



CROSSWAYS

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR ST PAUL'S AND WHITWORTH

Children of light

By Revd Lee Trevorrow-Earl

WE'VE probably noticed already the days starting to get darker more quickly as well as a change in temperature. All of which means that another British summer is pretty much over, as the longer colder nights of autumn and winter draw ever nearer.

Now although I think it's wonderful that we get to experience the full range of seasons in this country, admittedly it doesn't take me long before I find myself pining for the brighter warmer months of spring and summer again!

Moreover, when we look at the state of our world, the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine (now in its fourth year), the turmoil and suffering in the

Middle East, the ethical questions and concerns surrounding our digital age and technologies like AI, not to mention the growing unrest in this country around issues like immigration, it might seem, in many ways, like the darkness is closing in fast and the shadows are here to stay.

During such times, it can be easy for us to lose sight of the hope that things will get any better, to look at the darkness outside and, as we might do on a cold dark morning, hit the snooze button and go back to sleep on account that change isn't going to come anytime soon and what can we do about it anyway?

And yet we would do well to heed these words that Paul says in Romans 13: "The hour has al-



Photo: Unsplash

ready come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here" (Romans 13:11-12a, NIV).

Here Paul is using the language of "waking up" and opening our eyes as a metaphor for walking in Christ's ways of love for one

another. And Paul is saying that for him, there is an urgency about this as Christ's return - that climactic moment at the end of the age, when all that is broken and wrong is made whole and right - is nearer than ever before. Yet if we're being honest, it's easy to read Paul's words and feel a bit disheartened given that two thousand years

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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

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CURATE

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Samuel Thumaty : 07388 591093

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Wayne Rhodes: 01388 816643
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Children of light

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later we are still here and the world remains as it is. However, whether or not that event comes in our life-time, with each passing second, the reality is that each one of us edges closer to that moment when we will meet Christ face to face.

So the question remains: how are we living now in preparation for that moment? Are we living alert and ready for that glorious tomorrow, or has the light of Christ's love been slightly dimmed or obscured by other things?

Interestingly, Paul goes on to say that it's not enough for us as Christians to simply be awake and alert — we also need to get dressed too. Paul writes in Romans 13: "So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light" (Romans 13:12b, NIV). Notice here that there is a "putting off" and a "putting on" as one would put off their night clothes in order to put on that which is suitable for being out and about in the daytime.

But what does it mean to put on the "armour of light"? Well, Paul later describes this as "clothing ourselves with Christ" (Romans 13:14) — allowing Christ's ways to become part of who we are, giving us warmth, strength and protection amid the perils of these present times.

Practically speaking, it means putting aside time every day to fix our eyes on him — whether that be through worship, prayer, or the reading of Scripture — and allowing those moments to shape the way we think, speak, and act through the power of the Holy Spirit.

But finally it means remembering that in a dark world where it's easy to feel discouraged or helpless, God has called us to be children of light. And because of that, we

can make a difference. You only need to light a match in a dark room to see the dramatic effect that light has, or look up on a clear night to see the beautiful radiance of a million stars. And whether we feel like it or not, God has set us apart to be his lights in this world, and we shine brighter the more we are willing to allow his love to transform us from the inside out.

So as the shadows draw in and the nights get longer, may this darker season be a reminder to us that even when the world grows darker, we have been called to shine brighter — displaying his love in our homes, communities, and even the far reaches of this world. Amen.

LADIES AT ST PAUL'S

ALL WELCOME
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
7.30 – 9.30 PM

September 10th Board Games

Please come along to play board games together and have some fun. Various games will be provided but if you have a favourite game you would like to show and play please do bring it with you.

