

# L-L WEEKLY

## The Weekly Pewsheet of the Leith-Lyvennet Parishes

### Joint Service

Our joint parish service **next Sunday** 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 asap!

### Ascension Day

Our Deanery Ascension Day service will be at Askham on 5th May at 7.30pm. Bring and share refreshments after the service. Preacher: Bishop Peter Ramsden, former missionary bishop to Papua New Guinea, now resident in our Deanery.

### Pentecost Week of Prayer

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have called for a week of prayer for evangelism. It will begin with our Deanery Ascension Day service (see above) and will culminate with a trip to Durham Cathedral for the regional Beacon Service. Lots of things happening during the week. See separate sheet for details. **Please book for Durham asap!**

### A.T.O.M.

Returns 15th May (Pentecost), 10.30 for 11.00, Morjand Village Hall.



The Excavated Pool of Beth-zatha

## About Today...

The Great Fifty Days of Eastertide form a single festival period in which the tone of joy created at the Easter Vigil is sustained through the following seven weeks, as the Church celebrates the gloriously risen Christ.

Early Christians gave the name Pentecost to this whole fifty-day span of rejoicing, ('this most joyful period'). In those places where the custom of lighting the Easter Candle at the beginning of Easter is followed, the lit Candle stands prominently in church for all the Eastertide services. The Alleluia appears frequently in liturgical speech and song, and white or gold vestments and decorations emphasise the joy and brightness of the season.

On the fortieth day there has from the late fourth century been a particular celebration of Christ's ascension. He commissions his disciples to continue his work, he promises the gift of the Holy Spirit, and then he is no longer among them in the flesh. The ascension is therefore closely connected with the theme of mission.

The arrival of the promised gift of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost completes and crowns the Easter Festival. Today, as we recount the story of the birth of the Church, from the book of Acts, we see the spread of the faith from its early Jewish roots out into the Greek pagan world. We are presented with a contrast between (in our Gospel) the apathetic response to Jesus of the un-named man at the pool of Beth-zatha and the faithful response (in our first reading from Acts) of Lydia, the fashionable Pagan businesswoman who opens her heart to Jesus and becomes an agent of change for her whole community.



## For your prayers

- Ethan Halstead, Olivia Lisle and Robert Facer all being baptised in our churches today; their family, godparents and supporters.
- All PCC members, committee members and officers elected at our recent APCMs.
- Couples preparing for marriage, especially James Mandle & Sarah Massey and Graeme Hunter & Jen Porter, whose banns are being read today.
- Olivia Lisle and Robert Facer, preparing for their baptisms next Sunday; their family and godparents.
- Those who are in mourning.
- The Parish of Kirkby Stephen and Revd Andrew Parkinson & family preparing for his departure. The High Westmorland parishes in vacancy.
- Our Area Steering Group on Wednesday, planning Mission Communities in our deanery.

### *From our calendar of prayer:*

- In the Anglican Communion: The Anglican Church of Kenya, The Most Reverend Dr Eliud Wabukala, Primate and Archbishop of All Kenya, clergy and people.
- In Carlisle Diocese: for Kendal Deanery. Arnside St James. Priest in Charge: David Cooper; Readers: Jenny Skinner, Ian Service. Arnside National CE Primary Academy; Storth CE Primary School.
- Our bishops, James & Robert.

## Today's readings

### *Acts 16.9-15*

<sup>9</sup>During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' <sup>10</sup>When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

<sup>11</sup> We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, <sup>12</sup>and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. <sup>13</sup>On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. <sup>14</sup>A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. <sup>15</sup>When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she prevailed upon us.

### *John 5.1-9*

There was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. <sup>3</sup>In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralysed. <sup>5</sup>One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. <sup>6</sup>When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, 'Do you want to be made well?' <sup>7</sup>The sick man answered him, 'Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.' <sup>8</sup>Jesus said to him, 'Stand up, take your mat and walk.' <sup>9</sup>At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now that day was a sabbath.

