

CONNECT

The monthly magazine of St James Church

February 2011



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Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Wednesday 16 February
7.30pm in the Parish Centre



Please join us at our annual meeting to hear reports on progress over the past year and plans for the year ahead. We also elect members to our PCC and Deanery Synod, appoint our Church Wardens and Stewards and receive our Accounts for the year.

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February Diary

Particular dates to note:

Wed 2	7.30pm	Prayer and Praise
Thurs 3	7.00pm	Bereavement Support Group
8/9/10		Homegroups (as arranged)
Wed 16	12.00noon	Cornerstone Prayer Meeting
	7.30pm	Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Thur 17	11.30am	Midweek Service
	12.30pm	Leisurely Lunch
	7.00pm	Bereavement Support Group
Mon 21-Fri 25		HOLIDAY CLUB
Wed 23	7.30pm	Cornerstone Prayer Meeting @ Parish Centre
Wed 2nd March		Prayer and Praise

Our regular groups meet in the Parish Centre, as follows:

Toddlers meet every **Wednesday** at **10.00am & 1.30pm**

Sticky Fingers (craft for toddlers) meet on **Thursdays** at **10.30am**

Parent & Toddler Bible Study meeting **Mondays** at **10.00am**

Boys' Club Mondays 6.45-8.15pm Ages 6-10

Rainbows/Brownies/Guides Fridays 6.00 - 9.15pm Contact leaders for more info (see p22)

The Big Chill (TBC) (School year 6-9) meet every **Tuesday 5.00-6.00pm**, followed by **TBC Xtra** from **6.00-6.30pm**

Music Group meet at **7.30pm** every Thursday in Church

Badminton & Table Tennis Group meet **Fridays** at **7.45pm**

Women's Fellowship meet **Mondays** at **2.45 pm**

Bereavement Support Group meet on the first and third **Thursday** of the month from **7.00-8.30pm**.

Particles of Ion

Mission
FOCUS

Back in the early 1970s I joined the Rwanda Prayer Meeting which met once a month in the vicarage to pray for missionaries working in South West Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. Never did I dream I would ever see the places or meet the people I was praying for, but God is so good and recently I had the privilege of visiting our link missionary Garry Ion.



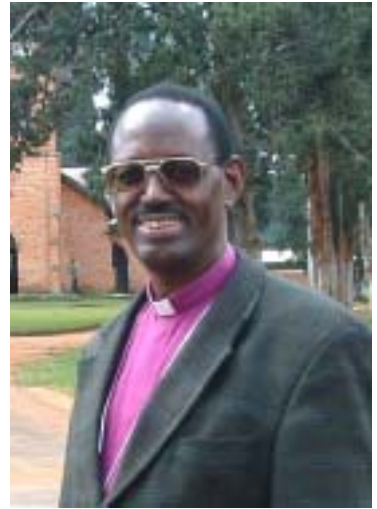
Garry normally works in Northern Uganda and Southern Sudan, but since his return last March he has worked on a number of schools projects with an Irish Mission, Fields of Life, in Rwanda and Burundi. My visit coincided with Garry's inspection of a few of these projects and he was able to take me with him. So I experienced the kinds of roads he travels, the places he stays and the

local food he eats. One cannot but be struck by the poverty of the local people and the simple way our mission partners live.

It was good to visit Lucy and Steve McIlhenny and see how well they have settled in Musinga and to share the frustrations of getting their project off the ground – though they were granted access to their container from the UK shortly after we left and now have the gear necessary to get the project up and running (as you would see from the pictures in last month's Connect).

It was also a delight to meet and share fellowship with Bernard Ntahoturi, who came to St James each Easter when he was a student at Cambridge in the 1970s, and is now Archbishop of Burundi. He remembered many folk and sends his greetings to everyone. He took us to a Confirmation Service - 120 people both adults and youngsters were confirmed. This was followed by Communion so it was quite a long service! Garry had warned me that guests are welcomed and asked to bring greetings

from their home church. I felt terribly nervous but it was great to be able to say that though we live far away we can share fellowship with them as we pray for them and worship the same almighty God. In Rwanda I was taken to a genocide memorial site which was a harrowing experience but a reminder of what the people have lived through and somewhat explained the pained expression in the eyes of many that we met.



