

For your prayers

- The world-wide mission of the church, for all missionaries and missionary organisations, particularly the Church Mission Society.
- The family & friends of Barbara Beaumont and Ted Willan, who sadly died over the Christmas period.
- The Appleby Coffee Morning on Saturday 10th January, hosted by Morland Choir.
- Christians in the Middle East.
- The conflicts of the world, especially Iraq & Syria.
- The pupils and teachers of our schools, returning from the Christmas break, especially the Heads of our church Schools, Duncan Priestly (Crosby Ravensworth) and Louise Anderton (Morland).
- Our PCCs, meeting over the next few weeks.

From our calendar of prayer:

- Diocese of Lagos West (Province of Lagos, Nigeria), Bishop James Odedeji.
Diocese of Lagos Mainland (Province of Lagos, Nigeria), Bishop Adebayo, clergy and people.
- Appleby Deanery - Kirkby Stephen Parish, Priest-in-Charge: Andrew Parkinson.
County Primary School, Head: Lynne Wade. Kirkby Stephen Grammar School and Sports College, Head: Ruth Houston.
- Our Diocese - Bishop James, attending the Evangelical Bishops Residential Meeting in Solihull, 4th to 5th January.

Today's Readings

Isaiah 60.1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
² For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
³ Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Matthew 2.1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,
² asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.'
³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.'
⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

