

# L-L WEEKLY

The Weekly Pewsheets of the Leith-Lyvennet Parishes

## Harriet's Big Day!

Today, at Morland, we are celebrating the baptism of the youngest member of our congregation! Harriet Ellerton's godparents, family and friends are joining us for this wonderful occasion. Congratulations Harriet. May God walk with you every day of your life.

## And Lunch too!

Hannah and John are hosting an informal 'bring and share' lunch in the village hall after this morning's service to celebrate Harriet's baptism. All are invited.

## Christianity Explored

Christianity Explored is a course exploring the faith in a fresh, relevant way for new explorers and long-term Christians. It takes place on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 at Katharine Butterfield's house, Strickland Well, Great Strickland. Contact Katharine for more details: 01931 712052 or [kbutterfield@btinternet.com](mailto:kbutterfield@btinternet.com)

## Watch this space

We have been told that a new Archdeacon of Carlisle has been appointed. No details yet, but watch this space!



## About Today...

Today, in the words of the old song, we are knock, knock, knocking on heaven's door as Jesus teaches his disciples to pray. We are on a year-long journey through the Gospel of Luke and today's episode comes on Jesus' journey to Jerusalem for his crucifixion and resurrection - an event he described as a 'baptism'. The word baptism literally means 'being plunged under' and our Christian understanding of baptism is that we are 'plunged under' in order to join Jesus in his saving death and resurrection.

As Jesus travels down the plain of the river Jordan, he is teaching the crowds and his disciples - a kind of extended Sermon on the Plain or a flattened-out Sermon on the Mount! As they get nearer Jerusalem, Jesus starts teaching them about forgiveness, humility and faith - three things they're going to need for the days that lie ahead and which lie at the heart of the Christian life. The lifeblood of that life is, of course, prayer and today we have two readings about persistence in prayer. The first is one of the most famous stories from the Old Testament, when Jacob wrestles with God, seen as a metaphor for our prayer life. The second is Jesus' story about the persistent widow who keeps knock, knock, knocking on the door of her judge until she gets an answer.

Jesus' story seems to be almost deliberately confusing - almost as though he wants us to think! Does he mean that God is like the judge in the story - grumpy, lazy and unwilling to answer prayer unless we make a huge fuss? Does he mean that if even a grumpy lazy judge will eventually answer prayer, why should we doubt that God, the good judge, will answer our prayer? Does he mean that, if we show such persistence with getting what we want in this life, we should be as persistent in prayer? What do you think?



## For your prayers

- Harriet Ellerton, her family and godparents.
- Jack Wood, preparing for Baptism next Sunday.
- Those preparing for confirmation, especially those from our Eden Live youth group.
- The Heart of Eden Group interviewing for a potential assistant priest on Thursday

### From our calendar of prayer:

- The Anglican Communion: The Church of Ceylon (E-P to the Archbishop of Canterbury) Diocese of Colombo - (Ceylon) The Rt Revd Dhiloraj Ranjit Canagasabey and the Diocese of Kurunagala - (Ceylon) Vacant, clergy and people.
- This month we pray for Penrith Deanery: 'Christians Against Poverty' Sunday. Pray for Jon Cooke leading the Penrith CAP Debt Centre and the volunteer support workers. Carers' Sunday – pray for those who care for others in professional, voluntary or family roles. For Penrith Hospital, local care, residential and nursing homes and North Lakeland Hospice at Home.
- Bishop James, preaching in the Chapel Royal, London, 11.15am. Bishop Robert, NMS Council meeting, Stavanger Norway 9:30am; Meeting Ucrew for relevant NMS partners, Stavanger 2pm.

## Today's readings

### Psalm 121

- 1 I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills :  
from whence cometh my help.
- 2 My help cometh even from the Lord :  
who hath made heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not suffer thy foot to be moved :  
and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.
- 4 Behold, he that keepeth Israel :  
shall neither slumber nor sleep.
- 5 The Lord himself is thy keeper :  
the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand;
- 6 So that the sun shall not burn thee by day :  
neither the moon by night.
- 7 The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil :  
yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.
- 8 The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in :  
from this time forth for evermore.

### Genesis 32.22-31 (Jacob wrestles with God)

22 Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. <sup>23</sup>He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. <sup>24</sup>Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. <sup>25</sup>When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. <sup>26</sup>Then he said, 'Let me go, for the day is breaking.' But Jacob said, 'I will not let you go, unless you bless me.' <sup>27</sup>So he said to him, 'What is your name?' And he said, 'Jacob.' <sup>28</sup>Then the man said, 'You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.' <sup>29</sup>Then Jacob asked him, 'Please tell me your name.' But he said, 'Why is it that you ask my name?' And there he blessed him. <sup>30</sup>So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, 'For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.' <sup>31</sup>The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

### Luke 18.1-8 (Jesus on the road to Jerusalem)

Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. <sup>2</sup>He said, 'In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. <sup>3</sup>In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, "Grant me justice against my opponent." <sup>4</sup>For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, "Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, <sup>5</sup>yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming." <sup>6</sup>And the Lord said, 'Listen to what the unjust judge says. <sup>7</sup>And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? <sup>8</sup>I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?'

