

NW WEEKLY

The Weekly Pewsheet of the North Westmorland Parishes

Big News

Congratulations to our curate, Katharine Butterfield, who has been appointed joint Mission Community Leader of the East of Eden Mission Community (Kirkoswald, Renwick with Croglin, Great Salkeld and Lazonby). Her last Sunday with us will be 29 July. She will be licensed on 3rd September.

Mission Community Launch

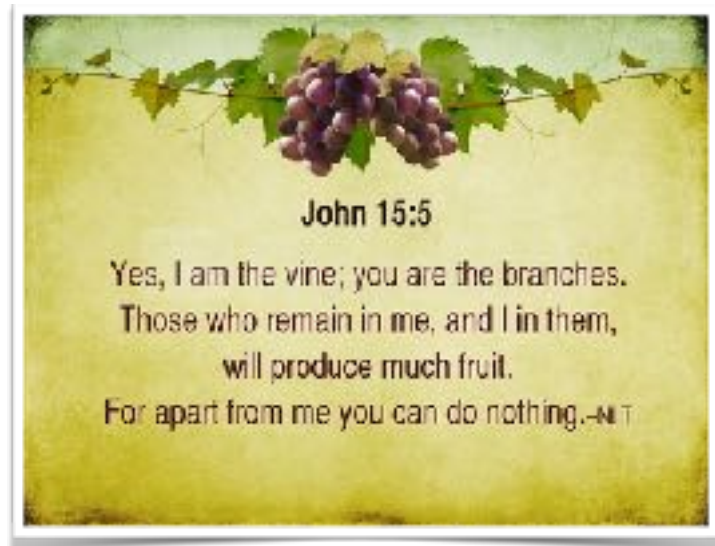
Our Mission Community is about to be officially launched! It will be marked with a big celebration on Sunday 17 June, starting at Sands Methodist Church at 3.30pm. More to follow. Can you suggest a name for the Mission Community? Ideas so far: Appleby or Eden Valley.

Rogation Walk

May 6th, from King's Meaburn Village Hall, 2.00 pm. Please let David Jones know if you can join us: david@newbyendfarm.co.uk.

Emily's Coffee Morning

Emily Atkinson, one of our choristers, is raising funds for a gap year in Honduras, Central America. To raise funds, she is hosting a coffee morning on the 12th May, 9:30-11am in the upstairs part of the Appleby Market Hall. All welcome.



About Today..

Each year, during the Easter Season, we look afresh at the reaction of the first disciples to the resurrection of Jesus, as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. We remind ourselves of their witness to the events of the resurrection and their response to it, in order to witness it again for ourselves and to consider our own response.

Today we find the Gospel going global as the Holy Spirit directs Philip to an Ethiopian eunuch in the court of Candace, Queen of Ethiopia. He is reading from the prophet Isaiah and wants to know the meaning. Philip begins with the passage he is reading from and goes on to explain the whole story of Jesus, culminating in his own witness of the resurrection. The Eunuch wants to be baptised and without hesitating, Philip welcomes him into the family of Christ. It is an extraordinarily lavish and generous act, not least because until now the way of Jesus has been largely confined to the Jewish people.

However, Philip's act seems to be an obvious response to Jesus' teaching in our Gospel reading, reminding his disciples of Israel's symbolic vocation as God's vine, something beautiful and precious, designed to produce rich fruit, capable of refreshing the world, producing abundant wine (the symbol of joy) and being fertile for reproducing the kingdom of God in all the world. It is the most glorifying thing, Jesus explains, that we should bear much fruit and become his disciples.



For your prayers

- Katharine Butterfield, preparing for her new role.
- Ryan Blenkinship and Katie Hoggarth, married yesterday at Crosby Ravensworth.
- The family and friends of Betty Willan, who died on Friday.
- The preparations for the launch of our Mission Community.
- The people of Morland preparing for their major renovation.
- The people of Syria, and the leaders of the world.
- Those who are persecuted for their faith.

From our calendar of prayer:

- In the Anglican Communion: The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East, The Most Revd Suheil Dawani, Archbishop, Jerusalem & The Middle East and Archbishop in Jerusalem, clergy and people.
- Our Diocese: This month we pray for Brampton Deanery. Today, we pray for God to give a hunger to know God in deeper ways and encounter him as present and real in fresh ways.
- Bishop James in his leadership of the Diocese.

Today's readings

Acts 8.26-40 (Philip spreads the good news about Jesus)

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' ³¹He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.'

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

John 15.1-8 (Jesus, at the last supper, prepares his disciples for his death and resurrection)

Jesus said, 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'