



# ST JAMES

## CARLISLE

### **SIMON'S APRIL NEWSLETTER**

My dear Brothers and Sisters,

**'There are two great days in a person's life - the day we are born and the day we discover why.'** *William Barclay*

Sunday 21st April is 'National Vocations Sunday', a day when all of us are invited to prayerfully reflect on our calling as followers of Christ.

Jesus' life, death and resurrection reshape history. Believing in him changes everything! Jesus gives us a radical new understanding of the world. What it means to be human is redefined in the moment that we are baptized. Each of us is made in God's image to reflect His glory and bring about the flourishing of all creation. Our decision to follow Jesus and to become more like him will underpin every subsequent choice we make.

As we seek God's plan for our lives, it is important to hold onto three key truths:

- First, God calls each and everyone one of us, no matter where we are at, because God made each of us and God loves each of us, just as we are.
- Second, God equips the called, rather than calls the equipped. God can and does use just about anything to equip us and point us towards the adventure He has in store for us.
- Third, God's plan involves our future flourishing and fulfilment - redeeming the past, not limited by it.

## **“Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?”**

*The Summer Day, Mary Oliver*

Jo Bailey Wells, Bishop of Dorking writes: I shall never finish answering this question, because every day presents challenge and opportunity which call for some adjustment (or at least tweaking) of whatever plan I held. At least for me, that’s the way life retains its wild and precious character, its flexibility and grace.

Our lives are wild and precious, precisely because they are given and chosen by God. In the light of this truth, the question is not so much one for me to answer, as to seek God for an answer. Because, despite the way it usually feels, finding and following my calling doesn’t start with me, but with God. As Jesus tells his disciples, ‘You did not choose me but I chose you... go and bear fruit, fruit that will last’ (John 15.16).

God does have a plan for each of our lives. Of course, because God designed them. It’s not an obligatory plan – God will be there even if you don’t follow it. But it is the best, a plan for your flourishing and ‘fruitfulness’. It’s not the kind – like a blueprint – from which you fail if you err or stray. Rather it’s a rolling plan that meets you where you are and evolves as your wild and precious life unfolds.

I dare you to put the question to God! It is a dare, because experience has taught me never to ask a question to which you might get an answer you don’t want to hear... But there will be an answer, and an adventure.

## **When was the last time you asked God what he longs to do through you?**

Each one of us, irrespective of age, gender, or the length of time we have been Christians, should regularly ask God the question of what he wants to do in and through us, and to be open to the calling he places upon our lives.

### **Joanne Daly**

For the past few years Joanne Daly has been exploring a growing sense of calling to ordained ministry. Joanne will be attending a national selection conference from Monday 22nd to Tuesday 23rd April. If recommended she will begin her training for ordained ministry in the autumn. Please hold Joanne in your prayers.

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Please join us for our Annual Parochial Church Meeting taking place on Wednesday 24th April at 7:30pm. This is an important meeting in the life of the church, where we report of the events of the last year, receive the annual accounts, hear reports about various aspects of the life of St James, and spend time in prayer for the church. Please put this date in your diary, and prioritise attendance.

## **Electoral Roll**

The electoral roll is the membership list of the church, all regular worshipping members of the church are encouraged to be on the electoral roll. In addition, being on the electoral roll enables members to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and to stand for various offices in the church, such as Church Warden, PCC members, and Deanery Synod representatives.

If you are a regular worshipping member and are not on the electoral roll, please pick up a form from church and return it no later than the 7th April. If you are on the electoral roll and your details have changed please inform us.

## **Church Warden**

Judith, will be stepping down as Church Warden at the APCM after six years in the role. We owe Judith a huge debt of gratitude, for the tremendous support and encouragement she has been to so many during her tenure as Warden. With Judith stepping down, it is vitally important that we appoint new Wardens to work alongside our Deputy Wardens. Please pray for this important appointment.

