

A message from Si, our vicar:

Dear Friends,

So much has been happening this advent. Jericho School have been with us 4 times, carols have been sung around the parish and Walkmill Gardens had their Christmas service. Next week we have more carols in care homes, Mayfield School and Hensingham Primary with us. Not to mention Seniors Christmas party this Saturday!

I'm thankful to God that we get to share the love of Christ with our parish. The genius of the Church of England system is that every corner of England has a church to reach it with glad tidings of the gospel. So, let's be praying for a revival. If you could find us on Facebook and 'like' our posts it will help more people see what's on.

Appointing a second fulltime clergy person:

Earlier this year we had three rounds of applications for an Associate Vicar and the short-listing team decided no one was suitable. As you may know, we've since advertised for a Curate and so far, no one has applied. While this is very disappointing, we understand that churches are experiencing a recruitment crisis across the UK. We also trust that God is working for our good and his plans are better than ours.

**This Week's Bible Reading:**

Matthew 1:1-2, 17-25 'You are to give him the name Jesus' and Psalm 72

**The Collect:**

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
who at your first coming sent your messenger  
to prepare your way before you:  
Grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries  
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way  
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,  
that at your second coming to judge the world  
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;  
for you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, world without end.

Almighty God,  
Give us grace to cast away the works of darkness  
and to put on the armour of light  
now in the time of this mortal life  
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;

that on the last day  
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty  
to judge the living and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

#### What's On This Week:

13th December 2pm: Seniors Christmas tea

**Sunday 14th 9.00am: Holy Communion Service** (& refreshments in the lounge afterwards)

**Sunday 14th 11.00am: All age 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 14th 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 15th 6.30pm: CYFA Christmas Party

Wednesday 17th 10:30am - Mum's 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:

21st December 4pm and 6.30pm: Candlelit carol service

25th December 8am & 10.30am: Christmas Day services

The dates for Rooted disciples can be found [here](#)

31st January Mexico build fundraiser

7-10th April 26: Football School

#### News:

If you are providing food for the Seniors Party, please bring it to the hall on Saturday, 13 December, between 9:00 and 10:30am (no later than 10.30am)

There will be a collection plate for the Christmas flowers this Sunday, if you would like to donate. You can also donate via the machine at the back of church. Ann is putting together the new list for next year, so please speak to her if you would like to have flowers for a special occasion or memory on any weeks in 2026. You are welcome to either arrange them yourself or just bring the flowers and the flower team can arrange them for you

We have received many positive comments and compliments regarding carol singing this week. A big thank you to Pat for organising and to all of you who went along.

Explorers and Pathfinders are now on Christmas break and will start back in the New Year.

### Volunteering Opportunities:

As always, please talk to Sue Lane if you would like to volunteer for any of the many roles we have in church.

### Please pray for:

- Joyce & David Maudling, Christopher Vaughan, Phil Holland. Emily Lane, Robin Li,
- the family and friends of Robin Leslie, who sadly passed away last week
- Romuald Lasnes in Paris, whose newsletter can be found on the missionary board with specific prayer requests
- The Christmas activities that are coming up next week. May God use them to bless His people and to reach those who don't yet know Him.

### Praise God for:

The successful Christmas activities that have taken place so far. It has been a privilege to be able to openly sing carols around the streets of Hensingham and we never take that for granted. Praise the Lord for our freedom. Praise God for the number of children and their families who have been into church for Jericho's school Christmas services. We've had around 400 extra visitors and had the opportunity to share carol service leaflets with them. We pray that God will use all these activities for His glory and purpose.

### Pastoral Visiting:

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](mailto:office@stjohnshensingham.org.uk)

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### Our Mission Community partner churches:

Church on the Moor (Cleator Moor): [www.churchonthemoor.com](http://www.churchonthemoor.com)

St Andrew's Church (Mirehouse): [www.standrewsmirehouse.co.uk](http://www.standrewsmirehouse.co.uk)

St Bridget's Church (Moresby): [www.stbridgetsmoresby.com](http://www.stbridgetsmoresby.com)

Mission Community Events website:

<https://www.churchonthemoor.com/mc-events>