Mansell	Parish Communion 1662 BCP	9.30 a.m.
Aston Ingham	Evensong	4.30 p.m.
Linton	Parish Communion	11.00 a.m.
Upton Bishop	All Age Worship	11.00 a.m.

Midweek Services - 14th Sunday after Trinity

Upton Bishop Wednesday 02 nd Sept	BCP Communion & Prayer Group	9.30 a.m.
SATURDAY 05th Sept	SERVICE CANCELLED	5.00 p.m.

Forthcoming Services & Events

WESTON. Quiz & Ploughman's Supper, Friday 18th September @ Weston Village Hall. Doors Open at 7pm for 7.30 pm start. Teams of up to 6, Raffle, £6.50 per person (includes food), Bring your own drinks. Info @ debsparishsecretary@outlook.com

WESTON. FLOWER FESTIVAL & OPEN TOWER (see poster for details)

ZOOM MORNING PRAYER - every Thursday, from the first Thursday in July, at 9.00am for whoever can make it. All details, including the Zoom joining link and the Order of Service, are available at www.ariconium.church/morning-prayer - if anyone has any technical issues get in touch with Ewan and he will help you out.

MIDWEEK SERVICES. "see website at www.ariconium.church/midweek-services"

Or refer to separate email sent with further information.

LINTON. Bible Book Club informal monthly book club reading through the Bible one book at a time. Starts with refreshments @ 10.30am, all welcome. September we're tackling the book of Leviticus to learn more about worship and holiness.

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, Alan Brooker (*Lea*), Annette Howell (*WuP*),
Please pray for all who have died, Jonquil Dodd (*Lin*), Murial Roberts (*WuP*),
Richard Waiman (*UB*), Elizabeth Fanshaw (*UB*) Gracie Rushworth (*Lea*),
Enid Williams (*AI*), Christopher Hodges (*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