## **PCC Members**

We are looking for people willing to serve on the Parochial Church Council (PCC). The PCC meets once a month (apart from August and December), and is elected to share with the Vicar, the leadership of St James; to supervise the day to day running of the Church and enable us all to seek God's vision in making Jesus known in our parish and help people grow as followers of Jesus.

At every Annual Parochial Church Meeting we elect new PCC members to serve a three year term (with one third of the PCC up for re-election every year). In order to be considered for election on the PCC nominees must be at least sixteen years of age, regular worshipping members of the church, and have been on the Electoral Roll of the Church for at least six months.

If interested in joining the PCC, please speak to either myself, Nina or another member of the PCC.

### **Safe Families For Children**

Caroline Hetherington will be visiting St James on the morning of Sunday 14th April to update us about the work of Safe Families For Children.

### **Fletcher Family Visit**

Jon and Elise Fletcher will be visiting St James on the morning of Sunday April 28th. This will be their final visit to St James before they return to Thailand in the summer. With their visit, we intend to bring forward the Bring and Share Lunch from May 5th to April 28th.

### **The Bereavement Journey**

*Are you grieving the death of a loved one or struggling with the long-term effects of loss?*

**THE BEREAVEMENT JOURNEY is a 7-session course for anyone bereaved at any time.**

Facilitated by Churches in Carlisle, a course will run on Thursday evenings **starting on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024 6:30pm- 8:45pm at Cornerstone Café, Denton Street, CA2 5EH.**

The Bereavement Journey is a space to learn more about how bereavement affects us, listen to others in their grief, and make connections with our own. We aim to feel comfortable with people who have their own experience of grief, and can support you in yours. The initial 6 sessions are set out for all faiths and none, with a 7th optional session exploring a Christian response to bereavement.

To book your place or for more information, please contact Revd Nina Orchard by emailing [nina@stjamescarlisle.org.uk](mailto:nina@stjamescarlisle.org.uk) or telephoning 07789 872461, alternatively visit [thebereavementjourney.org](http://thebereavementjourney.org).

## Living Word

Living Word will be returning to Carlisle from the 15th to 16th May. Living Word Carlisle is an interdenominational Bible teaching event associated with the Keswick Convention, that meets under the banner "All One in Christ Jesus". The title of this year's Living Word is 'The Presence of God With His People'. More information about this event will be circulated later in the month.

## Archdeacon of Carlisle



The Reverend Ruth Newton has been appointed as the new Archdeacon of Carlisle, succeeding the Venerable Richard Pratt who retired at the end of March. She will take responsibility for the Deaneries of Carlisle, Brampton, Penrith and Appleby.

For Ruth it means a return to her home county, having been brought up in Carlisle, later working in the city and (following her ordination in 2002) serving the parishes of Caldbeck, Castle Sowerby and Sebergham. She is currently serving as a Vicar near Ripon.

Ruth said: "I'm delighted to have been appointed; it feels as if I am coming home. My faith story is bound up with so many churches in and around Carlisle. It will be a privilege to be able to support those congregations in my new role as well as so many others churches.

For a long time, I have been watching the development of mission communities across the county and have seen the momentum build around the ecumenical God for All vision and strategy with its four key themes: Speak Boldly, Follow Daily, Care Deeply and Tread Gently. They are themes which really resonate for me and I'm keen to help lead this forward."

Growing up, Ruth worshipped at St. Elisabeth's Harraby, then St. James' Carlisle before her family moved to Dalston and she joined St Michael's where she became head chorister. She was also the youngest churchwarden in the country (aged 26), when serving at St. Giles, Great Orton.

After training for ordination at St. John's, Nottingham and serving her curacy in Cumbria she was appointed Vicar of Hutton Cranswick with Skerne Bewick and Watton in the Diocese of York in 2006, also serving as Assistant warden of Readers and as Rural Dean. Five years later she became Priest in Charge of Kirlington, Burneston, Wath and Pickhill in the Diocese of Ripon and Leeds. From 2015 she served as Canon Evangelist at Ripon Cathedral.

