



# CROSSWAYS

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR ST PAUL'S AND WHITWORTH

## Serving not being served

By Revd Canon Matt Tarling

AS they went along they were arguing about who was the best. "Well I was here first," said one. "That doesn't matter, I've worked harder!" said another. Someone else reckoned they were the favourite anyway. This sounds like playground arguing doesn't it? We'd never fall into arguing about who was the best. Or would we? We all have a bit of an 'I'm best' streak, even if most of the time we manage to keep it quiet!

The above argument is actually a picture of what was happened among Jesus' disciples on their way Jerusalem. It's a bit of a surprise because while some were focussing on who was most important, Jesus had been saying this:

*'We are going up to*

*Jerusalem,' he said, 'and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise.'* (Mark 10:33-34).

He was talking about what was about to happen to him. He often described himself as the 'Son of Man'. He was about to be arrested and crucified. He would die and on the third day rise again.

So it's a bit odd that his friends were busy talking about their power and position. In response to them he said that their behaviour didn't fit with his ways. It was more like the ways the Romans



behaved. He said that, "those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them." You can read everything he said to them in Mark 10:35-45. What is important to know is that he went on to say, "Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for

many." (Mark 10:43-45).

He was showing them that his death and rising again were an act of service. His life was being given in exchange for the lives of many. Like a ransom rescuing someone from kidnap, Jesus paid to release us from sin, judgment and death. As he hung on the cross he died the death we should die and rose to give us new life instead as forgiven people. Through him we are free to live eternal life. What a wonderful act of service!

*Continued on page 2*

### PARISH

### CHURCH

### SERVICES

### ST PAUL'S CHURCH

**Sundays: 10.30am** Holy Communion ('All Together' non-communion on first Sunday)  
(live-streamed at [www.facebook.com/stpaulsspennymoor](http://www.facebook.com/stpaulsspennymoor))

**Wednesdays: 9.30am** Holy Communion

**Fridays: 10am** Play Church (term-time only)

### WHITWORTH CHURCH

**Sundays: 9am** Holy Communion

**CLERGY**

Vicar:

Revd Canon Matthew Tarling

01388 327603

vicar@stpaulsspennymoor.co.uk

**CHURCHWARDENS****St Paul's Church**Christopher Luke  
07796 137901**Whitworth Church**Wayne Rhodes: 816643  
Kath Hall: 07762 35967**CROSSWAYS EDITOR**

Christopher Luke: 07796 137901

Copy deadline for April edition  
Friday 29th MarchNewsletter Secretary: Pauline Storey 816153  
St Paul's Centre Bookings: 813404

# HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

**Palm Sunday (24th March)**

9am (Whitworth) - Holy Communion

10:30am (St Paul's) - Holy Communion\* (meet at the  
St Paul's Centre for the procession to Church)*Palm crosses will be distributed at both services***Monday 25th March**

7:30pm (Whitworth) - Meditation on John 12:1-11

**Tuesday 26th March**

7:30pm (St Paul's) - Meditation on John 12:20-36

**Wednesday 27th March**

9:30am (St Paul's) - Holy Communion

7:30pm (Whitworth) - Meditation on John 12:37-50

**Maundy Thursday (28th March)\***7:30pm (St Paul's) - Holy Communion, followed by  
the stripping of the altar and a silent watch**Good Friday (29th March)\***

2pm (St Paul's) - Meditation

**Saturday 30th March**

10:30am-12:30pm (St Paul's) - Messy Easter

**Easter Day (31st March)**

6am (Whitworth) - Sunrise service

9am (Whitworth) - Holy Communion

10:30am (St Paul's) - Holy Communion\*

**Services marked with an asterisk are live streamed**  
**[www.facebook.com/stpaulsspennymoor](http://www.facebook.com/stpaulsspennymoor)**


**Whitworth Church**  
invite you to

**Come and join us for a  
FREE EASTER EGG HUNT**  
with fun, and stalls on  
**Easter Monday**  
**1st April 2-4.30 pm.**  
**Refreshments and  
Afternoon Teas will be  
available. Please note we  
now have toilet facilities.**

**Continued from page 1**

It will be Holy Week and Easter very soon. During the remaining weeks of Lent we consider the self-giving of Jesus. And as he served us so we see how life now is about serving others and not ourselves.

So, are you ever tempted to think of yourself as more important or better than others. Perhaps you say it out loud! Or maybe you harbour thoughts in your heart and mind that you need to be served rather than serve. May Jesus' teaching and example be a challenge to our attitude to life and lead us into service of others. However, to begin responding to Jesus example it is healthy for us to dwell on what he did and marvel. Make the most of Holy Week and Easter to gaze at Jesus going to the cross and rising from the tomb. And think, "He did that for me!"