We travelled many hundreds of kilometers but I realized what a small world it is. I briefly met up with Mick Cottinghams sister Rosemary in Bujumbura, met Jenny Green working in Western Uganda who has a sister living in Carlisle and another lady who has a brother also living here. Some of the photos are on the mission board at the back of church so do ask me about them.



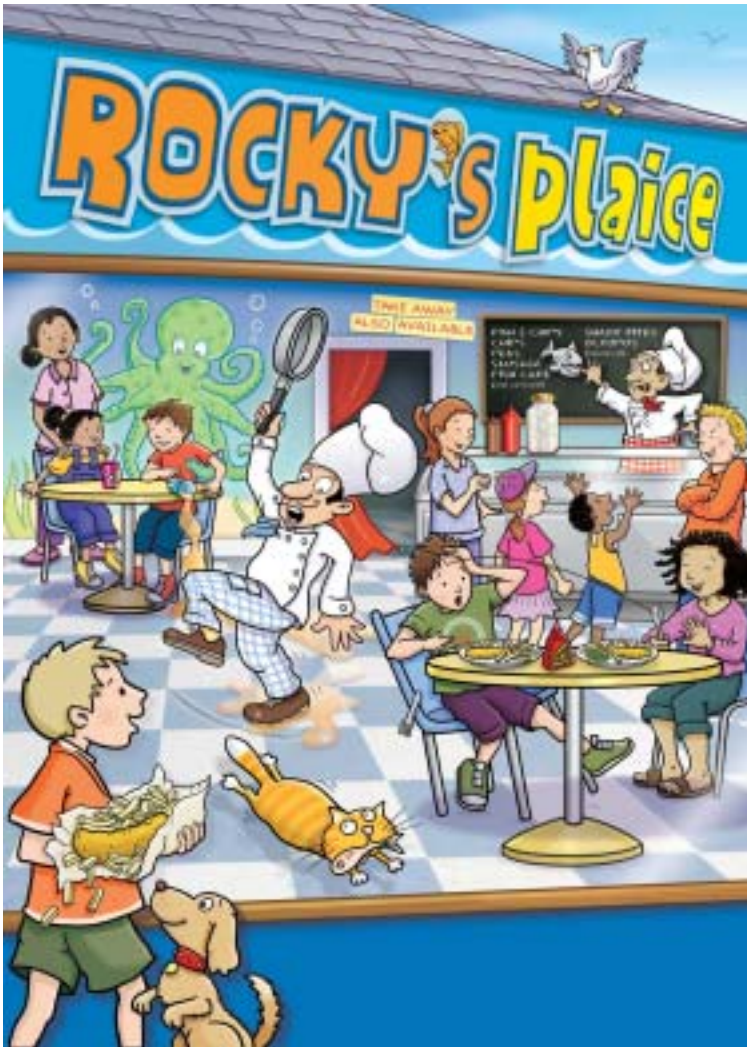
Garry has a full programme planned for the next few months. He is looking at some eco friendly projects involving Anaerobic Bio-Digester Systems which convert food waste and effluent into gas for cooking and which can be adapted for use in Uganda and Sudan and he has meetings scheduled with Fields of Life who want him to help with more projects which will take him south to Rwanda and Burundi.

So please pray that he will know Gods will for the way to best use his time. The Referendum in Southern Sudan last month went off peacefully and we must pray

that peace prevails there. On 18th of this month there are elections in Uganda. Tensions can run high at these times so pray that the Ugandan elections will also pass without any incidents.

