

NW WEEKLY

The Weekly Pewsheets of the North Westmorland Parishes

Ash Wednesday

Our traditional service of Holy Communion with imposition of Ashes will take place at St Mary, Thrimby (Little Strickland) at 7.30pm on Wednesday 6 March.

Lent Lunch

Ash Wednesday, 6 March, 12.00, Morland Village Hall supper room with home made soups, bread and cheese, gluten free options, donations will be sent to a charity.

Lent Groups

Our Lent Course this year is called, **"Glimpses of God - hope for today's world"**. See overleaf for more information. **Join any of our four groups:**

Mondays at 7.30pm at Morland Vicarage, beginning on 13 March. Contact: Carolyn Fyfe 1931 714620

Tuesdays at 3pm in Askham, the Old Vicarage beginning on 12 March: contact Rena White 01931 712917

Wednesdays at 11am in Morland, at the Minema, Mill Yard Cafe beginning on 13 March contact: Sheila Clark 01931 714238

Thursdays at 10.30am in Bolton, beginning on 14 March at Willoway, South End. Contact: Linda Thomas 017683 62264



Mosaic, Church of the Transfiguration, Mount Tabor

About Today...

On the last Sunday before Lent, the Church's focus is traditionally on the Transfiguration of Jesus.

The Transfiguration (literally 'changed appearance') of Jesus is believed to have taken place either on Mount Tabor or Mount Hermon. Both mountains are above the northern end of the Jordan Valley - the route taken by pilgrims from Galilee to Jerusalem. From these mountains it is possible to see the whole of the Jordan Valley from the Sea of Galilee to the Red Sea.

This journey has a deep theological (and emotional) meaning for Jesus because it marks the start of his journey to the Cross. The Transfiguration follows immediately after Peter's acknowledgement of Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah and immediately leads into Jesus' teaching about his forthcoming suffering and death. Jesus's face is transfigured, rather as Moses' face was when he met God on Mount Sinai to receive the Law. Moses appears again in this scene, along with Elijah. Together they represent the Law and the Prophets pointing to Jesus.

This reading is traditionally the focus of this Sunday, as we prepare for our own journey through Lent towards the Cross, and beyond to the glory of the Resurrection. Significantly, in Luke's gospel, the account begins with the words "eight days later..." The original Jewish readers would immediately have recognised this as a reference to the seven days of creation. This, the new eighth day, is the first light of dawn on the new creation to be accomplished through Jesus' coming death and resurrection.



For your prayers

- Our preparations for the spiritual disciplines of Lent: fasting, scripture study and almsgiving.
- The families of Celia Morris and Lady Lonsdale and all who mourn the recently departed.
- For the continued development of our Mission Community.
- Revd Dr Emma Ineson beginning her ministry as Bishop of Penrith.
- All members of Parliament, the Government and the EU.

From our calendar of prayer:

- In the Anglican Communion: for the Iglesia Anglicana de Chile, The Most Revd Hector (Tito) Zaval Munor, Bishop of Santiago and Primate. Clergy and people.
- Our Diocese: This month we pray for God for All: Lent Walk: today for the Strategy Steering Group, for Sarah Moore as its chair and for the work of the implementation group. For all those churches and communities supporting Messy Church, for Sarah Hulme and all her work in encouragement.
- Vocations: We pray for Pray for all those exploring God's call to be pioneers in their community. Pray for the Synod debate on Distinctive Deacons and new forms of ministry.

Today's Readings

2 Corinthians 3.12-4.2 (Paul compares our freedom to approach God with that of Moses, when he met God face to face on Mount Sinai)

Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, ¹³not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. ¹⁴But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. ¹⁵Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; ¹⁶but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ²We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

Luke 9.28-36 (The Transfiguration of Jesus)

²⁸About eight days later Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³²Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. ³⁴While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' ³⁶When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

Lent Course

Our Lent Course this year is called, "**Glimpses of God - hope for today's world**". It features contributions from Bishop Steven Cotterill, Revd Professor David Wilkinson and Rt Hon Shirley Williams. It is a five-week course. Each one stands alone addressing the following: (1) The God who hears our cry; (2) The Shepherd who guides & guards; (3) The Son who is the Way, the Truth and the Life; (4) The God who shares our pain; (5) The God who calms our fears.