

## Life Camp

Life Camp is a multi church weekend away for young people in Year 7+, and is being jointly arranged by Christian youth leaders from across the Brampton, Holme Eden and Carlisle areas, including our own Youth Worker, Ruth. It is taking place on the weekend of **Friday 13th to Sunday 15th March**, at the Rock UK Centre at Whithaugh Park, in the Scottish Borders.

The weekend away will include games, activities, food, talks and a lot more. The price of the weekend is £43. This includes accommodation, food AND activities! Activities included are Zip Wire, Assault Course, Archery, Wide Games and more. Discounts are available if you have more than one child attending.

If you would like your child to attend, please return your booking form with a £10 deposit by Monday 16th December. For more information and to pick up a booking form, please contact Ruth on 07528 495288 or email [ruth@stjamescarlisle.org.uk](mailto:ruth@stjamescarlisle.org.uk).

Best wishes,

Simon

## EVENTS DIARY

- ⇒ Saturday 1st December, **Bring & Share Lunch**, Parish Centre, 12.00pm
- ⇒ Wednesday 4th December, **Prayer & Praise**, 7.30pm
- ⇒ Saturday 7th December, **December Walk**, meet at St James at 9.00am
- ⇒ Monday 9th December, **Election Hustings**, Learning Gateway, University of Cumbria, 7.00pm
- ⇒ Saturday 14th December, **Bishop's Teaching Day**, St James, 9.30am
- ⇒ Monday 16th December, **Two Rivers Community Carol Singing**, Cumberland Infirmary, 6.30pm
- ⇒ Monday 16th December, **Carols at Cornerstone**, Cornerstone, 7.30pm
- ⇒ Thursday 19th December, **Leisurely Lunch**, Parish Centre, 12.30pm
- ⇒ Thursday 19th December, **Hospital Ward Carol Singing**, Cumberland Infirmary, 6.00pm
- ⇒ Thursday 19th December, **Beer & Carols**, The Spinners Arms, Cummersdale
- ⇒ Sunday 22nd December, **Café Style Nativity Service**, Parish Centre, 10.30am
- ⇒ Sunday 22nd December, **Cummersdale Carol Service**, Cummersdale Church, 3.00pm
- ⇒ Sunday 22nd December, **Carols by Candlelight**, St James, 6.30pm
- ⇒ Tuesday 24th December, **Christingle Service**, St James, 4.00pm
- ⇒ Tuesday 24th December, **Late Night Communion Service**, St James, 11.00pm
- ⇒ Wednesday 25th December, **Holy Communion**, Cummersdale Church, 9.00am
- ⇒ Wednesday 25th December, **Christmas Day All Age Worship**, St James, 10.30am



## Vicar's Letter December 2019

Dear Friends,

### General Election

In Bishop James' November 'Ad Clerum' (letter that goes out to the clergy), he gives some helpful guidance on the forthcoming General Election, which I thought I would share with you. He writes:

- It really matters that everyone who can vote should do so. Not bothering – or spoiling the ballot - isn't a responsible option.
- We will be voting for a new government, not just local individuals.
- To that end, we need to be asking ourselves what sort of country we want this to be – and which policies are most likely to bring that about.
- This is where Trust comes in, since having the right policies is one thing: but implementing them is another.
- We should keep the poorest and most vulnerable in mind – and beware voting for racism.
- This election is not a referendum on Brexit.
- We need to be concerned about the planet – and those on it who are most disadvantaged.
- In all of this the tone of the debate and the language used matters.
- Those who are motivated to stand as candidates by a concern for the common good should be valued and commended. We need to pray for them – for our country – and for wisdom as we come to vote.
- The key themes on this occasion will be Hope; Truth – and Trust, not least because this will all be happening during the season of Advent: and the context for everything we do and say is the Kingdom of God.

There is an opportunity to meet the parliamentary candidates for Carlisle at a special election hustings organised by Sustainable Carlisle, Carlisle One World Centre and Churches Together on **Monday 9th December** at 7.00pm in the Learning Gateway at the Fusehill Street campus of the University of Cumbria. If you wish to submit a question for the hustings event, please email your question by Monday 2nd December to [dpitkeathly@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:dpitkeathly@churchofscotland.org.uk).

