

L-L WEEKLY

The Weekly Pewsheets of the Leith-Lyvennet Parishes

Welcome...

...to Zach Alexander, his family, Godparents and supporters, who are attending Bolton this afternoon for his Christening.

Farewell...

Our Archdeacon, Kevin Roberts and his wife, Anne, the chaplain at the Cumberland Infirmary are leaving us for pastures new. Their farewell service will be at Carlisle Cathedral **this afternoon at 4.15pm**. All are welcome.

Joint Service

Our joint parish service on 8th May will be at Carlisle Cathedral, at the invitation of the Dean and Chapter. The service will be at 10.30am. Anyone wishing to travel with us by coach should contact Sandy Pearl on 01931 714564 by the end of April.

Pentecost Week of Prayer

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have called for a week of prayer for revival in the Church. Full details to follow, but please note that it will begin with our Deanery Ascension Day service at Askham on Thursday 5th May at 7.30pm. It will culminate with a trip to Durham Cathedral for the regional Beacon Service at 7.00pm. See separate insert for details.



About Today...

Today is Vocations Sunday, when we think about our vocation as the people of God. In these parishes we have been doing that since Advent as part of our Vocations Project, but today the whole church joins us. So what is your vocation? God calls each one of us. The question, though, is to what?

First and foremost, God calls us to change: to become more Christ-like. We are called to live out our lives in response to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That process began in our baptism and it is appropriate that we will be baptising young Zach Alexander today at Bolton, reminding us that our baptism is where our vocation began. But it continues through prayer, through the reading of the scriptures and through the receiving of Holy Communion. One of the constant themes in the New Testament is that lives touched by Christ were changed. As we encounter and respond to Christ we cannot help but be changed.

But while we are called to change, we are also called to be more deeply ourselves. God never calls us to be something or someone we're not. God always calls us to what we are capable of becoming. It may be that there are parts of us which are underdeveloped or which rarely see the light of day which need to be allowed to flourish so we can be our true selves. It may be that we have hidden gifts which need to be discovered or that there is something we have secretly always wanted to do but haven't had the courage or time to try.

St Irenaeus wrote that 'the glory of God is a human being fully alive'. Through the dual process of becoming more fully ourselves and of becoming more fully Christ-like, the will of God is fulfilled and the glory of God seen. That is what Vocations Sunday is about. You have one life. For God's sake and for your own, live it.



For your prayers

- Zach Alexander, attending Bolton for his baptism this afternoon; his family, godparents and supporters.
- Kevin and Anne Roberts as they prepare for their new ministries, giving thanks for the ministries here among us.
- The Annual Parochial Church Meetings at Bolton (Monday), Great Strickland (Wednesday) and Morland (Thursday) - all 7.30pm. For those considering serving our church as officers, PCC members and committee members and those who already do so.
- Couples preparing for marriage, especially Adrian Ostle and Andrea Stones, whose banns are being read in Thrimby today.
- Jessica Morton, preparing for her baptism at Bolton next Sunday; her family and godparents.
- Those who are in mourning, especially the family and friends of George Woof.

From our calendar of prayer:

- In the Anglican Communion: The Nippon Sei Ko Kai (The Anglican Communion in Japan), The Most Reverend Nathaniel Makoto Uematsu, Primate of the Nippon Sei Ko Kai and Bishop of Hokkaido, clergy and people.
- In Carlisle Diocese: Leaving Service for the Archdeacon of Carlisle, the Ven Kevin Roberts, at Carlisle Cathedral, 4.15 pm.
- For Brampton Deanery.

Today's readings

Acts 9.36-43

In Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.' ³⁹So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴²This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

John 10.22-30

²² At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.' ²⁵Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; ²⁶but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one.'

Today's Collect

Risen Christ,
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:
teach us to hear your voice
and to follow your command,
that all your people may be gathered into
one flock,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