Pat Doyle

St James Holiday Club 2011



This year we are heading to Rocky's Plaice fish and chip shop (also known as the Parish Centre), where we will be cooking up a storm! On the menu will be a good helping of fun and a pinch of madness! We will look at the difference knowing Jesus made to one of His closest friends (Peter), and how He can make a difference to our lives today. Make sure you don't miss out by booking your 'table' and joining us at Rocky's!

Monday 21st - Friday
25th February

(Half-term week)

10am - 12noon

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**ROCKY'S
plaice**



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children aged 4 - 11 years

The week will be fun and action packed with activities for all. Come, join the team and learn all about Jesus and his friends. Through a variety of crafts, songs and dramas the children will learn about God's love.



We hope that you will also be able to join us on Thursday 24th Feb for a Fish Supper at 5.30pm and on Sunday 27th Feb at 10.30am for our All Age Service in Church.

Book your place!

Please fill in the booking form available from the Parish Centre and the website and return to St James Parish Office. We cannot admit any child without a completed booking for signed by their parent/carer.



Cost

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To find out more, please do not hesitate to contact either:
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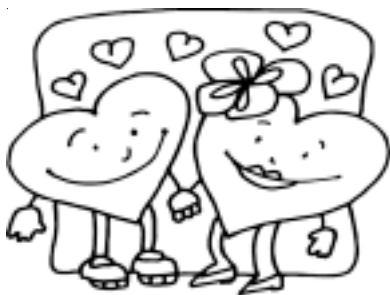
How did you meet?



With Valentine's Day on the way, we received an "article for your church magazine" from one of the Christian introduction agencies. To be honest it was just an advert really, but it did set us thinking, especially as we know a growing number of happy couples who met this way. So one Sunday morning we approached eight married people at random and asked how they met and how they got engaged ...

Answers given in no particular order!

How did you meet?



- At school
- At church
- At St James Young Peoples Fellowship in 1973
- At university
- Through a Christian internet site (2 people said this)
- On top of a mountain in the Lakes – she was lost!
- Down the Shambles! (In York)

How did you get engaged?

- He asked my parents' permission first
- Down on both knees
- He proposed on bended knee on a cliff top
- I proposed on bended knee on a cliff top
- I proposed on one knee at the bridge on top of Aira Force
- "It's probably time we got engaged eh" (note: proper Carlisle eh)
- She got fed up waiting and asked me
- Didn't get engaged, just married



Can you work out from the answers who the couples are?!

If you're interested, the Christian Introduction agency is Friends First
www.friends1st.co.uk / 0161 660 4535

The Ministry of Reconciliation?!

Wander round any capital (London springs to mind!) and you find prominent buildings in prime locations claiming to be the Ministry of... well, just about anything - Defence is pictured top right. The Lord willing, our PCC giving its prayerful "go ahead" and we meeting the parameters it sets, then St James will shortly commission a prominent building in a prime location and it is, or has, or contains, or enables... a Ministry! The thought occurred to me while I was reading Paul's 2nd Letter to the Corinthians, chapter 5 v 11 - 21. In the N.I.V. text the passage has been given a heading, "The Ministry of Reconciliation". Of course in context, not a place but a Person and a people!

Now we already have a suggested title for this Ministry building - The Cornerstone Centre (partly geography, partly... well you might remember the scriptures and probably Stuart Townend's song: "In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song; this Cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm...") so I'm not suggesting a frontage claiming to be "The Ministry of R..." rather to spark our thoughts as to the nature and focus of any activity that might take place there and our preparation for this.

Five times in three verses (18-20 in 2 Cor.5) Paul mentions "reconciliation" or variations. Reconciliation is the action of bringing peace into situations of hostility. To Paul the prime example is what God did through the death and resurrection of his Son. People had rejected Him and were in a hopeless situation, hostile to God and separated from Him, even falling out with each other because of their sin. Into this (humanly speaking) hopeless situation God enabled reconciliation with himself and with each other. Indeed, he gave his people the "ministry of reconciliation". We know from history that the Corinthian church needed this for themselves as much as for the wider community.



