

# L-L WEEKLY

## The Weekly Pewsheet of the Leith-Lyvennet Parishes

### Name the Benefice

We need a name for our prospective new united group of Parishes incorporating Askham & Clifton. Any ideas to Stewart please!

### Sad News

Very sadly, Revd Philip Rushton, who has helped us many times over the years, particularly during our last vacancy in 2010, passed away suddenly at the end of Nov.

### Advent Giving

Advent is traditionally a time of giving. If you would like to give regularly to church or review your existing giving, please get in touch with your parish treasurer: Jenny Jones (Morland) 01931 714338; Margaret Burne (Cliburn) 01931 714218; David Graham (Crosby) 01931 715348; Alison Hall (Thrimby) 01931 716534; Andrea Thompson (Bolton) 07971 921571; Ian Tupling (Great Strickland) 01931 712571.

### Advent Giving

Catherine Pearce, daughter of Winifred, late of Morland, is collecting footwear to ship to Kos where Winifred's granddaughter, Anna is volunteering to help the refugees. She needs walking boots, trainers or stout men's shoes sizes 40-47. E-mail: cathpearce1240@gmail.com



## About Today...

Advent marks the start of the Church's year. It is a season of expectation and preparation, as we anticipate the the coming (adventus) of Christ in his birth, and also look ahead to his final coming as judge and king at the end of time, challenging the modern reluctance to confront the theme of divine judgement.

Advent encourages a longing for justice and the restoration of God's creation according to his intended good purposes. Accordingly, it is a season of penitence (symbolised by the colour purple), but its essential character is anticipation and longing. Christians are encouraged to maintain a sense of alert watchfulness. The Advent prayer is 'Maranatha' – 'Our Lord, come' (1 Corinthians 16.22). Advent falls at the darkest time of the year, and the symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work through the lighting of the candles on the Advent wreath, which also heightens our anticipation of Christ's coming.

Today our focus is on the Prophets - those who foretold the coming of Christ. But Prophets do not just foretell the future. They also comment on the present. Thus, today's Prophet, Malachi, is foretelling not the birth of Jesus, but the coming of his Herald, John the Baptist (next week's hero) who will turn humanity from their lost ways and set their feet back on the right paths. Today we are challenged to examine our own lives and set our feet once more upon God's paths.

### Did you know?

Today is also St Nicholas' Day. Nicholas is the patron saint of Children and for many in Europe, the real Santa Claus!

## For your prayers

- Those affected by the floods.
- Those who mourn, esp. the family and friends of Cyril Brennand, Eric Atkinson & Revd Philip Rushton
- Our servicemen & women in danger this day and their families,
- Those caught up in war and conflict throughout the world and those fleeing conflict.
- The Alpha Course - those attending and those leading it.
- All in need as Christmas approaches.
- Our Mission Community Areas Steering Group meeting on Thursday.

### From our calendar of prayer:

- In the Anglican Communion: Diocese of Western Louisiana (VIII, The Episcopal Church), Bishop Jacob W Owensby, clergy and people.
- This month we pray for our Ecumenical and Charity partners: Jennet McLeod Area Co-Leader of the United South West Cumbria Area and Ron Wilson together with the URC congregations of Barrow and Furness.
- Bishop James, Speaking to Youth Group in the Coffee Kitchen at Cockermouth, 7.00 pm. Bishop Robert, Binsey Pastoral Visiting Team Commissioning.

## Today's Readings

### *Malachi 3.1-4*

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

### *Luke 3.1-6*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." '

### *For your interest...an extract from the Archbishop of Canterbury's speech in Parliament during the Syrian Bombing debate...*

The Just War criteria have to my mind been met. But while they are necessary, they are not by themselves sufficient – we can end up doing the right thing in such a wrong way that it becomes the wrong thing. To my mind there are three components which currently need more emphasis and to some extent are missing. ISIL is but one head of the Hydra: religiously-motivated extremism is not restricted to one part of the world. Secondly, our bombing action plays into the expectation of ISIL and other jihadist groups in the region, springing from their apocalyptic theology. The totality of our actions must subvert that false narrative...If we act only against ISIL and only in the way proposed so far, we will strengthen their resolve, increase their recruitment and encourage their sympathisers. Without a far more comprehensive approach we confirm their dreadful belief that what they are doing is the will of God. Thirdly, it is essential to defeat ISIL and other extremist narratives. Military action is only one part of the answer. There must be a global theological and ideological component to what we are doing and it must include challenging Saudi Arabia and Qatar, whose promotion of a particular brand of Islamic theology has provided a source from which ISIL have drawn false legitimisation. It must also show clear support for global mainstream Muslim and other religious leaders. Finally, there is requirement for greater generosity in our nation's hospitality to refugees, accompanied by a clear strategy that reduces the need for others to seek sanctuary and enables those who have fled to return. The communities that have lived there for 2,000 years should not be emptied from that region. The additional military force we are bringing...enables us to act where our resources and expertise are world-leading: in the creation of post-conflict peace and nation-building. Only a holistic, theological and global policy will achieve our aims.