

# L-L WEEKLY

The Weekly Pewsheet of the Leith-Lyvennet Parishes

## The Way

The Christmas edition of the Diocesan newspaper, the Way, is available at the back of church. Please take one away with you.

## Flooding Help

Cumbria Community Foundation is co-ordinating an appeal for flood victims. Visit their website ([www.cumbriafoundation.org](http://www.cumbriafoundation.org)) for information on how to give money, clothes, furniture, food, toiletries, dehumidifiers or generators.

## Carols in the Pub

Informal Carol singing in the Crown Inn, 7.00pm, Monday 21st December. Please support this fun, but important bit of outreach.

## Christmas Eve HC

There will be an additional said communion on Christmas Eve at 10.00am. All welcome. Midweek communion as usual on Wed.

## Name the Benefice

Please let Stewart know any ideas for a name for our prospective new united group of Parishes incorporating Askham & Clifton.

## Christmas Morning

Feel free to bring a small present that Father Christmas brings you.



## 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, ushering in the fulness of his perfect kingdom, for which we now wait longingly in faithful prayer and active service.

Today, our focus is on Mary, the mother of Christ. In the catholic tradition, Mary is seen as the supreme example of the ordinary Christian - a model for us all to follow in living out our vocation. In the Protestant tradition we have been wary of excessive devotion to Mary, fearing that at times it can obscure Jesus, rather than draw our attention to him, but Mary should always be seen correctly as pointing to Jesus. Even her title "Mother of God" is, in orthodox theology, a statement about the true nature of Jesus, not about Mary's exalted status.

Whatever our tradition, Mary is an example of faith for all Christians. It is therefore appropriate to learn from Mary today as we continue our project of seeking to understand and live out the calling (or vocation) of every Christian to be a citizen of God's kingdom and to serve (minister) in the name of our humble king, Jesus. Mary models that vocation by her obedience to God's will, even though the plan of bearing Jesus must have made little sense to her. She models it also by her complete loving devotion to Jesus and her willingness to suffer for that love. Above all, she models it in her willingness to point constantly to Jesus as the answer to every question and every search for human identity.



## For your prayers

- All mothers, especially mothers of young children.
- All families, especially those for whom Christmas is, for whatever reason, especially difficult.
- 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 Yewa (formerly Egbado) (Province of Lagos, Nigeria), Bishop Michael Adebayo Oluwarhunbi, clergy and people.
- This month we pray for our Ecumenical and Charity partners: Methodist Homes for the Aged, Woodlands at Penrith and Amatheia at Workington, their staff, chaplains, residents and families they support.
- Bishop James, on Retreat 19 to 22. Bishop Robert, Carol Service at Ambleside, 7.00 pm.

## Today's Readings

### *Micah 5.2-5a*

- <sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.
- <sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.
- <sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;
- <sup>5</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

### *Luke 1.39-55*

- <sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'
- <sup>46</sup> And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, <sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. <sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. <sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; <sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

