



CROSSWAYS

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR ST PAUL'S AND WHITWORTH

Happy Easter... every day!

By Revd Canon Matt Tarling

HAPPY Easter! In the Christian traditional seasons, Easter begins on Easter Day and lasts until Pentecost, which is a 50 day period. However, Easter continues to be celebrated all year round! The reason for that is that the resurrection (rising again) of Jesus is so important and so good that it is a cause for joy at all times. It means Jesus is alive so we can know him, follow his ways and seek to become more like him. It means what Jesus set out to do in dying on the cross was a success and that all his words and promises are true and reliable.

For centuries, God's people kept the Sabbath. That was on the day we now call Saturday. However, because Jesus rose from the dead on a

Sunday, that day has become the special day for Christians. It's the day we gather to worship, serve one another and rest in God's gracious provision. When we gather we hear his word, sing his praises, share Holy Communion, and speak to him in prayer. That is a wonderful gift to us and a key part of our Christian life. We can worship together in other ways and on other days. But Sundays still remain special to us.

What that means is that every Sunday we gather because Jesus rose from the dead on the first Easter Sunday. And every week begins with a Sunday and ends with the next one so that every week we remember and celebrate that Jesus died and rose again.

Paul, in his first letter



to the Corinthians wrote: *12 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.*

Paul knew that people didn't normally rise from the dead. But he was also confident that it was possible and that on the last (judgment) day all would rise from

the dead to face God. There were some in Corinth saying that there was no such thing as resurrection. Paul uses Jesus' rising to new life as proof that they're wrong! But he also points out that if Christ Jesus hadn't risen from the dead then his preaching and our faith would be useless!

Easter is such a wonderful celebration but it also incredibly important. So important in fact that we spend 50 days on end celebrating the living Jesus and then carry on for the rest of the year! Have a Happy Easter... every day!

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*)

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 May edition
Friday 26th April*

Newsletter Secretary: Pauline Storey 816153
St Paul's Centre Bookings: 813404



Photo courtesy of Gemma

Easter opportunities

AS we begin the season of Easter we would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have worked incredibly hard behind the scenes to prepare and lead services, activities and events over recent weeks.

Lent, Holy Week and Easter are an opportunity for people to discover the important events in Jesus' life and why his dying on the cross and being raised from the dead on the third day is such good news for us today.

New for this year was the Ladies' Chocolate Easter Egg event which enabled people to learn about why Christians love Easter (and chocolate!) so much. And the Messy Easter event on Holy Saturday saw around 100 people enjoy crafts and activities. It was very encouraging to welcome new people and share what Easter means, and please do pray as we work to build on the connections we've made with people.

To everyone who helped in a variety of ways, your efforts do not go unnoticed and we are incredibly grateful for your time, support, prayer and encouragement which enabled us to celebrate the good news of Christ's resurrection with others.

Annual Parochial Church Meetings

OUR Annual Parochial Church Meetings will be held on Sunday 28th April at 10:30am (St Paul's) and on Sunday 5th May, 9am at Whitworth.

In a change from previous years, these meetings will be part of a regular Holy Communion service to enable as many people to attend as possible and so that we do the whole thing in a worship setting.

If you would like to vote during the meeting you need to be a member of the electoral roll. For those at Whit-

worth Church, please speak to Verna McEneny if you need to join, and at St Paul's, the person to see is John Castling.

As well as voting, membership of the roll allows your voice to be heard on the Parochial Church Council (PCC). These committees are trustees of the churches and are responsible for decisions of vision and strategy as well as management of finances, safeguarding and buildings. PCCs are best when they are diverse, so please consider standing for PCC or encourage someone to stand so that your voice is heard.

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Holy Week and Easter at Whitworth and St Paul's



TOP LEFT CLOCKWISE

The Palm Sunday procession makes its way to church as people sang and waved palm branches echoing Jesus' arrival into Jerusalem.

Worshippers gather at Whitworth Church at dawn on Easter Day and the new Paschal Candles are lit.

Around 70 children and their families enjoyed a Messy Easter event with crafts and activities telling the Easter story.

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FOR YOUR PRAYERS



For the candidates in the Police and Crime Commissioner election for the Durham area, and the candidates standing for Mayor in the new North East Mayoral election.

For our Annual Parochial Church Meetings, and for those who are coming to the end of their elected terms of office. Please pray for those who are considering standing for election as PCC members and church-wardens.

For diplomatic efforts to bring about peace in war-torn countries around the world.

For those exploring faith following our Easter mission opportunities.

PRAYER FOR APRIL

God of ages, you are the beginning of our journey and our strength as we pause along the way. Hold us by the hand as we grow, show us where to seek you, and guide our steps that we may find you. Give us devoted hearts that we may love you, and your peace when we reach our journey's end. Amen

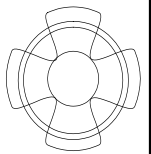
Source: The Church of England

NEWS IN BRIEF

THE Spennymoor Foodbank volunteers would like to thank everyone who supported the recent fundraiser at the St Paul's Centre. The event raised a fantastic £1,110 which will go towards the plans to increase storage space and facilities at the Centre's Foodbank operations.

IN a recent edition of Crossways we told you about the plans for a summer holiday club (31st July - 2nd August) for children and young people in Spennymoor. Could you be part of the team to help?! There are lots of roles we need to fill and if you'd like to find out more, email office@stpaulsspennymoor.co.uk or call the vicarage on 01388 327603 for an application form.

Parish Registers



HOLY BAPTISM

St Paul's
 24th March Theo Nicholson
 24th March Albie Stobbart

CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

St Paul's
 8th March Dick Trow
 13th March Kath Fletcher

NEWS IN BRIEF

New Homegroups to launch

TWO new homegroups are being established. One will meet in the St Andrew's Road area (near ASDA) on Tuesday evenings. The group will meet fortnightly on 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings of each month at 7.30pm. The other will be on Tuesday afternoons on the Greenways estate in the afternoons. If you would be interested in joining either group, email: office@stpaulsspennymoor.co.uk or call 01388 327603.

Mental health and the church

ALL are welcome to a day on mental health and the church on Saturday 11th May, 9.30am-4pm. This is hosted by the Durham Diocesan Evangelical Network (of which Matt Tarling is the chair) and will be held in All Saints Church in Preston on Tees. This day comes highly recommended for those in any leadership, pastoral role or if you have an interest in mental health in church life. Please contact Matt on 01388 327603.

Morning Prayer

MORNING Prayer takes place at 9:15am on Mondays (Whitworth Church) and Thursdays and Fridays, also at 9:15am, at St Paul's Church. We follow the readings in the Church of England's Daily Prayer resources and you're very welcome to join us.

Follow our churches online

www.facebook.com/whitworthchurchspennymoor

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