

STANWIX PARISH NEWS AND VIEWS

ST MICHAEL'S STANWIX AND ST MARK'S BELAH

AMANDA WRITES:

*Notice from an Ordinand:
Oh how I miss you all. You see for me it has been far longer than lockdown as I have been away from you all since the beginning of December when I started my placement at St Mary's Wigton. Just as I was finishing there and looking forward to being with you all again WHAM! The Churches close. I was devastated not to be able to return to you, my church family, and to enjoy worship and fellowship together. But still it is not as if I am alone in missing church. I do hope you have been enjoying our services on You Tube in the meantime.*

However, training has not stopped, life goes on with tutorials online and assignments to be completed. It has been strange at times and tiring; online sessions can be a strain and we have missed out on the fellowship we enjoyed together; it is just not the same over a screen. But now I am nearly at the end of my first year, WOW where did that go to!

*May I take this opportunity to say a very big thank you to the many of you that I know have been praying for me, I greatly appreciate it and am so looking forward to meeting up with you all soon.
Every blessing.*

Church Family News:

Burnham Hodgson and Dorothy Bell from St Mark's Church have both moved in recent weeks to be closer to family. Dorothy has moved to Kent and Burnham has moved to Suffolk. Please do pray for them both as they adjust to their new surroundings.

OPENING CHURCH FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

You will have heard the announcement that from 4th July churches will be able to open for worship. As I write we are still waiting for the details of what can and cannot take place during worship, but it is clear that the impact of the restrictions remain. For example, social distancing will remain and we will not be allowed to sing in church.

The PCC meets on 2nd July and will be discussing the procedures we need to follow to allow prior to opening and will, hopefully, be able to make the decision as to when we can start Sunday worship in church. It is hoped that our online Sunday service will continue in some form also. We will keep you posted.

June 26, 2020

NEWS FROM THE HOMEGROUPS

The Lovett / Goodman homegroup has continued to meet over Zoom throughout lockdown, every week. We've enjoyed catching up with each other socially, praying for one another's needs, and studying some passages from Luke together. As there are 17 of us we meet in two separate halves most weeks, but come altogether over Zoom for a fun game, quiz or just general chat once a month. Not as good as meeting face to face, and we miss the shared cake and coffee, but the travel time is shorter! New members always welcome.

Comments from the 'Community Group': Our meetings are shorter now than normal which can be positive but may also be a negative that people aren't given enough time to open up. We do have a continual WhatsApp Group chat going all week so that is used for follow-up and prayer. The materials have been the same in a virtual setting as when meeting. We give people a chance to lead and Sue chose a Church of Scotland series of Psalms with questions that we ended up doing a few of over a few weeks. We did the Three Rivers Lent material which was an interesting lead in to lockdown. We just email the material as normal and members look at these before meeting.

'It's definitely been absolutely worthwhile continuing to meet in spite of lockdown. The first few exploratory weeks were necessary, but it became really worthwhile once we started on a bit of Biblical / spiritual input.' 'The WhatsApp group is a great virtual component to our Groups cohesion and life. It has been wonderful being able to join you all in the community group. As you know I get very nervous about our road at night so joining you from home has been great. I've loved the support fellowship and connection with my sisters and brothers in Christ being able to share in the word in prayer and fellowship.'

THE TREASURE HUNT

The winners were the Seminara family from Marlborough Gardens and they won a 1kg box of sweets. Each entrant won a bag of Haribos and a Bubble Wand. If you wish to receive a copy of the answers of the Treasure Hunt, please email stanwixparish@gmail.com or phone 01228 514600 and a copy will be sent to you.

PRAYER SUPPORT

At this time of isolation and social restrictions, there is always the support available of people praying for you in confidence.

If you would like someone to pray with you or for any issue you face, please either send your prayer request to stanwixparish@gmail.com or ring 01228 514600.

KESWICK AND NEW WINE

The Keswick Convention and the New Wine Summer Conference are both 'online' this year.

Keswick Convention" - 27th – 31st July <https://vkc.keswickministries.org/>

New Wine 30th July – 3rd August. Search for 'United Breaks Out'