

# L-L WEEKLY

The Weekly Pewsheets 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.

## Carols in the Pub

Informal Carol singing in the Crown Inn, 7.00pm, Monday 19th 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.

## Christmas Morning

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

## New Appointment

The Revd Alun Hurd, presently Priest in Charge of St Andrew, Rochford in Chelmsford Diocese has been appointed vicar of the High Westmorland Parishes, living at Shap. He will be licensed on Monday 6 March at 7.30pm.

## Thank you Jo

Jo 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.



## 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 still affected by last year's floods.
- Our Christmas services and those attending them.
- Those caught up in war and conflict throughout the world, especially the citizens of Aleppo and Mosul.
- Refugees travelling today.
- All in need as Christmas approaches.
- Revd Alun Hurd and Revd Peter Boyles preparing for their new ministries in our Deanery. Revd Lee Townend preparing to be our new Archdeacon.

### *From our calendar of prayer:*

- In the Anglican Communion: Diocese of Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh - (Armagh, Ireland) The Rt Revd Ferran Glenfield, clergy and people.
- This month we pray for our Ecumenical and Charity partners: today for the charities we support locally and for our St Lawrence Fund for emergency response and local need.
- Bishop James, Service of Dedication and Celebration St Aiden's Church, Newbarns Barrow in Furness.

## Today's Readings

### *Isaiah 7.10-16*

10 Again the Lord spoke to King Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

### *Matthew 1.18-25*

18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' <sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

