



## Vicar's Letter June 2021

Dear Friends,

Over the last month it has been a real joy to be able to worship God together in person, and to see people returning to services at St. James. One of the things I have particularly enjoyed is being able to sing together outside church at our 10am all age service. There has yet to be any announcement about when congregational singing *inside* church will be permitted, but I hope we will hear more about this in the next few weeks as a further easing of restrictions is expected.

I want to thank our Church Wardens Julie and Judith, who have gone out of their way to ensure that coming to church is as safe as possible. If you have yet to return to services at St. James, and are physically able to, can I really encourage you to do so. In our recent sermon series looking at the church (available to on our website [stjamescarlisle.org.uk/resources/talks](http://stjamescarlisle.org.uk/resources/talks)) we have seen that as Christians we are made for relationship with God *and* one another, which is why John Wesley said “There is no such thing as a solitary Christian.” The writer to Hebrews puts it this way: ‘let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, *not giving up meeting together*, as some are in the habit of doing, *but encouraging one another*—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.’ ([Hebrews 10:24-25](#))

When we become Christians we become part of the body of Christ ([1 Corinthians 12:27](#)), and for that body to function properly, all of its “body parts” need to be present and working ([1 Corinthians 12:14–20](#)). When one part of the body is missing, the whole body is affected. Church is the place where believers can love one another ([1 John 4:12](#)), encourage one another ([Hebrews 3:13](#)), serve one another ([Galatians 5:13](#)), instruct one another ([Romans 15:14](#)), honour one another ([Romans 12:10](#)), be kind and compassionate to one another ([Ephesians 4:32](#)), and the place where we grow in our Christian faith and understanding.

Our current pattern of two services on a Sunday morning (at 10:00 and 11:15) will continue during June, and we will reassess the situation at the end of the month. It is my hope to resume the 6:30pm service at some point in the future, but this is dependent on having the necessary resources to run a third service, which may not be until the autumn.

With the resumption of services at St. James we need more volunteers to help with the sound and computer desks, as well as people to lead prayers, do Bible readings, and help lead worship. Training and support is provided, if you are able to help in any way please contact Toby in the Parish Centre.

### **Nina's Ordination**

The main highlight this month will be Nina's ordination as priest. This will be taking place in St. James on Monday 28th June at 6.30pm. I hope as many people as possible will be able to attend this special service. If you are planning to come to this service, please contact Toby in the Parish Centre as soon as possible (01228 810616, email [toby@stjamescarlisle.org.uk](mailto:toby@stjamescarlisle.org.uk)), so we can reserve a space for you in the church. Please hold Nina in your prayers as she prepares for ordination. Nina's first service of Holy Communion will be in St. James on Sunday 4th July.



### **Children & Families News**

As restrictions ease, we are able to resume more activities at St. James.

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings Kate is running 'Baby Gather' in the Parish Centre. The vision is that this will be a place where we can share the love of God, by providing hospitality and care for those who attend. It is hoped that Baby Gather can be a place where folk can take their first (baby) steps in their faith journey. If this is something you feel excited about and would like to be involved, please get in touch with Kate (07436 802895, email [kate@stjamescarlisle.org.uk](mailto:kate@stjamescarlisle.org.uk)) for a chat about what is involved.

Kate is also hoping to restart Boys Club later this month, running on the third Thursday of each month. Again if this is something you would like to be involved with, please do get in touch!

We have another special online Messy Church service which will be broadcast on our YouTube channel on the 12th June, and hope to resume in person Messy Church services on the 10th July.

Finally, on Saturday 26th June we are planning a children and youth family trip to the beach (weather permitting). Please save the date in your diary, more information will be going out about this event in the next couple of weeks.

## Cornerstone Update

Andy Blake writes: 'The past year of change and lockdowns has given myself and others on the team to reflect on the needs of our community, and how we can support people further as restrictions ease.

Over the next few months I am planning to put into place more intentional support for the wider community. For those looking for jobs we will be restarting our work club, supporting job seekers with job applications, CVs and mock interviews. For those struggling to budget properly, which sometimes results in people asking for food parcels, I am going to be running a regular CAP money course, helping those in our community to budget wisely.

We also plan to open a Renew Wellbeing Café in Cornerstone, probably running once a week in the evening. This will create a space for people to come together, pray, talk and share their hobbies. It is also a space for Christians to provide comfort to those who are struggling with life over a cup or tea or coffee. It is my hope that new friendships will develop and that that we will see lives changed through the support the group offers, and ultimately that those who come will draw closer to Christ. This new venture will be underpinned by prayer.

This is a really exciting time for Cornerstone and OpShop, and I would love it if you could partner with us in prayer. If you would like to get involved in one or more of these new exciting ways of serving our community, please get in touch with me by email: [manager@cornerstonecarlisle.org](mailto:manager@cornerstonecarlisle.org), phone 01228 549796, or pop into Cornerstone for a chat.'

Best wishes,



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