

# NW WEEKLY

The Weekly Pewsheets of the North Westmorland Parishes

## Holy Week 2018

Holy Week will be led this year by Bishop James Bell.

**Palm Sunday** 25 March: Askham. Donkey procession from Askham Village Hall, 10.30am. Service in St Peter's Church from 11.00 followed by shared lunch in Church (drop off food in church from 10.15).

**Monday** 26 March: **Taize** service, Thrimby (Little Strickland), 7.30pm; **Tuesday** 27 March:

**Compline**, Cliburn, 7.30pm;

**Wednesday** 28 March: **Celtic** Evening Prayer, Bolton, 7.30pm;

**Maundy Thursday** 29 March: Holy Communion, Great Strickland, 7.30pm; **Good Friday**, 30 March: **Vigil at the Cross**, Morland, 12.00-3.00 – join and leave if you wish at each hour.

**Easter Vigil** on **Holy Saturday**, 31 March 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.

**Full details on our website.**

## A.T.O.M.

ATOM, our alternative style of service, returns on Sunday 18 March in Morland Village Hall. Begins 10.00am for breakfast, finishes around 12.15.



## 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.

This year our celebrations fall within "Moving Mountains", a wider celebration of the Christian Life. The Church in Cumbria, every denomination and every congregation, is coming together for this festival. It's a celebration of all that faith can do in our lives. The Church hasn't always got it right, but for all our mistakes and faults, countless generations have found that a little mustard seed of faith has done amazing things for us. We find that prayers are constantly answered in surprising ways, we find strength to get through things we think would break us, obstacles in our path that looked like mountains move and let the daylight back in. And we even find that Church itself changes our lives. It becomes our new home - our new family, the place where the new life of heaven is born within us. And when God becomes part of our lives, deep within us, it moves mountains, transforms our lives in ways we couldn't even imagine and hardly dared hope. We hope you enjoy the celebration. And we hope that you'll also get to know the God who is the source of our joy. Because if you come to know him and catch just a mustard seed of faith in him, he'll move the mountains in your life too. God bless you.



## For your prayers

- For all mothers, especially those in difficult situations.
- All who have lost their mothers, those who miss their love and care.
- Give thanks for those who have helped to bring faith to birth in your life.
- Our spiritual disciplines for Lent: fasting, scripture study and almsgiving. That God may "free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendour of God's love."
- For our Lent Groups, that we may all grow in faith.
- All involved with Moving Mountains, that we may, together, share the joy of the Lord, come to know him more closely and serve our communities as Mother Church.
- Our preparations for Holy Week.

### From our calendar of prayer:

- In the Anglican Communion: The Church of England, The Most Revd and Rt Hon Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury.
- Our Diocese: This month we pray for Carlisle Deanery. Today, for the Congregations of Bowness on Solway, Kirkbride and Newton Arlosh. For Revd Peter Blackett.
- Our Bishops: Bishop James and Bishop Robert, attending various Moving Mountains Events.

## Today's Reading

### *Luke 1 v30-55 (Mary receives the gift of Jesus)*

The angel said, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.' <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'