Without such reconciliation our efforts are hopeless and frustrating - stupid even (reminding us of another Ministry of Monty Python fame?) if the actual impact wasn't so tragic. We need reconciliation with God which will be reflected in our reconciliation with each other.

That's where our evening series on the Sermon on the Mount has been so challenging. In response to our Pledge Day and the soon to be launched Appeal for the Denton St/Cornerstone Centre, we might be tempted to acknowledge merely the financial focus - but even there (Matt 5 v24) we are exhorted by Jesus to "First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift." Any less preparation would undermine a Ministry of Reconciliation. Such Reconciliation is the most precious thing that the project can offer; precious to God and surely to us?



with Christian greetings, as ever, *John Libby*



St James Church Carlisle & Cummersdale Services, February 2011



	<i>Denton Holme</i> (10.30am)	<i>Cummersdale</i> (10.30am)	<i>Denton Holme</i> (6.30pm)
6 Feb	Showing eager willingness 2 Corinthians 8:7-15 Eddie Scrase-Field	John Libby	Humble or hypocrite? Matthew 6:1-6,16-18 John Libby
13 Feb	Proving our love 2 Corinthians 8:16-9:5 John Libby	 Eddie Scrase-Field	Christian ambition Matthew 6:19-34 Eddie Scrase-Field
20 Feb	 Grace and generosity 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 Joan Yarker	John Libby because of Jesus 1 John 1:1-4 John Libby
27 Feb	 Service with a catch! All Age Service Kate Davidson	Joan Yarker because of our attitude to sin 1 John 1:5-2:2 Kim Hoelterhof

Full details of services and passages can be found on the Term Card - available from the office, at the rear of the church, or from our Website www.stjamescarlisle.org.uk

Meet the new U-Crew!

Once again we are hosting two Brazilians here as interns with the Norwegian Mission Society (don't ask!). They will be working in the Op shop and with various groups in Church and are with us until December. Here we learn more about them.

What's your name and what were you doing in Brazil before travelling to England?



My name is Josué Reichow, although my friends use to call me Joshua which is the translation to English. It's much easier for you call this way.

Last year I finished my studies in Social Sciences. I've been teaching sociology for two years in a social project developed by my university. At church I was involved with Youth group and music group.

My name is Marilia, but you can call me Mary. I was living in Curitiba before travelling to England and there I was studying Theology.

What made you decide to join this project?

Josue: For me this is the right opportunity at the right time. The chance to know other people with different backgrounds and point of views makes me want it a lot. To have the opportunity to understand how you live here – your faith and your culture – made me want to be here. Besides, the chance of working in the community activities is a way to make part of God's Kingdom and share life with people.

Mary: I decided to come to England because I wanted to have this experience of work in a church. My wish is to become a missionary and I thought that this year would give me an idea of what is to be a missionary.



What do you miss from home?

Josue: Maybe I have not had time yet to miss something from home. But I would say that I miss the summer with warm nights with my friends at the beach. My local football team, called Grêmio, which is the best team in the world, at least for me. My family as well, but I have found great friends in this project and lovely people in Carlisle.

Mary: It is hard to say this now, because I am really happy here but I think I will miss my family.

Has anything surprised you about Britain?

Josue: I am very impacted with the reception from the people of this city. It was very good arriving here with this kind of reception. Another thing is about the traffic. Don't you realize that you're driving in the wrong way? I said to my friends that I think I will not be able to drive here. Sometimes I even can't cross the streets without look to the wrong way. I hope during this year I can get it.

Is there something you really want to do while you're here or somewhere you really want to visit?

Josue: I would like to improve my skills in English especially to be able to read authors like C.S Lewis, N.T Wright and Francis Schaeffer. In terms of travel I'm excited with the possibility to know different places around Europe and as Brazilian I really want to attend a match of some team in England.

Mary: I really want to visit Germany because my sister is living there.

What will you do when the year in Carlisle is finished?

Josue: Well, I'm not completely sure about it but my plan is find a university to keep my studies in Sociology like a post graduation course.

