

Letter to the Parishes from St. Francis' vicarage (March 2021)

Hello! Now that we have settled into our new home we would really love to start getting to know everyone in our new church communities. As we are still under restrictions we are aware this is a little trickier than it would usually be. So we thought we would go old school and write a letter to everyone introducing ourselves so you can get to know us a little better. We would love to hear back from you so if you'd like to get in touch you can write to us at 2 Primula Close, Littlemoor, DT3 6SL or email georgiana.menzies@gmail.co.uk or revjamesmenzies@outlook.com. We really appreciate the ways people have welcomed us despite the restrictions and really look forwards to getting to know everyone better.

A bit about us: I (Georgie) grew up in the south east where my parents and siblings are all still based. James' dad was a doctor in the army so he grew up all over the world but thanks to the army bursaries went to boarding school in Dorset. We both grew up going to church and gradually grew into our faith in Jesus as teenagers. We met about 15 years ago at Durham University where we both studied theology. James then went straight into ordination training in Durham and we got married 6 weeks after he was ordained and moved to Easington Lane near Sunderland for his curacy. I worked for Durham University in their student volunteering department. We enjoyed exploring Durham and Northumberland which like Dorset have beautiful countryside and stunning coastlines (but it is a lot colder up there!) During that time we acquired two Jack Russell terriers (Molly and Patch) and a baby (Mikey). We then moved to Portland for James' first vicar job and had our second baby (Jack) in our first year there. Mikey and Jack are now 7 and 6 and had a lovely early childhood on Portland. As well as being a vicar James was an on-call fire fighter on Portland so life was pretty busy. As the boys got older I started to explore a call to ministry and in September 2019 I started studying at Sarum College and training to be a Licensed Lay Minister. All being well I will be licensed in summer 2022 and I'm hoping this next year as I finish my studies will give me time to get to know the area and get a sense of where God might be calling me to serve within the church and wider community.

We love Dorset and especially the Weymouth and Portland area. We didn't really know it before we moved to Portland but we feel really at home here. We've found the people to be really friendly, down-to-earth and kind, as well as having a great sense of humour. We all enjoy being outdoors so being surrounded by the countryside and being by the sea is a huge blessing. We've been enjoying all the amazing walks you can do around Littlemoor. Having young children means most of our interests are fairly home based – we both love reading, watching films and TV series (we are currently watching *The Man in the High Castle* which is very gripping) and playing board games with the boys. I love cooking and eating which has meant I've also needed to develop an interest in exercise! We are very amateur gardeners but are trying to improve our knowledge. James loves travelling and exploring new places when he gets the chance as does Mikey. Jack and I are homebirds and enjoy just pottering around at home. I love tea and the kettle is constantly going so I hope when restrictions allow you will feel welcome to pop in for a cuppa.

Mikey and Jack both love lego, reading, going to the park and visiting their grandparents. Mikey is very adventurous and loves climbing and testing his limits. Jack is quite extroverted and particularly enjoys playing with other children. They have settled in really well at St Andrew's school so far and say they really like living in Littlemoor.

We'd love to hear all about you so please do get in touch. If you're willing and able to include a picture that would also really help us learn who is who. We can't wait to meet everyone.

Love Georgie, James, Mikey and Jack x



Molly and Patch can generally be found snoozing in the cosiest spot in the house.



The boys with their lockdown haircuts last summer!

I couldn't find any recent photos of just the two of us so this is just a bit out of date as it is from about ten years ago - you can judge when you see us how well we've aged so far!

