

# NW WEEKLY

The Weekly Pewsheet of the North Westmorland Parishes

## Big News

Congratulations to Katharine Butterfield, who has been appointed joint Mission Community Leader of the East of Eden Mission Community. Her last Sunday with us will be 29 July. She will be licensed on 3rd September.

## Mission Community Launch

Our Mission Community will be launched 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.

## Ascension Day

Our Easter celebrations culminate with our Deanery Ascension Day service at St Oswald, Ravenstonedale, 7.30pm, Thursday 10th May.

## Thy Kingdom Come

Ascension Day marks the start of Thy Kingdom Come (10th- 20th May). Please commit this to your private prayers. There will be special services as follows:

Sunday 13th May, 6.30, Askham  
 Tuesday 15th May, 9.15, Morland  
 Wed 16th May, 10am, Morland  
 Thursday, 17th May, 7.30, the Hub, Appleby



## 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.
- The family and friends of Betty Willan and George Ellwood, recently deceased
- The preparations for the launch of our Mission Community.
- Our Plenary PCC on 16th May.
- Those preparing for exams at this time.

### From our calendar of prayer:

- In the Anglican Communion: the Anglican Church of Kenya, The Most Revd Jackson Ole Sapit, Primate and Archbishop of All Kenya, clergy and people.
- Our Diocese: This month we pray for Thy Kingdom Come. Today, we pray for Pray for our own congregation that our prayer life may deepen and that we might root our lives in a prayerful relationship with God.
- Vocations: We pray for those encouraging young people to discern God's calling. We pray for the Network Youth Church and for vocations they are encouraging. We pray Canon Peter Clement as DDO, and for the Vocation Teams he leads.
- Bishop James in his leadership of the Diocese.

## Today's readings

*Acts 10.44-48 (The Holy Spirit falls on Gentiles (non-Jews) for the first time)*

44 While Peter was speaking to those gathered in the house of Cornelius, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. 45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, 46 for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 47 'Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' 48 So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

*John 15.9-17 (Jesus, at the Last Supper, leaves final instructions to his followers, following on from his teaching about him being the True Vine)*

Jesus said, 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

12 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. 16 You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. 17 I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.'

## The Filling Station

This is a monthly service of praise and teaching designed to fill you up with God's love for service in your local church. This month the preacher is Stewart. If you haven't had enough of him already, he's preaching on the Kingdom of God - all part of Thy Kingdom Come.

Appleby Hub  
Thursday 17th May,  
7.30pm for 8.00pm



## You are invited...

To Sarah Lunn's final service before she departs to take up her new post in Heart of Eden.

Date: 27 May 2018, 7.00pm

Venue: St Lawrence, Appleby