

A message from Si, our vicar:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are experiencing something of a cultural moment where it has become ok to talk about God again. This has been unfolding for several months and seems to have been hastened by recent events in our world. The Apostle Paul saw that the gospel was going out on the wings of him being imprisoned. He said: 'The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.' You are likely to have friends and neighbours who are becoming inquisitive about Jesus, although they might not have told anyone. We know this is especially true of those in Gen Z (born in the mid 90s to early 2010s.) It has been seen in Bible sales and church attendance nationally. I therefore want to encourage you to be bold and invite someone to church. One of my neighbours came last Sunday and loved it.

Growth - We are seeing an increased number of children attending our mid-week groups. About a year ago I reported that all the groups were growing at once. What is happening now seems to be a consistent upward trend. For example, CYFA had over 20 teenagers on the register for the past two weeks. Pathfinders had 24 on opening night this week. To seize this moment for the Lord we are going to need more leaders. Would you please consider responding? I understand this will involve sacrifice, but I guarantee you will find it highly rewarding. Mim and I have already committed to helping more often at CYFA. You would not necessarily need to have an 'upfront role'.

I'm sad to report that Brian Curran has died. Brian and Val have been part of St John's for many years. They recently started attending St Andrew's because Brian could no longer drive. Please pray for Val and their son Adrian who is over from New Zealand.

This Week's Bible Reading:

Genesis 2:4-25 'It is not good for the man to be alone' and Psalm 105:1-7

The Collect:

O almighty God,
whose blessed Son called Matthew the tax-collector
to be an apostle and evangelist:
Give us grace to forsake the selfish pursuit of gain
and the possessive love of riches;
that we may follow in the way of your Son Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

What's On This Week:

20th September Casting Your Nets training

Sunday 21st 9.00am: Holy Communion Service (& refreshments in the lounge afterwards)

Sunday 21st 11.00am: Morning Service (& refreshments in the hall afterwards) Children are welcome to stay in the service and there is also a relay in the lounge for parents to take their child to if desired.

Sunday 21st 8.30pm Zoom Prayer Meeting for half an hour. Everyone is welcome to join us for this; there is no pressure to pray out loud. The zoom meeting link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85963653180>

Midweek Home Bible Study Groups - See Karl Turner for details

Monday 22nd 6.30 CYFA for 14-18s

Tuesday 23rd 6.15pm Explorers for 7-11s and 7.30pm Pathfinders for 11-14s

Wednesday 24th 10.30am: Mums bible study

Catch Up:

If you miss the Sunday sermon, you can watch a video of it on the St Johns YouTube Channel. It's usually uploaded on a Monday.

Dates for your Diary:

12th October 1-3pm. All are welcome to an open house at the vicarage. Please RSVP to Mim at mr.and.mrs.walker@hotmail.co.uk.

11th October: Keekle Mission celebrating 150 years. Tea and cake in the hall 2-4pm with a display of photographs.

15th November: Women's Day, St John's Church Hall. The day will commence at 10am and close at 1pm with picnic lunch after.

News:

You can read the Bishop's Harvest Appeal [here](#)

On the 28th September, we will be having our All age Harvest Service and there will be a collection of items for food bank. Food bank have asked especially for: tins of fruit, soup and rice pudding, UHT milk and fruit juice, and bags of 40 teabags

Volunteering Opportunities:

1 Peter 4:10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms

We highly value the many people who volunteer at St John's and would love you to get involved. It is a wonderful way to serve one another and to build fellowship within the church. We have boards in the church hall that list some of the many opportunities available and we encourage you to prayerfully consider where you could use your gifts to serve others. Have a chat with Sue in the office to explore some different options and find out what skills are needed and how much time it takes. A chat doesn't commit you to anything.

You can see a breakdown of various opportunities here.

We have a current desperate need for midweek youth leaders.

Please pray for:

- Jema and Donna as they travel to the Walkers in Argentina
- David Maudling, Christopher Vaughan, Sam Ford-Powell, Sophie Murfitt, Phil Holland. Emily Lane
- The family and friends of , whose funeral will be held at St John's on the September.
- Val Curran and her family as they mourn the loss of Brian.

Praise God for:

The growth of the church and our youth groups, and the certain knowledge that God will raise up leaders. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:8

Pastoral Visits

Si and the pastoral visiting team are available to visit you at home, or elsewhere if you prefer. Pastoral care is very important to us, so please don't be afraid to ask for a visit. To organise a visit, please get in touch with Sue on 07563473620 or office@stjohnshensingham.org.uk

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