

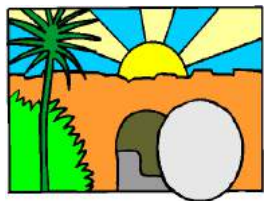
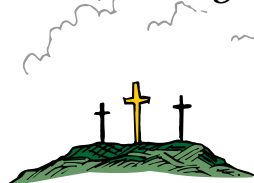
EASTER SERVICES in South Barrow

MAUNDY THURSDAY - 18th April

9.30 am St George's School Easter Service at St George's Church
 2 pm Holy Communion at St Aidan's with Canon Gary Cregeen
 7.30 pm Candlelit Holy Communion in the Pennington Room, St George's
 With Canon Gary Cregeen

GOOD FRIDAY - 19th April

10.30 am Good Friday Service at St Aidan's Church
 With Canon Gary Cregeen
 (followed by a lunch of Fish & Chips)



EASTER DAY - 21st April

6 am Early Morning Service in Barrow Park, followed
 by bacon butties at Abbey Road Baptist Church
 9.30 am: Easter Communion at St Aidan's
 with Canon Gary Cregeen
 10.30 am: Easter Communion at St George's
 with Canon Gary Cregeen
 12 noon Easter Baptisms at St George's with Canon Gary Cregeen

Come and explore Easter with us - you'll be amazed!

The Magazine of the Parishes of St Aidan's and
 St George's with Grace Church, Barrow-in-Furness

TEAM TALK



April & May 2019

Team website: www.sbtchurches.co.uk

REAL LIVES: BISHOP EMMA

Mon 1st April @ Roose Cons.
 Club, Leece Lane (LA13 0EB)
 7.30pm (7pm Doors & Bar open)

A special evening with Emma
 Ineson, the new Bishop of Penrith.

Come & hear Emma's story, from growing up
 in Kenya, to running a 'Vicar Factory', and
 finding the difference that God makes
 through the ups & downs of ordinary life.

WITH LIVE MUSIC FROM THE GRACE
 COLLECTIVE, AND PIE + PEAS SUPPER.



Bishop Emma is visiting Barrow
 as part of a Cumbria-wide
 'Lent Walk' to support
 the God for All initiative, which
 seeks to share the Christian faith.

Reserve your ticket by 27th March
 (£3 taken on night, includes Pie & Peas):
 07980 248897, or via 'Believe in Barrow' on
 Facebook or maureendate1942@gmail.com



50p



The South Barrow Team - Useful Contacts

Team Rector & Rural Dean of Barrow: Revd Canon Gary M. Cregeen, The Rectory, 98 Roose Road, Barrow-in-Furness, LA13 9RL. Tel. 01229 877367
Email: Gary@GandJCregeen.co.uk

Team Vicar: VACANT

Associate Minister (Grace Church) Revd Robin Ham, 33 Holebeck Road, Barrow-in-Furness, LA13 OHR. Tel. 07828 333106
Email: robinpeterham@gmail.com

Local Lay Minister & Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Jean Mease 01229 829923

Churchwardens:

Mr Ted Fenton (St George's w. St Luke's) 01229 820408
Mrs Geraldine Southam (St George's w. St Luke's) 01229 466327
Mr Peter Gardner (St Aidan's) 01229 825870

PCC Treasurers:

VACANT (St George's w. St Luke's)
Mrs Sheila Simpson (St Aidan's) 01229 839563

PCC Secretaries:

Miss Alison Otto (St George's w. St Luke's) 01229 825802
Mrs Carole Williamson (St Aidan's) 01229 826017

Vergers:

Mrs Geraldine Southam (St George's w. St Luke's) 01229 466327
Mr Keith Cockburn (St Aidan's) 01229 826692

Hall Lettings Secretaries:

Mr Ted & Mrs Ruth Fenton (St George's) 01229 820408
Mrs Angela Rogers (St Aidan's) 07794 442586

Weekly Team Newsletter: Judy Cowsill 01229 829710

Team Website: Stuart Rogers Email: sturogers22@gmail.com

"The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

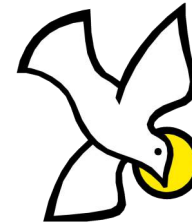
TEAM TALK

Due to the forthcoming Interregnum the PCC's have decided to suspend production of Team Talk for the time being. A decision will be made in due course whether to re-instate the magazine. In the meantime, a weekly Newsletter will continue to be produced and will be available in the churches each Sunday, as well as online at the South Barrow Team Website.

