

L-L WEEKLY

The Weekly Pewsheet of the Leith-Lyvennet Parishes

Welcome...

...to Amelia Brockbank and Hattie Stephenson being baptised on Easter Sunday.

Benefice Outing

On Saturday 6th May, we will be having a social outing to Ripon Cathedral and Fountains Abbey. All are welcome to join us. We will leave Morland village hall at 9a.m. for Ripon Cathedral where we shall have a eucharist service followed by a tour of the Cathedral.

We then proceed to Fountains Abbey for lunch and free time to enjoy the gardens. To book, please contact Revd Sandy Pearl (01931 714564 or sandra.pearl@btinternet.com)

Easter Giving

During Lent, we were focussing on Generosity - God's and ours. In particular, we were encouraged to review our giving to Church. Easter is now the time to respond, so please take a "Ways to Give Form" from your church and return it with your giving pledge.

Alan's Farewell

Our joint service at 11.00am on 30th April at Askham will be Alan Maguire's farewell. Please bring a contribution for a shared lunch after the service.



About Today...

Easter is the foundation of the Church and its most important festival. For all that Jesus did in his lifetime, teachings, healings, miracles and radical social action, the one thing his contemporary disciples wanted to tell the world was that Jesus is alive - that they were eye witnesses of his death and of his resurrection.

The celebration of Easter is among the most ancient of the church's traditions, consisting of a real-time participation in the events of the resurrection. It is designed to give worshippers a sense of having passed from darkness to light and consists of four main elements: the Vigil (from earliest times Christians have gathered through the night to recall the story of God's saving work and keep watch in prayer); the Service of Light (of which the central part is the lighting of the Easter candle from a new fire); the service of Initiation (in which new Christians are baptised and/or confirmed and in which the whole church renews its baptismal vows); and the Eucharist (Holy Communion) by which the risen Lord is present to us in his body and blood.

For all its triumphant tone, it must always be remembered that Easter is the victory of the Cross. It is the victory of the weak and lowly. When the mighty have done their worst, when the violence and hatred of human hearts have been spent and the innocent have suffered all that evil has to throw at them, the innocent, the meek, the kind, the gentle and the mourning triumph because God himself suffered with them and for them, dying for them and even for their enemies, so that we might be forgiven, restored to life and reconciled to God and to one another in the peace of God which passes all understanding. For that reason, another ancient custom is to portray the Cross, during Easter, as having burst into flower.

For your prayers

- Amelia Brockbank and Hattie Stephenson being Baptised in our churches this Easter.
- For all Christians as they renew their baptism vows and seek to live out their ministry and vocation as disciples of Christ.
- For those grieving and for the hope of the resurrection.
- Those facing the hour of death, especially Cathryn Masters.
- For our brothers and sisters in Egypt and for all persecuted for their faith in the risen Christ.
- 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: our archbishop, Sentamu and the archbishop of Canterbury, Justin.
- In our Diocese: This month we pray for Appleby Deanery. The Deanery Network Youth Church ("the Net"), its leader: Revd Kristy Pattimore and all who assist with youth ministry. The youth churches including 'Life in Stereo' at Kirkby Stephen, 'Quench' at Appleby, Eden Live at Morland, ChoFS at Brough and the other youth cells in the Deanery. For the residential weekends at Knock and the summer camp at Soul Survivor.
- God for all: preparations for the Moving Mountains mission.
- Our Bishops James and Robert, for James at the Easter Service, Carlisle Cathedral.

News Update - God for All

You may know that from 30 April our group of churches will enlarge to encompass the parishes of Askham with Lowther and Clifton & Brougham. That means our group name will be changing from "Leith-Lyvennet" to the North Westmorland Parishes.

This is part of a long-term plan for the church in our county to address decline. There are three critical elements to that decline: money, ministry and people; and of course they are interrelated problems. The number of people supporting church has been in decline for a very long time, and more recently giving has also declined in real terms. Our Diocese is relatively poor and is only able to subsidise a certain amount of parish ministry, which goes to the poorest parishes in the Diocese (mostly on the West Coast). That means that for us, we can only deploy ministry resources commensurate with the resources our communities give us through time and money. It is because these resources have been in decline for many years that we now have to share our ministry resources more thinly across a larger number of parishes.

Our plan (known as "**God for All**") addresses each of those three key areas. People come first, so our first strategy is mission. We are encouraging every Christian to be more active in living out their faith so that the church can be more vibrant and outward looking. We want to serve our communities and give everyone an opportunity to receive the message of God's love and saving power for themselves and to make a personal response to it. The second strategy is our ministry. We are looking for the whole church to be active in ministry so that we can continue to serve everyone in our communities. This involves more ministry being carried out by ordinary (lay) Christians, but also ordaining more people to conduct ministry on a voluntary (unpaid) basis - Katharine Butterfield and Sandy Pearl are examples in our area. We are also looking to share ministry across Christian denominations. Currently the Church of England, Methodist, URC and Salvation Army are committed to this and individual ministers from other denominations can also share some aspects of ministry with us - in our patch, Revd Kenneth Boyd (of the Church of Scotland) is able to share our ministry. Thirdly, there is a resources strategy looking to use our resources more effectively. Every penny we pay to Carlisle (known as our "parish offer") is given back to us in the form of paid ministry resources. Until now we have used that only to pay for our vicar. However, one vicar cannot do everything, especially in ever larger parish groups and vicars are unusually expensive beasts (due to their training and other costs). So we are deliberately cutting clergy numbers and using our giving not only to pay for a vicar, but also for specialist ministries in youth work, outreach and shared local admin. This will be more cost effective and more practically effective since we will be able to employ people with specialist skills in particular areas.

The plan is to reverse the pattern of decline and encourage growth, but it can only work if we all play our part. These are critical times for the rural church. If we want church to continue in our village, now is the time to get involved by attending regularly, giving in time and money, by praying and by getting to know the risen Jesus more closely for ourselves. God bless you all.