Since 2017, Ruth has served as a Priest in the parishes of Sharow, Copt Hewick, and Marton Le Moor in the Diocese of Leeds. For the last two years she has also held the role of Mission and Evangelism Tutor at St Hild Theological College, Mirfield. She has also been a General Synod member, the Church of England's national assembly.

Ruth is a passionate advocate for rural ministry and environmental matters. She has sat as a National Rural Affairs Group Church of England representative on the Arthur Rank Centre's trustee board. And at Leeds Diocese she has acted as an Environmental Working Group Training and Theology Advisor. She co-created and co-developed a new lay ministry pathway, the "Eco-Mission Enabler" and runs an environmental blog site "Greening the lectionary".

She added: "Understandably I shall be sad to leave behind the people in my parishes who I have served and who I've drawn so close to. I give thanks for their continued faithful service and also for the rich spirit I've seen demonstrated in all those training for ordination at St Hild's. It has been a privilege to serve them all." Ruth is married to Andrew and has two grown up daughters, Victoria (25), and Ellen (21), who is currently studying at the University of Cumbria.

The Acting Bishop of Carlisle, the Right Reverend Rob Saner-Haigh, said: "We are thrilled to be able to welcome Ruth to this role and back home to Cumbria. She will bring great insight and expertise to the role – notably around rural ministry and environmental matters – and we very much look forward to her being a valued and respected member of the Bishop's Leadership team as well as taking on the role of Strategic Development Officer in support of our mission communities. We look forward to welcoming her and Andrew back to the county in the summer. Our prayers are with them both as they prepare to make the move."

Ruth will begin her ministry in the Diocese in August and will be officially installed as Archdeacon of Carlisle at a special service to be held at Carlisle Cathedral on a date yet to be agreed.

## **News from Sola**

The Reverend Morten Sandland has announced that after seven and a half years as Vicar of Sola, he will be moving to the neighbouring parish of Ræge, taking up this new appointment in August. Please pray for the process of recruiting a new vicar to succeed Morten, and our continuing links with Sola Church.

## **PCC Update**

The Parochial Church Council is elected to share with the Vicar, the leadership of St James; to supervise the day to day running of the Church and enable us all to seek God's vision in making Jesus known in our parish and help people grow as followers of Jesus.

I thought it would be helpful in the monthly newsletter to give a short update on the work of the PCC. The last PCC meeting was held on the 25th March. At this meeting the Annual Accounts for 2023 were approved. Having started 2023 predicting a significant budget deficit, the good news is that we managed to just about break even. This was possible due to legacies of £24,370 and a very generous Gift Day of £27,271. Without the gift day and legacies our financial position would be very different. A report about church finances will be given at the Annual Parochial Meeting later this month.

A significant part of the meeting was taken up with reviewing and approving various safeguarding policies, including our safeguarding action plan, lone worker policy, and recruitment of ex-offenders policy (which as a church we are required to have).

There was also discussion in the PCC about challenges facing Cornerstone and the OpShop, as volunteer numbers have reduced, putting additional pressure on existing staff and volunteers. This is going to be an important area of discussion for the PCC going forward.

As this was the last PCC meeting before APCM, thanks were given to Judith Moffat who is stepping down as Church Warden and Helen Hamilton who is also stepping down from the PCC.

God bless,



## APRIL SERVICES

### Sunday 7th

10.30am Holy Communion

1 John 1:1 - 2:2

Living in the Light

6.30pm Evening Worship

Romans 14: 1-12

Supporting One Another

### Thursday 11th

12.30pm Midweek Communion Service

### Sunday 14th

10.30am All Age Worship

Reading TBC

Safe Families

6.30pm Evening Worship

Romans 14: 13-23

Build up, don't trip up

### Sunday 21st

10.30am Morning Worship

1 John 2: 3-14

Loving our fellow believers

6.30pm Holy Communion

Romans 5: 1-13

Overflowing with hope

### Sunday 28th

10.30am Morning Worship

Reading TBC

Urban Neighbours of Hope

6.30pm Evening Worship

Romans 15: 14-22

Knowing your calling