

# L-L WEEKLY

The Weekly Pewsheets of the Leith-Lyvennet Parishes

## Last chance to hear

If you've missed them so far, the last of deanery's latest round of presentations on implementation of Mission Communities in our area takes place on Monday 5 Dec, 7.30pm in Kirkby Stephen Methodist Church.

## Filling Station

The Filling Station's Christmas Special will be at the Appleby Hub on Thursday 8 December, 7.30pm. Bring a friend!

## Christmas for kids

**Christingle:** Sunday 18th December, 3.00pm in Morland church. Collection for Children's Society.

**Crib Service:** Christmas Eve, 5.00pm in Morland church.

## Thank you Jo

Joanne Knight is stepping down after 12 years as our newsletter compositor. If you would like to contribute to her present, please give donations to Jenny Jones or to the person taking this service.

## Newsletter Help!

In light of the above, we urgently need a new compositor! If you're good with computers and could help once a month, please speak to Sheila Clark: 01931 714238.



## 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.

Advent encourages a longing for justice and the restoration of God's creation according to his intended good purposes. Accordingly, it is a season of penitence (symbolised by the colour purple), but its essential character is anticipation and longing. Christians are encouraged to maintain a sense of alert watchfulness. The Advent prayer is 'Maranatha' – 'Our Lord, come' (1 Corinthians 16.22). Advent falls at the darkest time of the year, and the symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work through the lighting of the candles on the Advent wreath, which also heightens our anticipation of Christ's coming.

Today our focus is on the Prophets - those who foretold the coming of Christ. Today's Prophet, Isaiah, is writing around 600 years before Jesus was born. He was commenting on how rotten Israel had become, despite the fact that they were supposed to be God's people. In particular, their king had become weak and faithless. God was going to replace their king with a king of his own choosing, just as he had done when king Saul proved faithless and God chose Jesse's youngest son, David, to be king. This time, God will choose a king from Jesse's descendants to be an even greater king than David. In our Gospel reading John the Baptist (next week's hero) prophesied that that king was just about to arrive, so we need to be ready, but are we?

## For your prayers

- Parker Dawson and Macey Stewart, being baptised at Morland and Cliburn this morning.
- Those who mourn, esp. the family and friends of Marjorie Frost-Smith.
- For a new compositor for our newsletter to come forward.
- Those caught up in war throughout the world and those fleeing conflict.
- All in need as Christmas approaches.
- Our Mission Community presentation on Monday.

### *From our calendar of prayer:*

- In the Anglican Communion: Karnataka North - (South India) The Rt Revd Ravikumar J. Niranjana, clergy and people.
- This month we pray for our Vocations in the Diocese: We pray for all those exploring God's call in their lives. We pray that we may be open to hear God's Spirit, be courageous in our response and gracious as we work out together God's will. We pray for all Vocations Advisers as they encourage us all to consider what God is calling us to do
- Bishop James, Confirmation, St Paul's, Barrow. Bishop Robert, Hospice at Home West Cumbria Light up a Life, St Mary's RC, Egremont.

## Today's Readings

### *Isaiah 11.1-10*

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
<sup>2</sup> The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.  
<sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
<sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.  
<sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
<sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
<sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
<sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.  
<sup>10</sup> On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;  
the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

### *Matthew 3.1-12*

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,  
'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.''  
<sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.  
<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>Do not presume 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>10</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.  
<sup>11</sup> 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'