

# NW WEEKLY

The Weekly Pewsheets of the North Westmorland Parishes

## Mission Community Office Manager

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Joyce Keetley as Office Manager for our new Mission Communities. Joyce will be based at the Hub in Appleby. More news to follow shortly.

## Soul Survivor Fund

Are you willing to help a child from the deanery's youth congregation to attend Soul Survivor in the summer? Every year this Christian youth camp has a big impact on the developing faith and the life of our youth congregation. It costs around £180 to send a child for the week, but anything you could offer would help a child to attend. Please send any donations to Stewart at the Vicarage, Morland CA10 3AX. Cheques can be payable to Appleby Deanery.

## A.T.O.M.

A.T.O.M. returns on Sunday 21st January in Morland Village Hall from 10.00 to help set up and share breakfast. Service starts at 11.00. Do come and join us.

## Thank you

The collection for Friends of the Holy Land at Stewart's presentation in December raised £322. Thank you for your generosity.

## About Today...

This is the season of Epiphany. An Epiphany is a sudden realisation of something and so in this season we track the moments when people first began to realise who Jesus really was: the Messiah, the son of God and the saviour of humankind.

Thus, the season of joyful celebration that began at Christmas now continues as each Sunday in Epiphany recalls the key events in which Jesus was recognised as God's son: the visit of the Magi; his baptism; the calling of the first disciples, the wedding at Cana and finally his presentation in the Temple, 40 days after Christmas, when he was recognised by Simeon and Anna, in the celebration also known as Candlemas. The season of Epiphany is an apt one to pray for the worldwide mission of the Church. The feast of the Conversion of St Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, appropriately falls in the Epiphany season, as does the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Today's focus is on the calling of Philip and Nathanael. Nathanael is also known in the Gospels as Bartholomew - Nathanael appears to be a first name, meaning 'Gift of God', while Bar-Tholmai would customarily be a surname meaning Son of Tholmai. It is therefore likely that his name was Nathanael Bar-Tholmai. He came from Cana in Galilee, which was a smart town, suggesting that he perhaps ranked high in social status. Nazareth, by contrast was a low-ranking poor town with an unappealing reputation. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that Nathanael is surprised at the suggestion that the Messiah could come from Nazareth. Nathanael's house in Cana has been a place of worship since early times, but the current chapel marking its spot is 19th century. It is just across the road from the site of the wedding where Jesus turned water into wine. Throughout the Gospels, Philip is associated with Nathanael (or Bartholomew). Philip is presented as being from Bethsaida, the same town as Simon Peter & Andrew. Jesus consults him on how to feed the 5,000 in John 6:5-7 and Philip presents some Greeks to Jesus in John 12:21. Finally, during the Last Supper, Philip asks Jesus to 'show us the Father', when Jesus replies that to have seen Jesus is to have seen the father.



The house of Nathanael at Cana in Galilee



## For your prayers

- The world-wide mission of the church, for all missionaries and missionary organisations, particularly the Church Mission Society.
- The recently bereaved, especially the family and friends of Elsie Saw whose funeral is at Cliburn on Tuesday at 11.00am.
- Joyce Keetley, preparing to begin work as our Mission Community Office Manager.
- Our planning for Mission Communities and the Moving Mountains mission
- The PCCs of Bolton and Crosby Ravensworth, meeting this week.
- Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

### From our calendar of prayer:

- In the Anglican Communion: the Church of Australia and the Most Revd Philip Leslie Freier, Archbishop of Melbourne and Primate of Australia. The clergy and people.
- Our Diocese: This month we pray for Moving Mountains and our plans to reach the whole of Cumbria with the Good News of Jesus. Today we pray for Dalton, church leader Christine Hardman, and her team John and Mark, local champion Ruth Crossley.
- Our Bishops: Bishop James, Service, Lanercost.

## Today's Readings

*Revelation 5.1-10 - St John has a vision of the resurrected Jesus unfolding the final age of history*

Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; <sup>2</sup>and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?' <sup>3</sup>And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. <sup>4</sup>And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. <sup>5</sup>Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.'

<sup>6</sup> Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. <sup>7</sup>He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. <sup>8</sup>When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

<sup>9</sup>They sing a new song:

'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation;

<sup>10</sup> you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth.'

*John 1.43-51 - Jesus calls Philip and Nathaniel to follow him*

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' <sup>44</sup>Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup>Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' <sup>46</sup>Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' <sup>47</sup>When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' <sup>48</sup>Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' <sup>49</sup>Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' <sup>50</sup>Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' <sup>51</sup>And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

