

ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS

Sunday 25th July 2021

8th Sunday after Trinity *James the Apostle*



We are delighted to welcome Ian Service as our preacher this morning. Ian is a licensed Lay Reader and Churchwarden at St James, Arnside.

Please be aware of the arrangements we have in place to keep everyone safe and follow the directions and guidance of the stewards.

Readings: Jeremiah 45, v. 1 - 5; Acts 11, v. 27 to 12, v. 2

Gospel: Matthew 20 v. 17 - 28

Coronavirus Restrictions

The PCC met on Tuesday and considered the current circumstances concerning coronavirus restrictions. The Church of England has devolved to parishes the responsibility to determine their response to the removal of the legal requirements that had been in place to combat the spread of the coronavirus in all its variant forms. On a day when a further 96 deaths due to Covid were announced, the PCC was reluctant to propose the abandonment of our current practices. Instead, it was agreed to ask the Standing Committee, which is to meet this coming week, to consider all available information, together with any views expressed by members of the congregation, before making recommendations about the way forward.

The Bishop of Carlisle has recommended caution in making decisions about a return to 'normal' while infection rates are still rising and many groups and individual remain unvaccinated. Hence, there is no intention to return to a physical sharing of the Peace, nor of reintroducing the common cup for Holy Communion. We also need to consider and plan for specific activities, such as the return of congregational singing, together with the need for social distancing and the wearing of face coverings. The sharing of common resources (hymnbooks, for example), the opening of the church throughout the week, recommencing the serving of refreshments after services, regular services of Evensong - there is a lot to consider and plan for in the weeks and months ahead.

Consequently, for the present, **all our existing arrangements remain in place**. We are sure you will agree that we need to show caution before making changes to the protocols that have helped to keep us all safe during the past year. Please be assured that we will consider all advice and recommendations and we ask for your continuing patience as we work to devise the best way forward.

There is no doubt that the singing of much loved hymns is an important part of our worship, adding atmosphere and meaning to our celebration. However, it is accepted that the spread of coronavirus is primarily caused by aerosol dispersion of water droplets. If you have any views about the resumption of congregational singing that you would like us to consider, please speak to Andrew, one of the churchwardens or any member of the PCC after this morning's service or contact one of us by e-mail before Wednesday. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Wedding

Lauren Dainty and Timothy Abbitt are to be married here in St Michael & All Angels next Saturday, 31st July, at 2.00 pm. During the service, Lauren and Tim's daughter, Amy Katherine, is to be Baptised. We wish them all every happiness in their life together.

Prayers for the recently Ordained

We continue to pray for those ordained as Deacons and Priests in the past weeks and also for those who are to be ordained in the autumn.

Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer God, who call your faithful people into a life of service, help us to nurture and hold in love all those who are ordained at this time in the life of your Church. Teach us your ways, that we might recognise your Mission in the world, your compassion in caring for others, and your love deep within every human heart. We ask this in your Holy Name, as one undivided Trinity of love, now and for evermore. Amen

Milnthorpe Food Bank

Thank you for your continuing gifts. As before, if you have brought any contributions today, or if you plan to bring gifts in future weeks, please leave them in your pew after the service. Your previous gifts have all been delivered to the Food Bank and have gone to support needy families. Please continue to help our support for the Food Bank which, sadly, is still very much needed.

Lay Ministry Training

A special taster event has been held to showcase exciting lay ministry opportunities available through the Authorised Local Training Pathway.

ALTP is designed to encourage lay people of all ages and backgrounds to explore further what God may be calling them into. It is flexible, adaptable to character and context.

It begins with a one year commitment during which the participant is given the chance to explore where they feel God may be calling them while developing their gifts and skills and learning about ministry.

If you are interested in finding out more about Lay Ministry, please speak to Andrew or Viv.

Caring for Carers

The Diocese of Carlisle has established a scheme for offering worn-out 'carers' short restorative retreats at Rydal Hall. We clapped for them – and now we're trying to help in a practical way. The cost of this will be about £20,000, towards which £7,000 has already been raised. If you would like to make a contribution, the account details are: "The Diocese of Carlisle and Sacred Space Caring for the Carers Fund", sort code 30-96-26, bank account number 74754760. Any gift of any size will be very gratefully received.

Contact Details for Pew Sheet

Brian Smalley 015395 64778 b.e.smalley@btinternet.com

Website: beethamstmichaelandallangels.co.uk