



NCCM Christmas Newsletter 2024

Once again it is my great privilege to write to you, our prayer and support partners, to say a very big 'thank you' for your faithfulness in standing with us at NCCM this year. Without your help, NCCM would not be able to function as it does in supporting the work of local ministries as they reach out for Jesus. Not only local ministries but also in helping to develop and train people from the area to grow in their personal walk with Christ - whether local or far away. Your help has certainly made a difference.

What's new?

As you will know, NCCM has been supporting the ministry of Gary Tubbs (primarily at St John's, Houghton) for the past three years. Gary retired over the summer and we know that you will want to join us in wishing him, Jackie and Rebekah all the very best for the future - they will certainly be a great miss to the church.

You will recall that earlier in the year there was some discussion about whether the church would be able to support another associate minister to replace Gary. It was a matter of considerable prayer. Thankfully, you responded to God's call and sufficient funds were raised to enable the PCC to appoint Kieran McKnight as the new Associate Minister. This was only made possible because you generously supported NCCM to be in a position to support this appointment.

Whilst many of you will have now met Kieran, I thought it would be a good idea to ask him a few questions to help you get to know him better.

S (Steve) - "Kieran, tell us a bit about yourself and your family".

K (Kieran) - "Hello everyone, my name is Kieran McKnight and I am delighted to be in post for just over 3 months now. It has been lovely to get to know many of you in this time and we are really thankful for your kindness, your welcome and your generosity. We look forward to getting to know you all better as we seek to encourage each other in the good news of the Gospel.

I am married to Ash, and this year we will have been married 10 years. Ashley serves as international operations manager for a small Christian mission agency called the Radstock Network.

We have 2 little boys. Archie is 5 years old and is in year one at Houghton School. He loves Liverpool fc, arts and crafts and pirates. Lachlan is 3 and attends the nursery in Houghton. Lachlan loves dinosaurs as well as cars, diggers and all modes of transport".

S - "Tell us a bit about your church background".

K - "In the Lord's kindness I was brought up in a Christian family and the church has always played a very central role in my life. As a child and teenager I attended an FIEC church where my dad was the pastor. But over the years I have had the privilege to be involved in a wide range of churches. I have served in Anglican churches, Brethren churches and independent churches, some of these were established churches, others were church plants. However, what connected all of these churches was their love for the Lord Jesus, the priority of the proclamation of the Bible, and a love and concern for the lost.

What will your role be at St Johns and St Peters?

My role is Associate Minister and it's quite varied which I love.

I have the great privilege of being able to open up the Word of God and pray with people in a wide range of contexts across the parish, from Sunday services, home and study groups, visitations etc. This is something that I love and take very seriously.

I love being involved at Houghton school where I lead worship, serve on the governors, and help to run the quest club.

A large part of my role is focused on Houghton, it has been wonderful to spend a lot of time in the village getting to know the church and the community. It has been a great to recently facilitate the 321 evangelistic course with some young adults who are new Christians, or those seeking”.

S - “What do you like to do in your spare time?”

K - “We are in a season of life where there isn’t too much spare time! However I love to cook for family and friends. I also enjoy reading (theology, travel, current affairs, social science and the odd thriller or fantasy novel) which is made even better with great coffee. With the family we enjoy getting out for a walk or enjoying pizza and a movie on a Saturday afternoon.

S - “What prayer requests do you have as you settle into your new role?”

K - “We would really value your prayers!

- Praise God that we have found a house in Houghton. It’s on a lovely street with lots of young families. However we are not in it yet! Please pray that the purchase of this house will go through ASAP and there will be no hold ups with the onward chain.
- Please pray for the children. They absolutely love church and school (most of the time) which is a real answer to prayer. However they are struggling a little bit with missing “home” and are finding the transition hard. Pray that God would comfort and sustain them.
- Pray for Ash as she tries to get to know people in the local area and make friends.
- Pray that we all might grow in Christ and that we would know his nearness.”

Please do remember to keep Kieran, Ash and the boys in your prayers as they settle in to their new lives in Carlisle.

You will know that we reserve 10% of gifts to be given either to gospel ministry outside of our area, or to the indirect support of gospel ministry in our area. This year, NCCM have been delighted to support one of our young people, Amy Boddam-Whetham to attend a National Forum for University Christian Unions.

Amy writes:

“Forum National was a wonderfully encouraging week of fellowship with Christian Unions from around the country and also within the CUs in Bath. The teaching was valuable in growing personally in my knowledge of God and how we glorify him in our humanity, and also practically in how we relate to students in Bath as a CU. We were inspired for the year ahead and used what we’d heard in various talks and seminars to plan our events and focus our vision on Jesus.

Freshers week at the University of Bath was a big success, with more people turning up to events than we could have imagined! This week and events following have been such a testament to God’s goodness and sovereignty, and have shown us that we should have greater faith in how the Lord works, through us and through others.

Be encouraged that students around the country have such a passion to serve Christ and make him known.”

And finally.....

Thanks to you, NCCM can go on supporting people in sharing the good news of Jesus.

However you plan to spend Christmas this year, we pray for God’s continued blessing upon your lives. May you know His peace that passes all understanding and find rest in His abounding love.

Thank you and Happy Christmas



Bryony Woodbridge



Neal Andrews.



Steve Blake.



Andrew Towner.



Jo Boddam-Whetham