## **Christmas At St James**

Please help us to distribute our Christmas publicity around the parish. This year I would also like us to leaflet the new housing estates that have been built near Cummersdale - if anyone is able to help leaflet these areas I would be most grateful. People are often most open to 'try church' over the Christmas period, so please use the next few weeks as an opportunity to invite family and friends to the various special events and services we will be running.

## **Gift Day Update**

I would like to thank everyone for their incredible response to our Gift and Pledge Day, in which just over £30,000 was raised (this includes Gift Aid). As mentioned in the Gift Day leaflet there were several priorities, including the appointment of a deputy manager for Cornerstone, improved lighting in the chancel area of church, new storage space in Cornerstone and new chairs for the Parish Centre.

Because of the response to the Gift and Pledge day, we are already advertising for a full time deputy manager for Cornerstone and the Op Shop. It is a one year, full time, fixed term contract, with the possibility of a further extension or becoming permanent. For more information about the post, including a full job description and application form please speak to our Shops Manager, Andy, or email [manager@cornerstonecarlisle.org.uk](mailto:manager@cornerstonecarlisle.org.uk). Alternatively you can download this information via the internet at [www.christianjobs.co.uk/jobs/cornerstone/1073](http://www.christianjobs.co.uk/jobs/cornerstone/1073) The deadline for applications is **Thursday 9th January**.

Please pray for this really important appointment.

I hope the other projects will be completed within the next two or three months.

## **Bishop's Teaching Day**

On **Saturday 14th December** Bishop James will be lead a teaching day at St James. This year Bishop James will continue the 'What is...?' series with an in depth look at 'What is Church History?' Bishop James is a great communicator, and his teaching days are well worth attending.

### **PROGRAMME:**

9.30am Arrive

10.00am Session One

11.00am Coffee

11.30am Session Two

12.30pm Lunch break (please bring your own lunch. Drinks will be supplied).

1.20pm Session Three

2.20pm Prayers

2.30pm Depart

A CD of the Teaching Day will be available – if you would like to order a copy, please use the sign up sheet on the day. The cost will be £5 per disc and payment should be made on receipt – payment details will be sent with the CD.

## **Mission Family News**

The Fairhead family, who have spent the last two years on board the Logos Hope, have returned to the UK and are living in East Kilbride. Daniel is now working full time from home for The Developer Society, which supports non profits and NGOs such as The Samaritans, Oxfam, Church of England, etc. with web projects.

Now that the Fairhead family no longer require mission giving support from St James, the Mission Support Group is looking for recommendations from the church family about another individual, organisation or project that we could support as a church through our mission giving. The important criteria is that it must be a Christian organisation/charity/individual, and ideally have some link to St James.

Please send your recommendations (with details about the organisation) to Ruth Westfall (email [ruth.westfall@fosanet.org](mailto:ruth.westfall@fosanet.org)) by **Monday 6th January**. These recommendations will be considered by the Mission Support Group, and taken to the PCC for approval.

## **Helping To Provide Breakfast at John Street Hostel**

On **Saturday 4th January** St James has been asked to help provide breakfast for the residents of the John Street Hostel, which provides shelter for homeless men. We are looking for volunteers from church who would be willing to come and help provide breakfast (bacon butties, tea and coffee) and chat to the residents between 10.00am and 11.30am. This is a great opportunity for us as a church to bless and support the work of the hostel, and the people it helps. For more information, or to say you can help please speak to David Robinson (email [david@djmfrobinson.plus.com](mailto:david@djmfrobinson.plus.com)).

## **Mission Community News**

It has been announced that two members of the Mission Community will be leaving us in 2020. The Reverend Carl Harding, curate of St Michael's Stanwix and St Mark's Belah, has been appointed Priest in Charge of the South Barrow Team Ministry, with responsibility for the parishes of St George's and St Aidan's.

The Reverend Melanie Beaven, deacon within the North Cumbria Methodist Circuit has been appointed as a tutor at The Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education in Birmingham. Mel is currently dividing her time between Cumbria and Birmingham, and will take up her new post full time in August. We wish both Carl and Mel all the best in their new ministries.

On **Monday 16th December** the Mission Community will be singing carols in the atrium of the Cumberland Infirmary at 6.30pm, to bring some Christmas cheer to staff, patients and their families. Can I please encourage you to support this event, which will last approximately one hour, giving you just enough time to join the Cornerstone Carol Service which starts at 7.30pm!