

NW WEEKLY

The Weekly Pewsheets of the North Westmorland Parishes

Lent Groups

Our Lent Course this year is called, **"Glimpses of God - hope for today's world"**. With contributions from Bishop Steven Cotterill, Revd Professor David Wilkinson and Rt Hon Shirley Williams: (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.

Join any of our four groups:

Mondays at 7.30pm at Morland Vicarage, beginning on 13 March. Contact: Carolyn Fyfe 01931 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

Filling Station

Thursday 14th, 7.30 for 8.00, the Hub, Appleby. Preacher: Revd Stewart Fyfe. All welcome.



Monastery of the Temptation, Jericho

About Today...

Lent is traditionally a season for self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, almsgiving and preparation for Easter (Easter being also the principal occasion for baptism). Lent is a time for Christians to train themselves in spiritual disciplines, following courses of scripture reading, teaching and devotional exercises through which we may grow closer to God and find healing for our souls.

Despite its austere image, it must be remembered that Lent falls at the time when traditionally food was scarcest, so that the discipline should not be overbearing. Nonetheless, it should be a constant and sufficient reminder that "man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord." The context for Jesus' 40 days in the desert is his baptism in the Jordan, when he hears his father saying "You are my son, I love you. I am well pleased with you." Jesus' immediate response is to go into the desert. The traditional site of Jesus' temptation is the Judean desert above Jericho, which is immediately proximate to the site of his baptism. It is an ancient seat of Christian worship and a monastery exists there to this day, a reminder that our Lent journey is about "worshipping God and serving only him."

That service lies at the heart of our theme of 're-imagining mission' and in particular our focus on healing. As our Eucharistic prayer says, "through fasting, prayer and acts of service...you free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendour of your love."



For your prayers

- Our preparations for the spiritual disciplines of Lent: fasting, scripture study and almsgiving.
- The families of Chris Hulme, Lady Lonsdale and all who mourn them.
- For the continued development of our Mission Community and the Mission Community Council meeting on Thursday.
- Revd Dr Emma Ineson beginning her ministry as Bishop of Penrith.
- All members of Parliament, the Government and the EU in the current negotiations.

From our calendar of prayer:

- In the Anglican Communion: for the Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo, The Most Revd Zacharie Masimango Katanda, Archbishop of the Congo & Bishop of Kindu. The clergy and people.
- Our Diocese: This month we pray for God for All: Lent Walk: today for Mike Talbot and all the preparations being made for the God for All Lent Walk. For all those hosting the God for All Lent Walk and for all the special events being planned in the county's new Mission Communities.
- Bishop James, Confirmation Service for Sedbergh School.

Today's Readings

Deuteronomy 8.1-10 (God interprets Israel's journey to the Promised Land)

This entire commandment that I command you today you must diligently observe, so that you may live and increase, and go in and occupy the land that the Lord promised on oath to your ancestors. ²Remember the long way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, in order to humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commandments. ³He humbled you by letting you hunger, then by feeding you with manna, with which neither you nor your ancestors were acquainted, in order to make you understand that one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. ⁴The clothes on your back did not wear out and your feet did not swell these forty years. ⁵Know then in your heart that as a parent disciplines a child so the Lord your God disciplines you. ⁶Therefore keep the commandments of the Lord your God, by walking in his ways and by fearing him. ⁷For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, ⁸a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, ⁹a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. ¹⁰You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you.

Luke 4.1-13 (Jesus' 40 days in the desert)

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' ⁴Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone." '

⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' ⁸Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him." '

⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you", ¹¹and

"On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." '

¹²Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." ' ¹³When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.