

NW WEEKLY

The Weekly Pewsheets of the North Westmorland Parishes

Cricket Final News

Stewart has arrived home with a trophy! Sadly it is the runners-up cup. The Church Times Cup Final was played on Thursday. For the first time in history Carlisle was in the final. We put up a good fight, but London were too strong for us. Congratulations to them.

A.T.O.M.

A.T.O.M. (our alternative type of meeting) resumes at Morland Village Hall next Sunday. Breakfast from 10.00am followed by a service from 11.00am. All welcome.

Filling Station

The Filling Station is an opportunity to "Fill up" on the Word of God to equip us for service in our local churches. This month's meeting is on Thursday 12th September at the Hub, Appleby, 7.30 for 8.00pm. Our preacher this month is the Revd Brian Streeter, Regional Director of the Filling Station.

Moving Forward Workshop 3

This will take place on Saturday 16th November, 9.30-3.00 (free lunch included), Sands Methodist Church. Booking essential via Joyce Keetley: 07741327318 or aplebymc@carlisediocese.org.uk

saying, 'This fellow began to build
and was not able to finish.'

-Luke 14:30

About Today...

We are continuing our journey through our Gospel of the year - Luke. It is evident, from the way that it is composed, that Luke's Gospel was written to explain the Christian faith to non-Jewish readers, people who would not be familiar with the Jewish customs and backstory which are assumed in the gospels of Mark and Matthew. The author is believed to be Luke, a Greek doctor who had converted to Christianity. He is named as a companion of Paul in three of the New Testament letters attributed to Paul. His work shows that he was a careful historian and a cultured man. Luke follows a similar structure to the Gospels of Mark and Matthew in that Jesus' ministry is presented in two parts: the first part being the ministry in Galilee, the second part being his journey to Jerusalem where he is crucified and resurrected.

Today's episode comes in the second part, on the journey to Jerusalem set against a backdrop of his impending crucifixion. Jesus is warning his disciples that following him is not going to mean a life of endless bliss - that will only come when the kingdom of heaven is complete. If they really yearn for the kingdom of heaven it will cost them everything they have, even the deepest desires of their hearts - money, ambition, self-image and even family. Salvation is given to us freely by Jesus, but owning for ourselves costs us everything - for it to become our true identities we have to supplant everything else in our lives with Jesus. If the cost seems high, it is nothing compared to the cost Jesus himself paid to save us. Moreover, we must remember Jesus' promise that 'everyone who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, will get back a hundredfold in this age, and in the age to come eternal life.' Jesus is not against family life, but for family life (and indeed for the whole world) to become everything that God intends, we must put Jesus and his kingdom first in our lives.

For your prayers

- The people of the Bahamas and Florida in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian.
- The Eden Live youth group resuming after its summer break.
- Appleby Deanery Synod, meeting on Monday evening at Brough Church Hall.

From our calendar of prayer:

- In the Anglican Communion: for the Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan, The Most Revd Ezekiel Kumir Kondo, Archbishop of the Province of Sudan & Bishop of Khartoum. The clergy and people.
- Our Diocese: This month we pray for Solway Deanery. Today for Church musicians and the enhancement of worship as a means of mission and helping churches to grow and develop.
- For our bishops: Bishop James; Mission Community Launch and Licensing Service, Houghton, St John. Licensing Service, Grasmere. Bishop Emma; Service of Confirmation, Scotby and Methodist Team Commissioning Service, Kendal.
- Vision Refresh: For good communication within the diocese & ecumenical county.

Today's readings

Philemon 1-21 (Onesimus was a run-away Roman slave. Both he and his master, Philemon became Christians and here Paul is writing to Philemon asking him to take Onesimus back, no longer as a slave, but now as a brother in Christ)

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, ²to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow-soldier, and to the church in your house: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God ⁵because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith towards the Lord Jesus. ⁶I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. ⁷I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸ For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, ⁹yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. ¹²I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; ¹⁴but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for ever, ¹⁶no longer as a slave but as more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

Luke 14.25-33 (Jesus on the road to Jerusalem)

Now large crowds were travelling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, ²⁶Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰saying, "This fellow began to build and was not able to finish." ³¹Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.