

L-L WEEKLY

The Weekly Pewsheet of the Leith-Lyvennet Parishes

Lent Groups

In our Lent groups this year, we are looking at 'What is the Bible and how do we use it'? Please find a group convenient for you and sign up!

Bolton Mondays 2.30 - 4.00pm at 2, Edenfold, Bolton.

Cliburn Tuesdays 7.30-9.00pm at Cliburn Village Hall.

Crosby Ravensworth Thursdays 6.30 -7.30pm in Dent Chapel, in the Church.

Great Strickland Tuesdays 7.30 - 9.00pm Strickland Well, G. S.

Morland Wednesdays 11.00 - 12.30pm at the Mill Yard Cafe.

Morland Wednesday 7.30-9.00 pm at Upper Orchard, Morland

Filling Station

Thursday 9th March, 7.30 for 8.00pm at the Appleby Hub with Revd Graham Potter 'What about other religions?'

Songs of Farewell

The renowned Wordsworth Singers will be performing Parry's Songs of Farewell in Morland Church, Sunday 5th



About Today...

This ancient service of Holy Communion with the imposition of ashes marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent is a season of self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, almsgiving and preparation for Easter (Easter being also the principal occasion for baptism). Lent is a time for Christians to train themselves in spiritual disciplines. The traditional Lenten disciplines are fasting, almsgiving, prayer and Scripture study. During Lent, liturgical dress is the simplest possible. Churches are kept bare of flowers and decoration. The Gloria in excelsis hymn is not used, nor is the word "alleluia" uttered in praise.

Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence; from the middle ages it became the custom to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross, accompanied by the words "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and believe the Gospel." Traditionally, as candidates for baptism were instructed in the Christian faith during Lent, the whole Christian community was invited to join them in the process of study and repentance, the extension of which over forty days would remind them of the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, being tested by Satan. Today we maintain the tradition by following courses of scripture reading, teaching and devotional exercises. The discipline of fasting is nowadays confined largely to the tradition of "giving up" something for Lent. Despite its austere image, it must be remembered that Lent falls at the time when traditionally food was scarcest so the discipline would not be overbearing. Accordingly, the discipline is not for self-punishment, but for liberation – freeing us from bondage to the things of this world and opening our hearts more fully to God. Our fasting should be a constant and challenging reminder that "man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord."

For your prayers

- Our preparations for the spiritual disciplines of Lent: fasting, scripture study and almsgiving.
- For those in mourning, especially the family and friends of Rose Hayes.
- For our Lent Groups, that we may all grow in our faith.
- The Venerable Lee Townend, as he begins his ministry as our new Archdeacon.
- Revd. Alun Hurd preparing for his licensing on Monday 6th March at 7.00pm at Shap Parish Church.
- Launch events for the Moving Mountains Mission which are happening this month. Pray for good attendance, and for people to gain a vision for the possibilities that it offers in their local communities.
- For the Church in Wales, celebrating St David's Day.

From our calendar of prayer:

- In the Anglican Communion: Diocese of Mandalay - (Province of Myanmar) The Rt Revd David Nyi Nyi Naing, clergy and people.
- Carlisle Diocese: this month we pray for Brampton Deanery - for the Lent services and Lunches that have been organised across the deanery.
- Bishop James, Dementia Studies, Worcester.
- Bishop Robert, Meeting with new Archdeacons, Church House.

Today's readings

2 Corinthians 5.20b - 6.10

We are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, 'At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.'

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Matthew 6.1-6,16-21

Jesus said, 'Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

² 'So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵ 'And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶ 'And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹ 'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

