

"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:" Philipians 1:3-5

Hazel's Ministry Trainee Year

Hi, I wanted to give you an update on the start of my trainee year now that I'm getting into things. I've put a quick(ish) update on the first page and then quickfire prayer points on the back so that you can easily know what to pray if you don't have time to read the full thing (I realise it ended up quite long!).

A little update:

Excitingly, I'm now no longer contacting you sitting at my kitchen table at home but sitting at my desk in my room in my new house! I'm renting a little terraced house near the centre of Carlisle with my new housemate Claire, a girl in her mid-20s who is a committed member of the Church and works as a dentist. I've been here since the start of September and have been surprise just how quickly I've felt settled. So far, I've mostly been meeting people and starting to get to know them and I have started a few regular things such as putting together a kids slot for our online services and starting as a leader in the young adults bible study group and on the youthwork team. The photo on the right shows me and Claire on a big day- the re-opening of the Church building. Our Church are continuing to do an online service but have begun to show the service in the building with a number of elements taking place in person in the building too. It hasn't been easy with our small building and the need to wear masks and not talk to others afterwards, but I'm thankful for the opportunity we have to meet together (and meet a few new people who have joined the Church since it went online!). I have been very touched by the generosity and the welcome I have received from Carlisle Baptist Church and I already feel that I have learned a lot about being generous towards one another and newcomers with the generosity of Christ.



"With what can we compare the kingdom of God?..."



It is like a grain of mustard seed, which... is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants."

If I'm honest, at times in the past few weeks I have felt like it has been a bit of a slow start and have felt the difficulty of getting to know people gradually rather than being together at church in person. I'm thankful to God for the way he has kindly humbled me and encouraged my heart to be faithful with what he has given me- I've been really encouraged by Mark 4:30-32 where Jesus says that the kingdom of God is like "a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of the seeds on earth, yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants". While things have felt small and unimpressive like a little mustard seed at times- what a glorious truth that God can give such growth! Praying that by the end of the year (and years down the line) I'd be amazed at how God used this year in the growth of his kingdom as I get to be digging into and sharing his word where I can.

(On the left is a photo of a little card I have on my desk to remind me of this... showing off my great art skills haha ☺)

Specific prayer points:

- Praise God for somewhere to live and the opportunity to live with a believer and serve the church together (and how much fun that has been so far).

Please pray that God would use that friendship to be blessing others and growing each of us in the likeness of Christ, and for opportunities to get to know others better both inside and outside the church.

- Praise God that the North West Partnership training course starting at the end of the month will be meeting in person! I'll start travelling down to Leyland for that every Thursday from 24th September.

I'd so value if you joined me in praying that would be a time of real growth in my knowledge and love of God and my ability to share his truth with others.

- Praise God that we have been able to meet as a Church back in our building together.

Please pray that more people would come along to the building (and be excited about that despite the masks and everything) and that God would use both that and the online service for those at home to be building up his people here.

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