

A message from Si, our vicar:

Dear church,

There have been some great highlights this week for me personally. In my primary school assembly yesterday, a child asked me how God could die if he was omnipotent! The child went on, 'I just wondered because he is the son of God and eternal.' I gently explained that as a man Jesus died and was resurrected, but as God he remained alive. When I asked the child where he learned these concepts, he told me it was at Explorers at St John's. Well done to all those who teach the children in our groups. It really does have an impact.

In another meeting I visited a couple to do some paperwork. The couple aren't from a church background. For an hour they asked so many questions about the Bible while I completed their paperwork. They have both bought Bibles from the Cornerstone Bookshop. I hope they are part of this 'quiet revival' that we keep hearing about.

After visiting St John's, the Bishop of Carlisle went to a 3 day House of Bishop's Meeting. You will remember that Bishop Rob asked us to pray. Well, on Wednesday 15th [a press release](#) was made by the C of E. After years of flouting all due process in the prayers of love and faith, the House of Bishop's have received legal and theological advice that they must go through the right channels. Bishop Rob Munro has described an 'outbreak of due process' which seems to have flowed from fear of public perception and a realisation of the fracture that would ensue in the Global Communion. While this doesn't equal repentance from the House, we must thank the Lord. It puts the brakes on clergy being allowed to enter same-sex marriages. It also puts the brakes on 'stand alone services' for same sex couples being permitted. So, while we do still have commended prayers of blessing (and this is contrary to scripture) the further aims of revisionists have been frustrated for the moment. What I don't want is for us to be complacent and to take our eye off the ball. The next five years at synod will be key and proposals will now likely be brought through the proper channels that will need arguing cogently against and voting down. We also have to contend and take action over the commended prayers that were allowed recently. But at least we have some transparency and temporary let up. For a moment, the institution has listened and this is in no small part due to the excellent campaign by the [Alliance](#) and the Diocesan Evangelical Fellowships.

2nd November- Visit by Mission Partner, Khalid, to preach for us. After the 11am service we will have lunch together when we will hear more about Mountain Springs. Please bring a sandwich with you and we will provide tea and coffee.

This Week's Bible Reading:

Genesis 7:24- 8:17 'be fruitful and increase' and Psalm 96:9-13 from our daily Psalms

The Collect:

Almighty and everlasting God:
Increase in us your gift of faith

that, forsaking what lies behind,
we may run the way of your commandments
and win the crown of everlasting joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

What's On This Week:

Sunday 19th 9.00am: Holy Communion Service (& refreshments in the lounge afterwards)
Sunday 19th 11.00am: Morning Service with children's groups(& 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 19th 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>
Monday 20th 6.30pm CYFA
Tuesday 21st 6.15pm Explorers and 7.30pm Pathfinders
Wednesday 22nd 10.30am: Mums bible study
For midweek bible study groups see Karl Turner.

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:

2nd November: International Day of Prayer & visit by Mountain Springs Ministries
15th November: Women's Day, entitled Gospel Friendships, at St John's Church Hall. The day will commence at 10am and close at 1pm with picnic lunch after.
22nd November 3pm: Winter Concert at St Mary's, Westfield
29th November 2-4.30pm: Christmas Unwrapped
13th December 1.30pm: Seniors Christmas tea

News

- Our Seniors' Christmas Party will take place on Saturday 13 December, from 1.30pm–4.00pm.

If you're lucky enough to be 65 and over, please let us know so we can make sure you receive an invitation.

To help make this a joyful afternoon, we are looking for volunteers to assist on the day and for kind offers of baking.

If you're able to support in any way, please contact Kay Cartmell, Sarah Clark, or Diane Jackson. Thank you!

- We now have gluten free biscuits available in the after service refreshments. If you would like a gluten free option, please ask at the coffee counter. We will also have gluten free mince pies this Christmas - but again, we will keep them in the kitchen to ensure that the people who need them can get them.

- A local neighbour is offering a free upright piano if anyone would like it. Please contact Sue in the office.

Volunteering Opportunities:

Ephesians 4:11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers to equip His people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up.

Church was never intended to be a spectator sport - we are all one together, using the gifts that God has blessed us with to build His church. It takes an army of volunteers to run St John's so please do contact Sue in the office or look at the volunteer boards in the hall to see where you could help.

Please pray for:

- David Maudling, Christopher Vaughan, Sam Ford-Powell, Sophie Murfitt, Phil Holland. Emily Lane
- Mountain Spring Ministries

Praise God for:

- The answers to prayer that we see both in our every day lives and on a national scale
- The response to requests for food bank and harvest appeal.
- The outreach work and responses in Hensingham

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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Our Mission Community partner churches:

Church on the Moor (Cleator Moor): www.churchonthemoor.com

St Andrew's Church (Mirehouse): www.standrewsmirehouse.co.uk

St Bridget's Church (Moresby): www.stbridgetsmoresby.com

Mission Community Events website:
<https://www.churchonthemoor.com/mc-events>