'REAL LIFE' BREAKFAST

Saturday 8 June 10 am until 11.15 am at St George's Church Hall
Join us for delicious breakfast buns (contain bacon, sausage or both!), good company and the opportunity to be encouraged and inspired a 'real life' story of someone living out their Christian faith.

NB Food will be served between 10 am and 10.45 am (Donations, if desired)



Churches Together in Barrow & District
OPEN AIR PENTECOST SERVICE
Sunday 9 June at 3 pm at Barrow Park

Everyone welcome!



SUMMER FAIR & BRUNCH!
Saturday 29 June : 11.30 am to 1.30 pm
at St George's Church Hall

As well as bacon baps and sausage sarnies there will be various stalls: cakes, books, jewellery, homemade-jams, bric-a-brac, etc. As well as face painting and a bouncy castle!

All welcome!

MISSION COMMUNITY LEADER



We're looking for our next BMC Leader, as we journey from being launched in 2015, to being formally commissioned and moving forwards in our aim of 'knowing Christ better & making Him better known' in our town.

The BMC is made-up of 16 churches from 4 denominations. Together we aim to be 'a series of connected, vibrant, life-giving, worshipping communities... who share responsibility for loving and caring for one another... whilst making & growing wholehearted followers of Jesus in Barrow, so that the whole town might be renewed and experience fullness of life in Christ.

We are looking for a personable & faith-filled leader to galvanise us in mission, inspire us with vision, help us make hard decisions as we face the future, and build on the foundations that have already been laid.

Lay or ordained, you will lead a committed and varied steering group of church representatives as we make God For All a reality in our town.

Could this be you? Find out more by reading the Role Description & getting in touch as below.



This is a non-salaried role, with expenses provided. The post will be subject to an enhanced DBS and there is a genuine occupational requirement that the post-holder is a practising Christian. Applications should be made to the Strategic Development Officer for Westmorland & Furness, Archdeacon Vernon Ross (archdeacon.south@carlisle-diocese.org.uk) by the closing date, of 15th April 2019, 5pm. It is hoped interviews will take place on 25th April 2019, in time for the BMC Commissioning Service on 28th April 2019. For more info & Role Description/Application pack, please contact Kathryn Aldred: kmaaldred@icloud.com



LENT LUNCHES AT ST GEORGE'S & ST AIDAN'S + TEARFUND'S YEMEN APPEAL

Each Tuesday at St George's and Thursday at St Aidan's hearty homemade soup, with a bread roll, will be served between 12.15 pm and 1.15 pm. Tea/coffee will be served afterwards. All proceeds will go to Tearfund's

EMERGENCY YEMEN APPEAL

Yemen is home to the world's worst humanitarian crisis today – with 22.2 million people in urgent need of humanitarian aid. The nation has been left devastated after nearly four years of conflict. Thousands of innocent civilians have died and three-quarters of Yemenis can't access safe water, food, healthcare or sanitation. The people of Yemen are facing multiple crises, including armed conflict, displacement, disease and a risk of famine. Tearfund's partners in Yemen are working tirelessly in very difficult circumstances to reach those suffering the most.

They are providing safe drinking water and food for vulnerable households, and improving access to healthcare and hygiene advice to reduce the spread of deadly disease. With more funds, TEARFUND and their partners can immediately respond to the growing needs of the Yemeni people. Our support can help save lives!

Sunday Worship during April & May 2019

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 7 April | *9.30 am Holy Communion at St Aidan's *10.30 am Holy Communion at St George's |
| 14 April | *10.30 am CONFIRMATION & TEAM COMMUNION SERVICE at St George's with the Bishop of Carlisle |
| 21 April | EASTER DAY *9.30 am Easter Communion at St Aidan's *10.30 am Easter Communion at St George's 12 noon Baptisms @ St George's |
| 28 April | *9.30 am Holy Communion at St Aidan's *10.30 am Morning Worship at St George's 12.15 pm St George's Day Parade Service at St George's |
| 5 May | *9.30 am Holy Communion at St Aidan's *10.30 am Holy Communion at St George's 12 Noon Baptisms @ St George's |
| 12 May | *9.30 am Morning Worship at St Aidan's *10.30 am Holy Communion at St George's |
| 19 May | *10.30 am Team Communion at St Aidan's |
| 26 May | *9.30 am Holy Communion at St Aidan's *10.30 am Morning Worship at St George's |
| 2 June | *9.30 am Holy Communion at St Aidan's *10.30 am Holy Communion at St George's |
| 9 June | *9.30 am Morning Worship at St Aidan's *10.30 am Holy Communion at St George's |
| 16 June | *10.30 am Team Communion at St George's |
- *Refreshments will be served after these services.*

