

## Hazel's Ministry Trainee Year

Hi, I feel like things are quite different since my last letter (and are about to change again...) so thought it was a good time for another little update ☺

After quite a slow start to the year I've been amazed by how many opportunities I've already had here. I've been loving getting to do the North West Partnership bible training course and been genuinely amazed at how rich the bible is. I've also had a number of regular commitments at church such as doing weekly kids talks, youth groups, bible studies, and of course plenty of emailing/admin. I wanted to share with you in particular about the young adult's group that has been an unexpectedly busy part of my time the past month. God seems to be growing this small group and quite a few new people in their 20s have moved to Carlisle and joined our Church since we have started meeting again. It has been my privilege to try to get alongside them and to invite them along to our young adult's bible study on zoom and meet up with them. I'm excited to have them join the Church and praying for growth in our young adult's group not just in number but in our knowledge and love of our God. We're going to be starting a new bible study after half-term (still on zoom) in the book of Jonah so I'm looking forward to that ☺

I've also had a few extra opportunities like an evangelistic women's evening on zoom. It's quite hard to describe but I've put our digital flyer on the right to try to give you more of an idea of what it was. We did an autumn theme with soup-related fun and cookery demo as well as a short talk I got to do, using the change and uncertainty we're all facing to shine a light on the gospel and the certain hope offered in Christ. There weren't that many people's friends who came, but it was an evening of fun and faithfulness to God, and I'm especially thankful because a University friend who had been very interested in the bible was able to join from Oxford.



This week is a quieter week for half-term which has been much needed... I've been surprised by how tired I found myself getting and I have found quite a lot of the things really quite challenging over the last month. I'm so very thankful that we live for such a gentle and kind Saviour who loves us to find rest and be strengthened in him.

Things will be changing a bit after half-term as we go from a pre-recorded online service and 1 meeting in person to having 2 Sunday gatherings (both live-streamed). It will be an especially big change as the early service will be a bit different as it will be an all-age service. We're hoping it will be an opportunity for our young children and families who have found it hard to come back to church so far to feel able to come back and for church to become a place they look forward to coming to and is helpful for them growing in faith in Jesus. We're going to be going through the book of Ruth together in both our morning services.

As well as getting into things at Church I've also enjoyed getting into life in Carlisle more generally. I've been really enjoying living with Claire and doing lots of adventures with another girl from church called Christie (see evidence on the right of some birthday adventures at the end of September). And I'm really thankful for not only the fun but the meaningful conversations we have shared and the encouragement they have been to me in wanting to grow in our devotion to Jesus. I'm also getting to know more people outside of church through an exercise class I've started and through cups of tea with one of my neighbours.



## Specific prayer points:

- Give thanks that the North West Partnership training course has been such a great opportunity so far to be digging into and delighting in God's word.

Please pray for the small groups that are starting as part of the course where we practice giving talks to each other on passages in 1 Thessalonians and getting feedback, that they would be a great opportunity to grow alongside each other and learn from this great letter in the Bible. I'll be giving a talk to my group of girls next Thursday (5<sup>th</sup> Nov).

- Give thanks that we have been able to continue meeting both in person and online on Sunday mornings and for the great opportunity our gathering at the church has been to welcome new people.

Please pray for our Sunday morning services which will be changing to a new format on 1<sup>st</sup> November. Together with Nathan our Pastor-in-training I'll have quite a big role in planning and serving as part of the all age service so please pray for that in particular, especially as it will be quite different to what we have done before (we'll even have picnic rugs rather than chairs!). Pray that God would be using our efforts to be most helpful to the kids in our church coming to know him more.

Please pray for our young adult's group as we start a new bible study in Jonah but are continuing to meet on zoom. Please pray that we'd be committed to one another and to coming each week even when we are tired of zoom and that new people would feel part of the group and we'd be growing in our faith as we look at Jonah together.

- Give thanks for being able to get to know one of my neighbours.  
Pray that I would be a caring neighbour (and friend!) and a good witness to Christ.

I'm so so thankful to have you partnering with me in prayer. I'd love for you to let me know how I can be praying for you too. Hope to hear from you.

Love,

Hazel

*"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." Philippians 1:3-5*