

L-L WEEKLY

The Weekly Pewsheets of the Leith-Lyvennet Parishes

Welcome...

...to Seth Wilson, attending Morland with his family and friend for his Baptism today.

Holy Week 4 Families

Holy Week (9-15 April) will be lead this year by Canon Peter Clement.

Our **Palm Sunday** service with Donkey procession is at Great Strickland with shared lunch afterwards. Food can be left in church, then meet at Village Hall at 10.30 for donkey procession to church. Service begins in church at 11.00.

The **Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday**, 14 April is especially recommended for Families - a dramatic interactive celebration of the Resurrection. Bring something loud for the "joyful noise" at the moment of resurrection. 7.30pm at Crosby Ravensworth church.

Easter Sunday at Morland (11am) will also be child-friendly.

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.

About Today...

Mothering Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Lent. Although it's often called Mothers' Day it has no connection with the American festival of that name. The festival in fact goes back to the pre-Christian festival of Lady Day, but since Christian times the emphasis has been on celebrating our understanding of Church as our "mother" and our vocation as Christians to embody Mother Church following the example of faithful Biblical mothers including Moses' mother, Samuel's mother, Hannah, and of course, Jesus' mother, Mary.



From the sixteenth century it was considered important for people to return to their home or 'mother' church once a year. So each year in the middle of Lent, everyone would visit their 'mother' church - the main church or cathedral of the area. Inevitably the return to the 'mother' church became an occasion for family reunions when children who were working away returned home. (It was quite common in those days for children to leave home for work once they were ten years old.) Consequently, it became a day when children, mainly daughters, who had gone to work as domestic servants were given a day off to visit their mother and family and most historians think that it was the return to the 'Mother' church which led to the tradition of children, giving flowers - as they walked along the country lanes, children would pick wild flowers or violets to take to church or give to their mother as a small gift.

The celebratory nature of the day meant that it also became a day of refreshment, when it was permissible to relax the strictures of the Lenten fast. Consequently rich cakes, such as Simnel Cake, became a very agreeable part of the tradition.

So today is a celebration of motherhood and family life, but most particularly it is a celebration of Church as the family which gives us spiritual birth into the Kingdom of Heaven. It reminds us of the sacrificial nature of the Christian life - we give all we have to Christ and to each other, remembering that when we follow Jesus' command to love one another deeply, we transform the world and also remembering his promise that all "who leave father or mother or children or property, for my sake, will receive a hundredfold in this life and, in the world to come, will inherit eternal life."

For your prayers

- All mothers and any who are grieving a mother whom they have lost or never knew.
- Our ministry and vocation as Mother Church.
- For those grieving, especially those grieving the loss of their mother or children.
- Our spiritual disciplines for Lent: fasting, scripture study, prayer and almsgiving.
- Our Lent Groups and their leaders.
- Seth Wilson being baptised today and those preparing for baptism at Easter, especially Amelia Brockbank and Hattie Stephenson.
- Our Annual Church Meetings taking place over the next few weeks.
- Our brothers and sisters at Askham with Lowther and Clifton & Brougham as we prepare to join as a larger our group of parishes.

From our calendar of prayer:

- In the Anglican Communion: Diocese of Mexico - (Province of Mexico) The Rt Revd Carlos Touche-Porter, clergy and people.
- In Brampton Diocese: For those attending Mothering Sunday services.
- God for all: preparations for the Moving Mountains mission.
- Bishop James, Confirmation Service, Holy Trinity, Millom. Bishop Robert, Preaching at United Service - HC, Dalston.

Today's readings

Exodus 2.1-10 (Moses in the Bulrushes)

A man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. ³When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. ⁵The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. ⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' ⁸Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

Luke 2.33-35 (Mary presents the baby Jesus in the Temple and receives Simeon's prophecy about his future)

The child's father and mother [Mary & Joseph] were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

And as we seek the generosity of motherhood, perhaps this might be appropriate:

A prayer of St Ignatius

Teach us, good Lord,
to serve you as you deserve;
to give and not to count the cost;
to fight and not to heed the wounds;
to toil and not to seek for rest;
to labour and not to ask for any reward,
save that of knowing that we do your will.