The South Barrow Team Register

Baptisms

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 16 February | Daniel Jack Beardsworth (B:22/9/18) at St George's |
| 24 February | Robyn Willow Dennison (B:25/5/18) at St George's |
| 24 March | Thea Olivia Geldart (B:18) at St George's |
| 24 March | Finn Robert Hobson (B:18) at St George's |

Funerals

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of:

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 5 February | Margaret Millican (90) at Thorncliffe Crematorium |
| 6 February | June Ashdown (81) at Thorncliffe Crematorium |
| 13 February | Denis Bradley (88) at Thorncliffe Crematorium |
| 25 February | Sandra Adams (77) at St George's Church |
| 26 February | Phyllis Hordon (86) at Thorncliffe Crematorium |
| 27 February | Allan Davies (74) at Thorncliffe Crematorium |
| 4 March | Albert Dixon (90) at Thorncliffe Crematorium |
| 5 March | John Rawlinson (67) at Thorncliffe Crematorium |
| 11 March | Brunhilde 'Hilly' Sadler (88) at Thorncliffe Crematorium |
| 13 March | Peter Whiteman (87) at Thorncliffe Crematorium |
| 14 March | Lynne Cullen (72) at Thorncliffe Crematorium |
| 19 March | George McCullough (88) at Thorncliffe Crematorium |
| 29 March | Margaret Graham (88) at Thorncliffe Crematorium |

Enquiries about Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child, Baptism, Weddings, Renewal of Marriage Vows and Funerals should be directed to any of the clergy (see page 16 for contact details) Thank you

The Annual Parochial Church Meetings will be held on **Sunday 7 April at 9.30 am at St Aidan's** and at **7.30 pm on Monday 15 April at The Community Room, St George's School**. At the APCM we elect Churchwardens - two for each church; members to the PCC's, and appoint stewards. At St Aidan's there are six vacancies: 2 for 1 year, 2 for 2 years and 2 for 3 years. At St George's there are also six vacancies: 2 for 1 year and 4 for three years. Serving on the PCC requires commitment to the vision adopted across the South Barrow Team and participation, both at PCC meetings (six each year) and the wider life of the local church. Please commit the APCM's to God in your prayers, as well as in your diary. *'Unless the Lord builds the house they that labour do so in vain' Ps.127:1*

The Revd Horace Grainger – 1934-2018

Horace Grainger, with his wife Jean and their three boys moved from Yorkshire to Barrow in 1972. They immediately became involved in the life of St Matthew's church, taking the youth club to St John's in the Vale Youth Hostel and serving on the PCC and Halls Committee.

In 1976 Horace started a seven year spell as churchwarden, only relinquishing the post when he started to train for the non-stipendiary ministry. In December 1985 he was made Deacon to serve at St Matthew's. He was ordained Priest in September 1986 and served until February 1989.

In 1989, having taken early retirement from his job as Barrow Corporation Cleansing Superintendent, he moved to Carlisle to become curate at St Herbert's with St Stephen's, Carlisle. In 1991 Horace was appointed Team Vicar of Penrith (where Gary, our Team Rector, will be based). He then moved on to be vicar of Holme Cultram, south of Carlisle, until he was taken ill and returned to Barrow in 2000.

In 2001 he became Honorary Priest of St Matthew's and took services until it closed in 2015, during those last 12 years there were few parishes in Barrow that did not have him to take services. His special ministry was to the bereaved and Horace officiated at many funeral services, each one carefully constructed to help the bereaved families.

Following closure of St Matthew's Horace moved to St James' church where Jean was in the choir. Horace died in St George's Nursing Home on 23 December 2018, after a few weeks of worsening health. During all his ministry Horace was helped and supported by Jean at all times. She nursed him at home almost to the end. Ian, in turn, became a priest and serves in the Workington area as a vicar after a spell at St Aidan's, Barrow.

At his funeral on 4 January, a packed church bore witness to his thirty years of ministry and Revd Stuart Evason spoke of his life and work. Gary, our Team Rector, writes: "I will always remember Horace for his willing service, not least in ministering to the bereaved, his friendly nature, his ability to get alongside others and his support and encouragement. It was a privilege to pray with him, Jean and others from SBT who support the monthly Communion at Risedale St George's, just before his passing. May he rest in peace and rise in glory!"



