

A message from Si, our vicar:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It has been good to have lots of stimulating conversations following my sermon last Sunday, which touched upon issues such as Assisted Dying. If you haven't heard this yet, please do listen on you tube.

Recently I have been thinking about how important courage is in the Christian life. If you're like me, you may be tempted by the English culture which surrounds us, to shrink back from having courage. English people usually counsel one another to stay quiet and not rock the boat. Then there is temptation from our sinful nature which encourages us to bow to fear of people (that which the old translations used to refer to as 'fear of man'.)

Proverbs 28:1 says: 'the wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.'

This doesn't mean we are to be disrespectful. But equally, in days of heightened sensitivity to difficult truth, let's remind ourselves that it is a Christian virtue for Christians to be bold and courageous. And let's pray that we would apply this in our lives.

This Week's Bible Reading:

Matthew 5:27-32 and Exodus 20:1-17

Command 7 - No adultery

The Collect:

Almighty Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
Give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

What's On This Week:

Thursday 27th 7.30pm: Albanian Mission Prayer Meeting

Saturday 1st March 11am: Chinese Bible Study

Sunday 2nd 9.00am: Holy Communion Service (& refreshments in the lounge afterwards)

Sunday 2nd 11.00am: Morning 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 2nd 7.30pm Prayer Meeting in the church lounge. Everyone is welcome to join us for this; there is no pressure to pray out loud.

Midweek Home Bible Study Groups - If you'd like to join a bible study group, please speak to Karl Turner.

Monday 3rd 6.30pm: CYFA 14-18s

Tuesday 4th 6.15pm Explorers 7-11s

Tuesday 4th 7.30pm: Pathfinders 11-14s

Wednesday 5th 12pm: Mums bible study

Wednesday 5th 6pm - Ash Wednesday Service at St Andrews

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:

7th April 7.30pm: Annual Parochial Church Meeting

17th April 6pm: Maundy Thursday service at St Johns

20th April - full immersion baptisms at St Johns

27th-30th May Football School

29th May 6pm: Ascension Day service at St Bridgets

8th June 6pm: Pentecost service at Church on the Moor

News:

Electoral Roll - We only have a couple more weeks to collect entries to the electoral roll and numbers are currently significantly lower than last year. If you would like to enroll and have yet to do so, please can I encourage you to either sign up online (you can do this very easily in 'my area' on the website or the church app) or using a paper form which will be available at the back of church on Sunday.

PCC Secretary - We are still looking for a PCC secretary. If you would like more information on how you can serve in this valuable way, please contact Phil Sisson - Church Warden, or Sue Lane in the office.

Football School - are you able to volunteer to help with this wonderful outreach? Please speak to Rob Mayhew, Sarah Clark or Jo & Jake Little if you are able to offer assistance.

Please pray for:

- Phil Holland, Joyce Hewer, Emily Lane, Les Fox and Joe Moore.
- The recruitment process for our associate vicar. The advert is live and we pray that the right person will hear God's call to come and serve at St Johns.
- We've received a prayer letter for NISCU. You can find it at the back of church
- The Carlisle Diocese of the Church of England.

Praise God for:

Filling our youth groups with engaged and happy youth, who are fellowshiping and growing together. We keep running out of seats and bibles - what a wonderful problem to have!

Our incredible team of volunteers who do so much for our Church.