

NW WEEKLY

The Weekly Pewsheet of the North Westmorland Parishes

Admission of Churchwardens and Network Youth Church Leader Licensing

On Wednesday, May 8th at Askham St Peter, 7.30pm there will be a special service at which the Archdeacon will admit all our churchwardens to office for the coming year. He will also licence Rachel Milburn to the role of our Network Youth Church Leader. If you are able to join us, this is an opportunity to pray for these wonderful people in their important lay ministry.

Filling Station

On Thursday, May 9th, Andrew Sterling (Methodist Minister at Appleby and member of our Mission Community Council) will be our speaker at the Filling Station. 7.30 for 8.00pm, the Hub, Chapel Street, Appleby.

A.T.O.M. returns

A.T.O.M. (our alternative type of meeting) returns on Sunday 19th May in Morland Village Hall. Open to everyone, this is an informal gathering in which we express our worship in praise, study, prayer and mutual service. We begin with breakfast at 10.00, moving into praise from 11.00. Finishes around 12.15. Suitable for all ages.



About Today...

The great celebration of Easter is maintained for the full 40 days during which, according to Scripture, the risen Jesus continued to show himself to his disciples prior to his Ascension and return to his Father. During these weeks, each year, the Church re-visits the accounts of those who met the risen Christ and examines the ways in which they understood the implications of the Resurrection for themselves, the Church and the World.

Today we have, in parallel, two of the most important early episodes. Our reading from Acts is the conversation of Paul. We meet him first as Saul, chief persecutor of the Christians, a man charged with stamping out the rumours of the resurrection by putting to death everyone who claims that Jesus is alive. He then meets the risen Jesus personally and is transformed. He becomes a Christian himself and one of the foremost interpreters of the resurrection. His letters form the bulk of the New Testament and they zing with the excitement of one whose life has been utterly transformed by meeting the risen Jesus.

Alongside that, our Gospel presents the earlier episode, just after the resurrection, of Peter and the other disciples meeting Jesus on the beach. Although they have already seen him alive, they have not yet worked out the implication of his resurrection. Peter, in particular, is still wrapped up in his betrayal of Christ. Having returned (unsuccessfully) to his old trade as a fisher of fish, Jesus restores him to his new trade as a fisher of men. It is a reminder that the resurrection affects us deeply, redeeming our past failures and charging us to minister to others.



For your prayers

- The mission and ministry of all Christians.
- All who are persecuted for their faith.
- For Rachel Milburn, beginning her ministry as Network Youth Church Leader.
- For all our churchwardens, being admitted to office on Wednesday.
- For all newly elected councillors and all who serve our communities.
- The victims of the Cyclone Fani in India

From our calendar of prayer:

- In the Anglican Communion: for the Anglican Church of Kenya. The Most Revd Jackson Ole Sapit, Primate and Archbishop of All Kenya. The clergy and people.
- Our Diocese: This month we focus on Thy Kingdom Come: for our companion churches in Cumbria, for our common witness, especially for Bishop Paul and the members of the Roman Catholic churches.
- For our bishops, James and Emma. For +James Bishop James attending Confirmation Service, Gosforth.
- Vocations: We pray for Canon Peter Clement, the Vocations team and all discerning their call to ministry in various forms.

Today's Reading

Acts 9.1-6 (Saul, chief persecutor of the Christians, meets the risen Jesus to become Paul, a key leader of the early Church)

Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' ⁵He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.'

John 21.1-19 (Jesus restores Peter)

Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. ²Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵Jesus said to them, 'Children, you have no fish, have you?' They answered him, 'No.' ⁶He said to them, 'Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake. ⁸But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

⁹When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' ¹¹So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, 'Who are you?' because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' ¹⁶A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' ¹⁷He said to him the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. ¹⁸Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.' ¹⁹(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, 'Follow me.'