Jacob

Recently we received news that The Right Revd Jacob Ayebo (Bishop of Tamale in Ghana) had died suddenly of a heart attack. Jacob has been sponsored since childhood by the Parish of St George with St Luke - a kindness he never forgot. Occasionally he visited St George's when in the UK and his exuberant and infectious faith, along with his warm smile and laughter always made it a joy to be in his

company. As well as being a man of compassion Bishop Jacob was also a man of conviction. A few months ago he called on the clergy to defend and stand by the principles of the bible, and teach the word of God even if they are unpopular. He said there were so many false doctrines in the world that were drawing the Disciples of Christ away, and noted that "Anglicans are vulnerable to their attacks because Anglicans today, including the clergy, are not interested in studying the word of God".

Bishop Jacob made the call during his sermon at ordination of five Anglican Priests; he charged them to proclaim by word and in deeds the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, because He had called them to share in His mission. He said "Your job is to teach sound doctrine, so that the people of the Diocese will be able to defend themselves from false teachers." Jacob lamented that fact that some 'men of God' were not different from those who were hired servants whom Jesus spoke about in the book of John chapter 10 verse 12. *"They seek their own comfort instead of feeding the flock, they protect themselves and run away from trouble, instead of defending and warning the flock of danger, they do not want to cause controversy and so they preach what the people want to hear instead of what God has declared to them to say,"* he said. Jacob's words and insight are very timely when many church leaders in the West seem to have lost confidence in God's Word and seem to be more concerned about being 'pleasers of people rather than pleasers of God'. Perhaps this says something about why the Church in places like Africa continues to grow significantly—God honours those who honour Him. Leaders like Bishop Jacob, who readily submitted to the authoritative role of scripture in life and moral choices, are an inspiration. Having trusted in Jesus Christ we know that +Jacob now rests in peace and will rise in glory!



Will include Easter Craft Stall!

Friday 26th April from 6.30pm

Fun Family Quiz | Music | Fish-finger buns

Tea and coffee available - £1 with free refill.
Or bring your own drinks. Alcohol allowed.



Entry £2 per adult, 50p per child
St Aidan's Church Hall, Middle Hill, Barrow

ST GEORGE'S DAY PARADE SERVICE

with the Duke of Lancaster's Regimental Association and the Society of St George
Sunday 28th April 2019 at 12.15 pm
at St George's Church, Barrow-in-Furness
Preacher: Rt Revd James Newcome, Bishop of Carlisle



All welcome!



You are warmly invited to the..
**COMMISSIONING OF
BARROW MISSION
COMMUNITY**

Sunday 28th April 2019 at

4 pm at the Salvation Army Citadel, Abbey Road Barrow
(at 3.45 pm prayers will be said at the 'Spirit of Barrow' statue, Dalton Road, before a procession down to the Salvation Army—banners welcome!) **All welcome!**

INTERREGNUM UPDATE

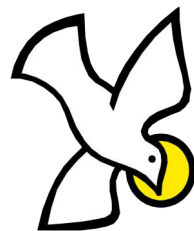
Following the announcement of Gary's appointment to Penrith, plans are being made for the 'Interregnum' (the time between the departure of one Vicar and the arrival of another). Gary is meeting regularly with the Churchwarden's in order to ensure, as far as is possible, that the Interregnum runs smoothly.

For example, he is currently liaising with others to provide cover for Sunday worship at St Aidan's and St George's, as well as 'occasional services' such as baptisms, weddings and funerals. These plans will go up to the end of September 2019 when it is hoped that a new Incumbent will have arrived—please note, this is considerably earlier than would normally be the case. This is because the Bishop and Archdeacon are committed to seeking a replacement for Gary as soon as possible. It is likely that the person appointed will be described as 'Priest-in-Charge', in line with Diocesan Policy. This does not diminish the responsibility and status of a new 'Vicar' but allows for flexibility in the deployment of clergy in the future. As you will be aware, the Team Vicar post became vacant in August 2017. The delay in making an appointment is primarily due to lack of finance. However, the Diocese has submitted a bid to the Church of England's Strategic Development Fund to fund a Pioneer Minister post in Barrow, based at St Aidan's. The criteria for such funding is strict and so the priority for the person appointed (if funding is forthcoming) will be outreach to the wider community, while supporting 'traditional' ministry as gifting and availability will determine. Inevitably 'change' can create a feeling of uncertainty; as our current sermon series reminds us, we need to TRUST GOD in all circumstances because He is faithful to His promise. Therefore, let us encourage one another to do just that, as we seek God's guidance and pray for one another.