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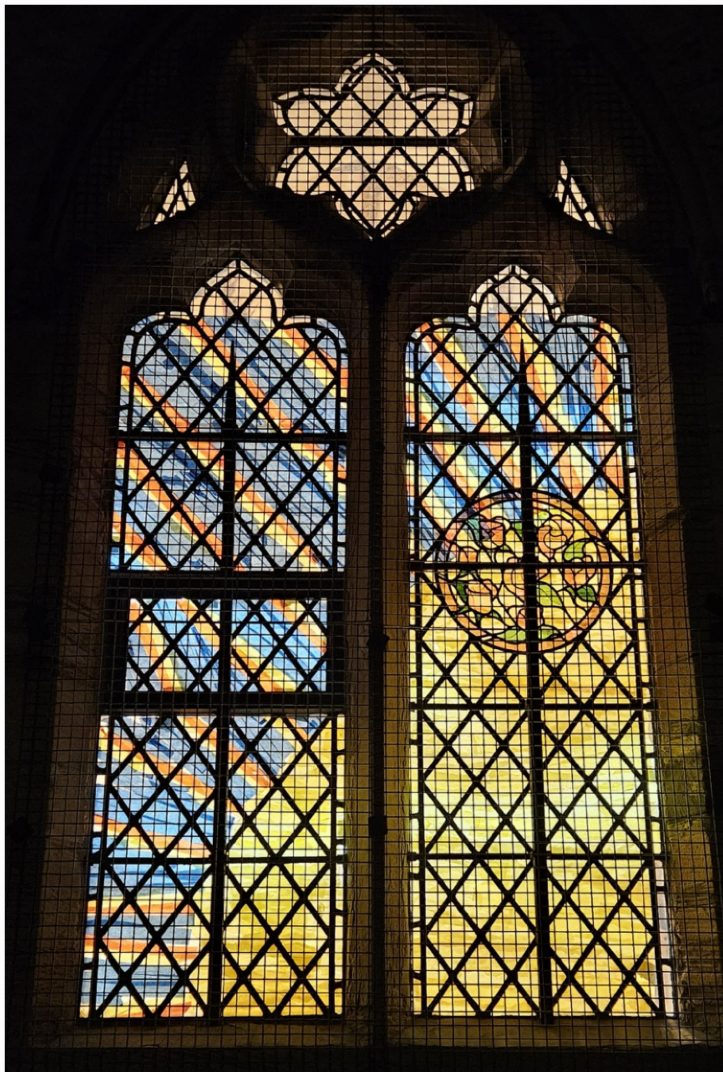
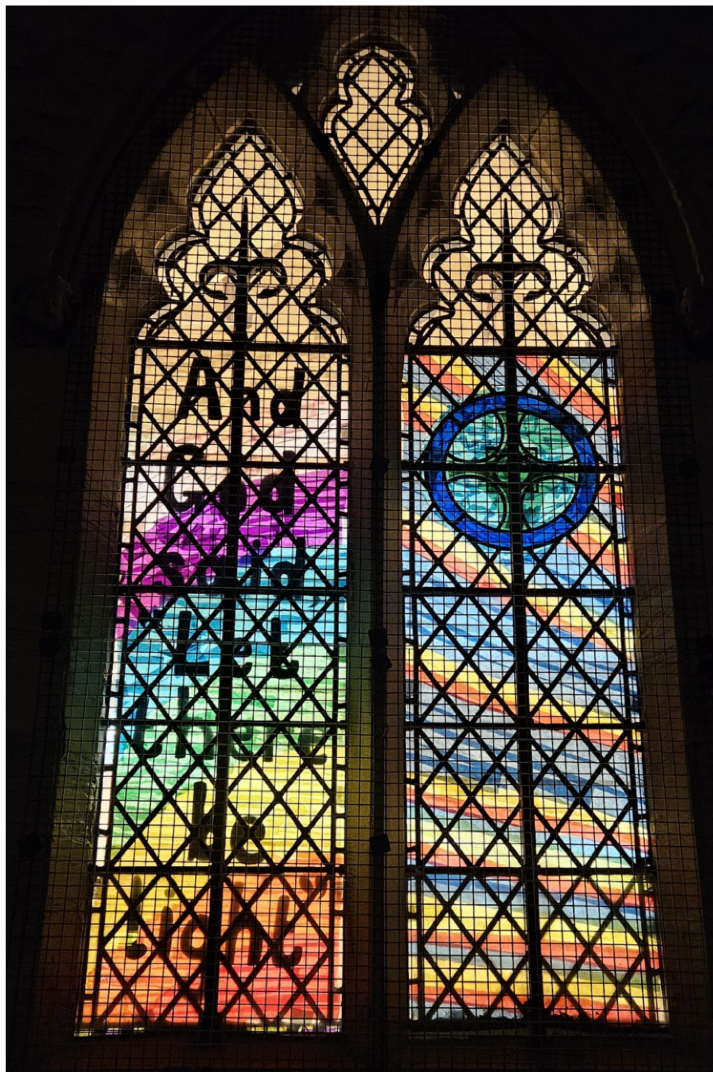
Email

**[office@stpaulsspennymoor.co.uk](mailto:office@stpaulsspennymoor.co.uk)**



# Nights of Light across Spennymoor

*And God said, "Let there be light."* Trinity Methodist Church recently organised Nights of Light encouraging people to decorate windows and bring some light into the winter evenings. At St Paul's a team of volunteers decorated two large windows depicting Genesis chapter 1, verse 3 and you can see their fantastic efforts below!



