

# NW WEEKLY

The Weekly Pewsheets of the North Westmorland Parishes

## Welcome...

To Nancy Skelton and her family and friends, attending Morland for her baptism this morning.

## 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 'Morland PCC'.

## Candlemas

Our Deanery Candlemas Solemn Eucharist will be held at St James's, Temple Sowerby at 7.30pm on Friday 2nd February. All Welcome

## 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...

The feast of Candlemas marks the end of the season of Epiphany. It commemorates the ritual purification of Mary, 40 days after the birth of her son Jesus. This day also marks the ritual presentation of the baby Jesus to God in the Temple at Jerusalem. The Gospel of Luke says that Jesus was met by Anna and Simeon. Simeon held the baby Jesus and called him a Light to the World.

Ritual purification stems back to a Jewish tradition that women were considered ritually unclean after the birth of a child. For 40 days for a boy, and 60 days for a girl, women weren't allowed to worship in the Temple. At the end of this time, women were brought to the Temple to be purified. After the ceremony women were allowed to take part in religious services again.

The festival is called Candlemas because this was the day that all the Church's candles for the year were blessed. On Candlemas night, many people place lighted candles in their windows at home. Like some other Christian festivals, Candlemas draws some of its elements from Paganism. In pre-Christian times, it was the festival of light. This ancient festival marked the mid point of winter, half way between the winter solstice (shortest day) and the spring equinox. Some people lit candles to scare away evil spirits on the dark winter nights. When Christianity arrived, the Church couldn't eradicate the practice, so the Christianised it, lighting candles, first to the Virgin Mary and, since the Reformation, to remember Simeon's recognition of Jesus as the Light of the World.



## For your prayers

- The world-wide mission of the church, for all missionaries and missionary organisations, particularly the Church Mission Society.
- Nancy Skelton, being baptised at Morland this morning, her parents and godparents.
- Our planning for Mission Communities and the Moving Mountains mission
- Crosby Ravensworth School Governors meeting this week.
- Stewart attending the Rural Deans' Meeting on Monday.
- Joyce Keetley, beginning work as our Mission Community Office Manager.

### *From our calendar of prayer:*

- In the Anglican Communion: Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil, The Most Revnd Francisco De Assis Da Silva, Primate of Brazil and Bishop of South Western Brazil, 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 Ambleside, their church leaders Mark Davies & Colin Buchanan, champion Nick Hallam.
- Our Bishops, James and Robert.

## Today's Readings

### *Hebrews 2.14-18 (the writer speaks of God sharing our lives fully in Jesus)*

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, Christ himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup>and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup>For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup>Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

### *Luke 2.22-40 (God returns to his Temple in an unexpected way!)*

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup>'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

<sup>33</sup> And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then 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 <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup> When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.