Especially pray for the PCC's who will be meeting with the Archdeacon on Wednesday 10 April.

FAREWELL TO GARY & JULIE...

Sunday 19 May will be Gary & Julie's last Sunday with us. There is a Team Service at St Aidan's at 10.30 am on that day, followed by pie & peas! While in the afternoon at 4 pm there is to be a Thanksgiving & Dedication Service at St George's, which will be attended by the Mayor & Mayoress of Barrow and others from the Barrow Deanery & Mission Community. Light refreshments will be served afterwards and everyone is welcome!



Churches Together in Barrow & District
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Monday 27 April at pm at St Aidan's,
Middle Hill, Newbarns

Everyone welcome!



ST GEORGE'S IS TO HOST
A 'BIG BREKKIE'
on Saturday 11 May
between 10 - 11.15 am



Fond of a fry up? Partial to pancakes? In response to an initiative by Christian Aid there will be an opportunity to enjoy a hearty breakfast in good company at St George's Hall. In the words of Christians Aid: 'If you share Jesus' heart for people living in extreme poverty, join us with a Big Brekkie fundraiser. Jesus calls us to love our neighbours – and not just the people who live next door or down the street.'

All donations to Christian Aid. For more information or to offer help

ASCENSION DAY
HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE
Thursday 30th May 2019 at 7 pm
at St John's Church, Barrow Island



You are warmly invited to this Barrow Deanery Service

THE COFFEE CLUB

The COFFEE CLUB happens fortnightly at Roose School, North Row, on the 1st and 3rd

Thursday of each month between 9.30 am and 10.30 am.
Children in Year 6 provide cakes, so come along for a coffee and meet up with friends old and new!

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: 13-19 MAY 2019

Christian Aid Week was first held in 1957—over sixty years ago! This Christian Aid Week, we are mindful of the plight of many people in East Africa.

'The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer... in whom I take refuge.'

Cyclone Idai Appeal

An estimated 2.6 million people have been affected by Cyclone Idai in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe. At least 550 people have been killed and some 400,000 have lost their homes, with this devastating toll expected to rise in the coming days. Those affected – especially those in remote areas – are in desperate need of food, water, clothing, shelter and medicine. Christian Aid is acting as part of the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) to raise urgent funds. Working with our local partners on the ground in Zimbabwe and Malawi, we're helping to provide much-needed emergency assistance.

How can you help?

With your help, Christian Aid will provide school meals to children, give cash and food vouchers to families, and repair water sources.

In **Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe** CA's partners are ready to respond in some of the worst-affected areas, In Somalia, they plan to work with their ACT Alliance sister agencies to provide support, providing life-saving help: distributing food, clothing, shelter and medical supplies; repairing community water points, building latrines and handing out sanitation and hygiene supplies.

In order to make a real difference in the lives of those caught up in the East Africa Crisis please use one of the special red envelopes which will be available in the churches on Sunday 5 May. Also, why not come along to the **CHRISTIAN AID BIG BREAKIE on Saturday 12 May at 10 am** at St George's

Thank you!



Are you amazed?

A few years ago a scandal erupted around the choosing of a 'Millennium statue' for London's Trafalgar Square. Back in 1843, when the square had first been opened, four enormous plinths were built around the centrepiece of Nelson's column to hold statues of George IV, William IV and two heroes of the British Raj - Sir Henry Havelock and General Sir Charles James Napier. William, however, had failed to provide the funds for his own statue, so one of the plinths, in the North-West corner, ended up standing empty for the next 156 years.

In order to mark the Millennium, the 2000th anniversary of Jesus' birth, it was decided that an appropriate statue should, at last, be installed on the vacant plinth. But the big question was, of whom should it be? Suggestions ranging from Queen Victoria to Winston Churchill and Florence Nightingale to William Shakespeare were put forward for consideration. In the end, however, the statue of Jesus was temporarily installed. However, rather than calming the debate, this solution simply enraged it.

Cast in synthetic resin and white marble dust, *Ecce Homo* was installed in July 1999. Mark Wallinger's life size statue was a mere fraction of the size of the plinth itself. Naked except for a loin cloth, with his hands tied behind his back and a gold-plated barbed wire 'crown of thorns' on his head, Jesus looked tiny and inconsequential by comparison with the grand scale of the rest of the square and the other statues. Most passers-by were amazed by the image - it was so totally

different to the usual, triumphalist images of Christ that often adorn buildings and famous work of art. Where, people asked, were His beard, His halo, His long hair and His fine robes? And why was He so tiny and vulnerable? Many objected strongly. As one man commented, "You can't put your faith in someone like that... he looks so vulnerable. What a loser. It sends out all the wrong signals."

