



Dear Family & Friends!

We're sorry it's been such a long time since we sent an update - I actually started this awhile ago, but a pandemic interrupted it so I basically had to re-write it. Fun. Anyway, we know that what you *really* want is to see some photos - fair enough. But we thought it would be good to start you off with some prayer requests:

- **Fostering** - the last placement ended in February (just in time for the lock down) - it had been a very challenging 8 months with our little girl. And the placement prior to that ended with a very emotional 'goodbye' for us all; please pray that the next little one would be a good fit for us as a family
 - **Mary** - please pray for Mary as she considers some new options for working in the community
 - **Cana, Samaria and Judah** - Samaria and Judah were about to enter a very challenging exam season - how that will be resolved remains rather uncertain; please pray for their spiritual growth and protection! Cana was re-elected as the co-President of her Christian Union (CU) at Bangor University in Wales (see below); like many spiritual leaders these days she is doing her best to carry on via Zoom. Please pray for her as she balances her academics and other activities, whilst serving and helping to lead her CU
 - **Jeff** - please pray for the 'men's ministry'
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- **Church** - please pray that we would grow in our passion for seeking the lost; and for continued open doors into the community
- Please pray for **Marshall** - he is teenager who has sort of become part of our family. He spends quite a bit of time with us and comes to church every Sunday, but still struggles with the idea of becoming a believer (please also pray for his family)

Highlights



You may already know this but anyway - we became British citizens 2018!



This photo is from an interview we gave to the Cumbria County Council for one of their fostering campaigns - it also appeared in an online news article.

<https://www.cumbriacrack.com/2018/09/20/campaign-launched-to-find-more-foster-carers-in-kendal-and-south-lakes/>



We've also been able to involve the church in fostering through the county's 'Fostering Friendly Churches' initiative!

<http://www.yourcumbria.org/News/2018/firstkendalchurchbecomesfosteringfriendly.aspx>



In the summer we take part in an outreach in the town of Harrogate called 'Hope Now', which has been organized by the Calvary there. One of the main features is a swing band (with swing dancing) - it always draws a fair bit of attention. But sadly, we're always contending with the weather.



At Christmas we had another successful Nativity Play 'Outreach'!



Mary is still working part-time as a teaching assistant at a local primary school - she loves her job! And of course, she's very involved in the life of the church.



Cana (centre, in grey sweater) is studying music (piano) at Bangor University in north Wales. She is also very involved in Bangor's Christian Union, serving in her second term as co-president of the Christian Union.



Samaria is doing well in school and has just one year remaining - she is planning to study midwifery in university and is interested in pursuing medical missions. Samaria volunteers at a charity shop in town and also works part-time as a personal carer for a young lady who is disabled.



In addition to playing rugby for his secondary school Judah has also been invited to play for Kendal RUFC's youth team (no, he did not cut his curls off - they were tied up for training). Judah has been doing well in school, and he also plays the keyboard in a band. But his dream job would probably be making film trailers.



We are a small church (not that small by British standards actually) so Zoom has

worked well for us during the lock-down. Most of the church is connecting in and we are having good 'virtual' fellowship, so that is definitely a reason for praise! But it simply cannot replace 'coffee and tea' time after the service on a Sunday.

Many thanks to you all for your loving support and prayers!

Love,
The Hicks family



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