Mary: I will comeback to Curitiba and finish my course of theology.

How can we pray for you?

Josue: I really want to know the God's will for me. I can understand many things although others are difficult to understand yet. You can pray for the adaptation in this city and in this community. Secondly about my language skills, I have a lot to improve in English. Thirdly about the relationships that I will be involved either at home with the other Brazilian interns or at church especially the work in the OP Shop.

Mary: I would like that you pray for my work here and also that I can hear and see what God is showing me.



John Tremble (Dip. F.D.)

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Denton Holme County Councillor

If any constituent wishes to speak to me on any issue regarding Council matters, they can contact me on the number shown below or visit me at my Surgery which will be held in the Denton Holme Community Centre on **Thursday, 24 February** from 6 pm to 7 pm.

My City Council colleagues, Paul Atkinson (545026) and Joan Southward (520183), will also be in attendance.

56 Colville Street, Carlisle. Tel: 01228 530223.

hughmcd@carlisle.gov.uk

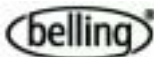


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Youth News

Well, as we enter February all the youth activities are back in full swing. Perhaps what has encouraged me most this term has been starting Soul – the youth version of Christianity Explored – on Sunday evenings. It can be all too easy for us to take for granted the basics of our faith, yet these are amazing truths and it is great to just pause for a bit and actually reflect on how powerful these truths are.



Not only that but it seems to be a great tool for helping us with our evangelism as we explore and grow in our understanding of Mark's gospel. It has also helped us to think more about where our friends are at and what their assumptions and thoughts would be on Christianity and in particular Mark's gospel and how we can best answer them.



I for one am very excited at the potential of this course and the impact it could have on the schools and colleges around Carlisle as the CYFA youth share their faith.

The biggest prayer point for the youth this month is the holiday club where many of the CYFA members will be helping out in a wide range of capacities from working with the children, music, sound and projection. Pray that they would take a joy from serving and God would equip them in this important ministry.



In Christ

Nick

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This is a part-time position, based on 20 hours per week and further details and an application form can be obtained from the Parish Office.

Closing date for applications is Friday 18 February.

Could you help?

Would you be able to give one morning a week to help keep the Parish Office running and offer a welcoming smile for visitors? We are in need of a volunteer for Wednesday mornings 9.00-12.00.

Please speak to Mary for more details.



From the Parish Registers

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Jan 14 Geoffrey Graham
Jan 19 Paul Spencer
Jan 20 Robert Clark



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Walking with God and the Dog

Reflected Glory!

I am not sure why, but I do not remember ever being taught astronomy at school. My adult children were amazed (and amused) when they found this out. We were on holiday in South India and I was waxing lyrical (!) about how beautifully the moon was shining on this particular night. They took great delight in educating their Mother that the moon does not shine, but reflects the light from the sun! I was the butt of their jokes for some time to come!

Recently I visited a very dear school friend of mine, whose daughter had just gone to Cambridge University. Liz was obviously very proud, and talked about this being 'reflected glory.'

I have often thought about what she said in the light of my walk with God. Is my life a reflection of Jesus? Do I reflect His glory to the people around me? Sadly, I know the answer is often 'no.'

2 Corinthians 3v18 says 'and we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.'

How encouraging to know we can't achieve this on our own, but we have the Holy Spirit living in us who is transforming us 'into His likeness.' As the saying goes, 'Be patient with me, God hasn't finished with me yet!'

Rosie Thwaites



St James Church DIRECTORY

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Joan Yarker 522765

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Assistant Minister

Eddie Scrase-Field

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CA2 5PJ
Phone: 01228 527515
eddie@stjamescarlisle.org.uk



Parish Assistant

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Kate Davidson

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General Enquiries

To find out anything about St. James,
please ring the Parish Office or drop in for a chat.
We are open Monday to Friday, 10 am to 4.30 pm.
parish.office@stjamescarlisle.org.uk

Parish Office

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