For all the same reasons Jesus' death on the cross 2000 years ago sent all the wrong signals. The cross was a bitter blow for His followers, but more than that, Jesus' crucifixion sent waves of shock and disappointment through towns and villages where He had first been followed as Israel's potential liberator. While Jesus was dying on the cross or lying in the grave it would have been hard, if not impossible, for anyone to have argued the He was the Lord of Life - the Saviour of the World.

But Jesus' resurrection changed all that. The events of the first Easter, as He rose from the dead, turned the tables forever. News of His resurrection stunned the political, social and religious leaders - they had done their worst - and this was His response. All the powers of darkness, human and satanic, had conspired together to bury Jesus forever, but He is alive again! Far from being a defeat, the cross and resurrection became the greatest victory the world has ever seen. Across the ages Jesus sent a clear signal to all humanity. You can trust me. You can live your life my way. Follow me. I will not disappoint you. I love you. I will amaze you.

Gary Cregeen

JOY & THANKFULNESS....

“The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you or forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged”.
(Deuteronomy 31 v.8)

Over the years these words, recorded in the Bible, have spoken to me personally on a variety of occasions of the trustworthiness of God and the wonderful assurance that comes through trusting in Him. The Book of Deuteronomy tells of the time just before God’s chosen people are about to enter the land He had promised them. Deuteronomy 31 picks up the story at a time of mixed feelings among God’s people. Entry into the promised land was imminent but also Moses, who had led them out of Egypt and through the desert for 40 years, is about to die. And so the context of this verse is both exciting and daunting! Sentiments which Julie and I (and perhaps some of you) can appreciate during what is a time of change for us and for the South Barrow Team. Mindful of the Lord’s guidance we feel excited at the prospect at serving the Lord in Penrith and yet, there is the inevitable ‘unknown’ which change brings – which can be a bit daunting! However, these words are a wonderful reminder to all of us, in whatever circumstances we face, that the Lord Himself goes before us and will be with us.

It is incredible that this will be my last article for *Team Talk* as your Team Rector – the time seems to have passed so quickly since I was appointed in October 2011! Yet, it’s said ‘time passes quickly when you’re enjoying yourself!’ Well, this is certainly true for Julie and I as we look back on our time in Barrow with great joy and thankfulness. It has been exciting for us to be part of all that the Lord is doing in and through His faithful people in South Barrow Team, as well as His people across Barrow. For St Aidan’s and for St George’s, along with Barrow Mission Community, we anticipate that He has even greater things in store for the future! It has been a great privilege to serve with you and among you in a variety of ways in both the church and the wider community. Mindful of God’s goodness to us we thank Him for the

love, care, welcome, patience, encouragement and friendship we have received, along with the partnership of those convinced by and committed to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Many of you will have seen Vicars come and go – because that’s what leaders do. Indeed, in God’s scheme of things we’re all ‘passing through’. However, God never leaves nor forsakes those who put their trust in Him. In Deuteronomy 31 Moses was ‘going home’, Joshua was ‘going on’, but both men rejoiced in the truth that Israel’s unchanging leader was the Lord God Himself. They had merely been chosen to do God’s work for a limited time, but God’s supreme leadership continues forever and is forcefully emphasised in Moses’ parting words. He tells God’s people that God goes before them – nothing in the future is unknown to Him or surprises Him. God will be with them – keeping them in His care and watching over them. Also, God will never leave them or forsake them – they will not be deserted or let down. Thus as they faced the future they knew God was with them. And you know, the same promise is for us. It is quoted to Christians in Hebrews, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” Isn’t that wonderful!

Towards the end of June I will become Penrith Mission Area Leader and Penrith Mission Community Leader; at this stage it is unknown what Julie will be doing. As we seek your prayers for us and for the folks of Penrith, be assured of our prayers for you. Indeed, the apostle Paul summarises our feelings and hopes for the Church in our local communities... *‘I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.’* Wishing you the Lord’s richest blessing this Easter,

Your friend & Team Rector, Gary Cregeen

NB Gary will be Licenced by the Bishop of Carlisle at 7.30 pm on Monday 24 June 2019 at St Andrew’s Church, Penrith. More details to follow!