## FOODBANK FUNDRAISER

THE Spennymoor Foodbank is hosting a fundraising coffee morning on Saturday 16th March, 9.30-11.30am in the St Paul's Centre. The event is to raise funds for improved storage space and additional community facilities. Please do pop in and support the event and enjoy delicious coffee, cakes and scones, as well as a raffle. Thank you in advance for your support.

## NEW HOMEGROUP

WE'RE launching a new homegroup which will meet in the St Andrew's Road area (near ASDA) on Tuesday evenings. If you would be interested in joining the group for

Bible study please contact The Vicarage on 01388 327603. The group will meet fortnightly on 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings of each month at 7.30pm.

<p><b>CLEMS SPENNYMOOR</b></p> <p>16 Clyde Tce Spennymoor 815451</p>	<p><b><u>ADVERTISE IN THIS SPACE FOR JUST £10 PER YEAR!</u></b></p> <p>Email us at: <a href="mailto:office@stpaulsspennymoor.co.uk">office@stpaulsspennymoor.co.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Derek Taylor and Son</b> <i>Est. 1972 Corgi Reg.</i> <b>Gas Services</b></p> <p><b>Tel. 814982</b></p>	<p><b><u>Wedding/Family Celebrations</u></b> at the Town Hall in Spennymoor "for Ramside quality at Town Hall prices"</p> <p><b>01388 815276</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.parishes.durham.gov.uk/spennymoor">www.parishes.durham.gov.uk/spennymoor</a> <a href="mailto:enquiries@spennymoortowncouncil.gov.uk">enquiries@spennymoortowncouncil.gov.uk</a></p>
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## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

For churches around the world marking this season of Lent and Easter.



For Bishop Sarah, the acting Bishop of Durham, and the Vacancy-in-See Committee, as they input into the process to appoint the next Bishop of Durham.

For diplomatic efforts to bring about peace in Ukraine and Gaza and other areas around the world.

## PRAYER FOR MARCH

Holy God, our lives are laid open before you: rescue us from the chaos of sin and through the death of your Son bring us healing and make us whole in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Source: The Church of England**

## NEWS IN BRIEF

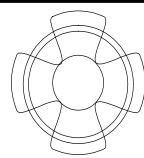
### **Palm Sunday Walk and Prayer for Growth**

DO join us for a Palm Sunday (24th March) stroll from Ormesby Way/Lotherton Drive (DL16 7FF) to Whitworth Church. The leisurely walk will begin at 3:30pm and make its way to Whitworth Church for refreshments. Then at 4:30pm we will gather to worship and pray for a special Palm Sunday Prayer for Growth. If you're not able to take part in the walk, please do come along for prayer at 4:30pm.

### **Ladies' Easter Egg Workshop**

TICKETS are on sale for an Easter Egg workshop led by a professional chocolatier. The event takes place on Wednesday 20th March at 7:30pm and includes complimentary refreshments and a short thought given on why Christians love Easter so much! Tickets are £8 and can be booked at [office@stpaulsspennymoor.co.uk](mailto:office@stpaulsspennymoor.co.uk) or speak to Meghan Killen at St Paul's Church.

## Parish Registers



### HOLY BAPTISM

**St Paul's**

4th February Joshua Uyovwieseewa

### CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

**Wear Valley Crematorium**

12th February June Tyler

16th February Alan Bell

**St Paul's**

21st February Barry Pennick

## Out collecting rubbish

**By Lesley Parratt**

WHEN our churches' eco group launched I committed myself to collect rubbish whilst out on my regular walks, and I'm now on my 80th bag!

On some of my beach walks I was finding plastic cotton wool buds and it led me to do a little research. I found that in 2016 a campaign called 'Switch The Stick' collected 150,000 signatures to petition major retailers to change from plastic to cotton buds. This is a good reminder that before we buy them in the future, we should ensure the cotton buds are 100% cotton and paper - not plastic. I really don't want to pick up any more plastic cotton buds!



### **Mothers' Union Meeting**

THE Mothers' Union will meet on Monday 11th March at 2pm in the St Paul's Centre. The Revd Norma Clee, MU chaplain, will be the guest speaker.

## Follow our churches online

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