

# NW WEEKLY

The Weekly Pewsheets of the North Westmorland Parishes

## Happy New Year

Wishing you a Happy New Year and God's blessing for 2019.

## Welcome...

...to Henry and Lara McLean, attending Morland this morning for baptism.

## Bishop Emma

Revd Dr Emma Ineson will be consecrated as Bishop of Penrith in York Minster on Wednesday, 27th February 2019. We are organising a coach to attend. If you would like to join us, please contact Linda Thomas: 017683 62264 or lindathomas41@btinternet.com

## Bishops' Walks

As advertised in the Way, Bishops James and Emma, along with ecumenical leaders, will be walking across Cumbria during Lent, visiting every Mission Community. They will be in our area from Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th March. More details to follow.

## Moving Forward

Don't forget our first Moving Forward Workshop on Saturday 9th February. Save the date. Details of how to book coming very soon...



## About Today...

Today is the Feast of the Epiphany. An Epiphany is a sudden moment of understanding or revelation. In the Church, the Epiphany celebrates the visit of the Magi, recorded in Matthew's Gospel. It is significant as the moment at which Christ, the Jewish Messiah, is revealed also to the Gentiles (non-Jews). The Magi are rather mysterious characters. Matthew's account speaks simply of 'Magi from the east'. Most likely, the Magi were Persian Zoroastrians, whose priestly caste was called "magus" and were known for their study of the stars (Magi is the Latin plural of Magus). In the King James Bible, the word 'Magi' is translated simply as 'wise men'. It was a later tradition which fixed their number at three, made them kings and ascribed them with names – Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar.

In this perspective, the season of Epiphany is an apt one to pray for the worldwide mission of the Church. The feast of the Conversion of St Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, appropriately falls in the Epiphany season, as does the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The season of joyful celebration that begins at Christmas now continues through the successive Sundays of Epiphany, and recalls the key events in which Jesus is recognised as God's son: his baptism; the wedding at Cana and finally his presentation in the Temple, 40 days after Christmas, when he was recognised by Simeon and Anna, in the celebration also known as Candlemas.



Please take this sheet home for your diaries and prayers

## For your prayers

- Henry and Lara McLean, baptised this morning
- The world-wide mission of the church, particularly the Church Mission Society.
- The unity of the worldwide Church
- Those grieving, especially the families of Philip Jackson and Grace Lightfoot.
- The pupils and teachers of our schools, returning from the Christmas break.
- Our PCCs, meeting this month.
- Revd Dr Emma Ineson preparing to be the new Bishop of Penrith.
- Our Moving Forward workshops beginning on Saturday 9th February

### From our calendar of prayer:

- Anglican Communion: The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, The Most Revd Philip Richardson, Bishop of Taranaki and Primate. The Most Revd Don Tamihere, Pihopa o Aotearora and Primate. The Most Revd Fereimi Cama, Bishop of Polynesia and Primate. The clergy and people.
- Furness Deanery: For the Benefice of Coniston and the Crake Valley, Priest-in-Charge: Brian Streeter; Peter Fox & Pam Priestley (Readers); Hazel Bowness, Pamela Hull, Linda Inman, Val Towndrow and Donald Wroe (LLMs). Charlie Day, (Children and Youth Worker); Juliet Caldwell (Benefice Administrator).

## Today's Readings

### Isaiah 60.1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup> For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the Lord will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.

<sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

<sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

<sup>6</sup> A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

### Matthew 2.1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,  
<sup>2</sup>asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.'  
<sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;  
<sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.  
<sup>5</sup>They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.  
<sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.'  
<sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.  
<sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.  
<sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.  
<sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

