

L-L WEEKLY

The Weekly Pewsheet of the Leith-Lyvennet Parishes

Lenten Giving

This Lent, our focus is on Generosity - God's and ours. In particular, are encouraged to review our giving to Church. Please speak to your treasurer or take a "Ways to Give Form" from your church and consider prayerfully how you might respond.

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

Holy Week

Holy Week (9-15 April) will be lead this year by Canon Peter Clement. Full details in the parish newsletter. Come and join the amazing journey.

About Today...

Our theme for Lent this year is taken from the Lent Eucharistic prayer: "Through fasting, prayer and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart." We began our Lenten journey on the mountain, with the Sermon on the Mount, considering how to be cheerful givers by storing up treasures in heaven. We then moved to the desert with Jesus, resisting the temptation to see the desert as an empty place by seeing God's generosity even in times of apparent scarcity. We then looked at Abraham, reminding ourselves that we are all on a journey to the Promised Land, but first we must leave the familiar and journey with God. Today, we turn to a different desert, with the Israelites discovering something of God's generosity in barren places.



Today's readings

Exodus 17.1-7 (the journey to the Promised Land)

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?' ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' ⁴So Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' ⁵The Lord said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

For your prayers

- Our preparations for the spiritual disciplines of Lent: fasting, scripture study and almsgiving.
- For those in mourning, especially Jill and all those mourning the sad death of our brother, Richard Longstaff.
- For Chris and Helen Harrison, married at Bolton yesterday.
- For our Lent Groups, that we may all grow in our faith.
- Appleby Deanery Chapter, meeting on Wednesday.
- The Venerable Lee Townend, beginning his ministry as our new Archdeacon.

From our calendar of prayer:

- In the Anglican Communion: Diocese of Mbale - (Province of Uganda) The Rt Revd Patrick Gidudu, clergy and people.
- Carlisle Diocese: this month we pray for Brampton Deanery - for God to give a hunger to know God in deeper ways and encounter him as present and real.
- God for All: for the BigReach work, and Eleanor Ledesma.
- Stavanger Link: Bishop Ivar Braut to be consecrated Bishop of Stavanger.
- Bishop Robert, Confirmation, St Mary's Crosthwaite.

Today's readings (cont.)

John 4.5-42 (Jesus meets a Samaritan woman)

⁵Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' ¹¹The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?' ¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' ¹³Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' ¹⁵The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.' ¹⁶Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' ¹⁷The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' ¹⁹The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' ²¹Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' ²⁵The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' ²⁶Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.' ²⁷Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' ²⁸Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' ³⁰They left the city and were on their way to him. ³¹Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' ³²But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' ³³So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' ³⁴Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.' ³⁹Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of his word. ⁴²They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'