

NW WEEKLY

The Weekly Pewsheets of the North Westmorland Parishes

The Filling Station

Thursday 8th February at the Appleby Hub. Speaker: Karl Moller on 'Being Nourished in Hard Times'.

Ash Wednesday

Our joint Ash Wednesday Eucharist is at St Cuthbert, Cliburn, Wednesday 14th February, 7.30pm.

Lent Lunch

Morland Mothers' Union invite you on Wednesday 14th February in Morland Village Hall at 12.00. Homemade soup with bread & cheese. Donations for a MU farming project in Zululand.

Lent Course

Please see the separate leaflet about this year's Lent Course. No need to sign up this year, just take a leaflet and come along.

Taize service

Why not try our new Taize-Style evening prayer? Bolton, Sunday 18 February, 6.30pm.

Thank you...

...to everyone who contributed to our Soul Survivor bursary fund. Through your generosity we have almost the entire Eden Live youth group going this year. Thank you.



About Today...

Although the season of Epiphany (realisation) is over, there is a continuation today of the theme of people realising and understanding who Jesus is, following his coming to us at Christmas. Each moment of realisation and understating is like a stepping stone, a firm place for us to take our next steps of faith.

Today's Scripture readings all unveil the true identity and nature of Jesus, that, though he was a man he was and is also the eternal God. He is God made man, or as St John puts it, the eternal 'Word' (the substance of God) made 'flesh' (the substance of humanity). In Colossians, St Paul describes Jesus as the full revelation of God, as the one through whom God created everything, the one who reconciles everything to God and the one for whom everything was made. It is a theme taken up in the Shorter Westminster Catechism, which asks "what is the chief aim of man?" and answers it saying "Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever." As St Augustine put it, we are made for God and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in him. And now, the eternal and unknowable God has revealed himself and made himself known in Jesus.

Our Gospel makes an obvious link to Christmas but makes similar claims about Jesus. Echoing the Old Testament reading from Proverbs, John says that Jesus didn't come into existence merely when he was born, but that he is eternal, that he was "in the beginning", that "All things came into being through him".

Both passages offer us the first firm steps of faith: assuring us that God can be known through Jesus and that knowing Jesus is what our souls most need. They invite us to be reconciled to him, to relate to him, to walk with him and to "enjoy him forever."



For your prayers

- Our children's work, including our Sunday activities, Service Makers, Snack and the Eden Live youth fellowship.
- Ellie Howe, being baptised at Brougham today, her parents and godparents.
- Our planning for Mission Communities
- The General Synod meeting this week and for Stewart as he prepares.
- Our benefice weekend away at Rydal next weekend. For Kevin & Anne Roberts leading us.
- Our preparations for Moving Mountains, that we may come together across denominations, have fun and share the joy of the Lord with all in our communities.

From our calendar of prayer:

- In the Anglican Communion: The Anglican Church of Burundi, The Most Revd Martin Nyaboho, Archbishop of Burundi and Bishop of Makamba, clergy and people.
- Our Diocese: This month we pray for Penrith Deanery. Today, For Churches Together in Penrith; with thanks for good relationships.
- Our Bishops: James, Mission Community Commissioning for Grasmoor. Robert, Service Crossthwaite Keswick.

Today's Readings

Proverbs 8.1,22-31

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice?

- ²² The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. ²³ Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.
- ²⁴ When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water.
- ²⁵ Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth—
- ²⁶ when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil.
- ²⁷ When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
- ²⁸ when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep,
- ²⁹ when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
- ³⁰ then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, ³¹ rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

Colossians 1.15-20 (St Paul explains how Jesus, though human is also God)

¹⁵ Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

John 1.1-14 (St John explains how Jesus, though human is also God)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.