

# L-L WEEKLY

The Weekly Pewsheets of the Leith-Lyvennet Parishes

## Flooding Help

Cumbria Community Foundation are co-ordinating an appeal to help the victims of the flooding. You can visit their website ([www.cumbriafoundation.org](http://www.cumbriafoundation.org)) for information about how to give money. They are also seeking donations of clothes, furniture, food, toiletries, dehumidifiers or generators.

## 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](mailto:cathpearce1240@gmail.com)

## Name the Benefice

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

## Sunday 20th Dec

Please note that the service at Morland on Sunday 20th December at 11.00am will now be a service of Holy Communion (not Morning Worship). It will be the only communion service in our group of churches that Sunday.

## 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.

Today, our focus is on John the Baptist in his role as Herald of the Kingdom of God (or

Kingdom of Heaven). God's kingdom is central theme of Advent and, indeed, of the Bible itself. It is set at the heart of the relationship between God and humanity in the Covenant, the exchange of promises between God and his people by which they commit to one another in eternal faithful relationship. God says to his people: "you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation" (Exodus 19:6).

It is the calling (or vocation) of every Christian to be a citizen of God's kingdom, but to be a citizen of a kingdom with Jesus as king means that we also share his humble kingship. Since Jesus' kingship is shown to us in his service, in his giving of his life in love, our vocation as Christians is to serve as he did, to show his love and to be a herald of his kingdom, both by the way we live and by what we say. Consequently, today we are beginning a project which will occupy us between Advent and Easter helping every Christian in our group of churches to discover their vocation and to serve (minister) in the name of our humble king, Jesus.

## Welcome...

To Revd Peter Clement, our preacher this morning. Peter is the new Diocesan Vocations Officer. He has been recently appointed after 8 years as Director of Ordinands in the Dioceses of Ripon and Leeds, and latterly West Yorkshire and the Dales. He is working, under the God for All strategy, to develop a Vocations Strategy to encourage, discern and foster vocations for lay and ordained ministry, and help everyone to explore what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. He will be helping us in our vocations project.



## News Extra

Last week, we printed the text of the Archbishop of Canterbury's speech in Parliament on the Syria conflict. Space doesn't permit this week, but you can read it on his website: [www.archbishopofcanterbury.org](http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org)

## For your prayers

- Those affected by the floods.
- Those who mourn, esp. the family and friends of Elaine Bainbridge & Dorothy Godman.
- Our servicemen & women in danger this day and their families,
- Those caught up in war and conflict throughout the world.
- The refugees travelling across Europe.
- All in need as Christmas approaches.

*From our calendar of prayer:*

- In the Anglican Communion: Diocese of Windward Islands (Province of West Indies), Bishop Calvert Friday, clergy and people.
- This month we pray for our Ecumenical and Charity partners: Philip Jackson and the Wigton Circuit, Alan and Mim Rainford Community and Family Workers.
- Bishop Robert, Hospice at Home Service at Holy Trinity, Millom, 3.00 pm.

## Today's Readings

### *Zephaniah 3.14-20*

14 Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!  
15 The Lord has taken away the judgements against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.  
The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.  
16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.  
17 The Lord, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing  
18 as on a day of festival.  
I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.  
19 I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.  
And I will save the lame and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.  
20 At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the Lord.

### *Luke 3.7-18*

7 John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?' <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'  
10 And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.'  
<sup>12</sup>Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' <sup>13</sup>He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.'  
<sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'  
15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'  
18 So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.