Location: St Paul's Centre, Cafe Area

Contact : ladies@stpaulsspennymoor.co.uk

<p><u>KUMON</u> - An after school maths and English study class which will help your child achieve a solid foundation</p> <p>Covering everything from counting numbers to A Level</p> <p>Sue Salmon - 811688</p>	<p>J.G. TEASDALE Photographer The Studio, High Street Spennymoor</p> <p>Artist's materials, frames, film Anything photographic Tel 814396 Weddings, Child Studies, Portraits</p>	<p>GORDON FLETCHER AND SONS JOINER AND UNDERTAKER CHARLES STREET SPENNYMOOR</p> <p>FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS ATTENDED PROMPTLY DAY OR NIGHT</p> <p>24 Hour Telephone 420276</p>	<p>ADVERTISE IN THIS SPACE FOR JUST £10 PER YEAR!</p> <p>Email office@stpaulsspennymoor.co.uk</p>
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St Paul's Mothers' Union Coffee Morning

**Saturday 20th September
in church from 10 - 11:30am**

**Admission £2 (includes light
refreshments)**

**There will be a cake stall
and a raffle**

**Proceeds will be donated to the
Mothers' Union Overseas Fund**

Leading intercessions in church services

YOU may have noticed that we have a number of people who serve our churches by preparing some prayers to be used during our services. Perhaps you would be interested in serving in this way? If you would, there will be an intercessions training session on Saturday 27th September, 10.30-12, in St Paul's, to which you are welcome.

Memorial book

THE memorial book at St Paul's will soon be sent away for new entries to be added. If you would like to have a loved one's name entered, please speak to Christina Hockin on 01388 30419 before the end of September for more details, including costs.

Update on the appointment of the next Bishop of Durham



Photo: Durham Diocese

THE process to appoint the next Bishop of Durham took a step forward recently when the Crown Nomination Commission (CNC) met in early September to shortlist candidates. Interviews are due to take place in December, so please do keep the CNC in your prayers as they carry out this important process.

Magna Carta and the North

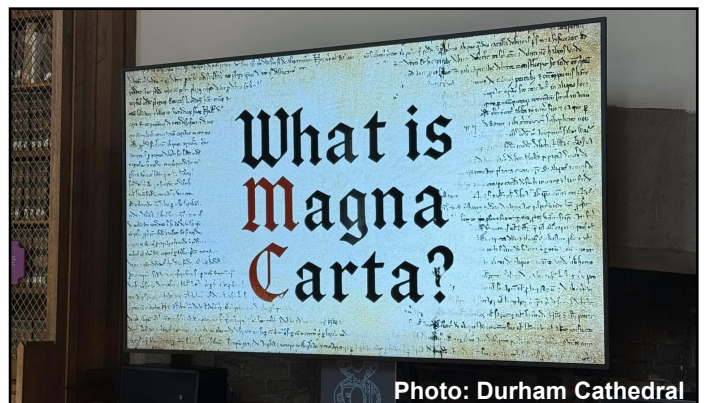


Photo: Durham Cathedral

AN exhibition of three rare Magna Cartas are currently on display at Durham Cathedral until November. As part of the exhibition, marking the 800th anniversary of the 1225 issue, you can view the only surviving 1216 Magna Carta, along with issues from 1225 and 1300. The documents are on display as part of the exhibition, 'Magna Carta and the North', alongside artworks and interactive installations throughout the cathedral that tell the story of the documents which are still a powerful symbol of social justice in the world today.

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

For efforts to bring about peace in Ukraine and Gaza.

For the new school and university term as pupils, students, teachers and staff return after the summer break.

For our town mayor, councillors and staff.

For those who live and work in our town.

For HM King Charles III, HM The Queen and members of the Royal Family.



PRAYER FOR SEPTEMBER

Almighty God,
we come before you as humble servants.
You call us by name to serve
in a variety of ways in our parishes.
Thank you for the gifts you instil in each of us
as we seek to proclaim the Good News
of your Son Jesus Christ.
Amen

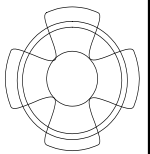
News in Brief

ST PAUL'S church is to once again play host for this year's Town Mayor's Civic Service. Taking place on Sunday 5th October at 3pm, the service will give thanks for the Mayor of Spennymoor, Councillor Liz Maddison, councillors and Town Hall staff. Spennymoor Town Band will be performing alongside a choir and all are welcome to attend the service which will be followed by refreshments served in the St Paul's Centre.



THE Mothers' Union will resume meeting this autumn following the summer break. The next meeting is on Monday 8th September, at 2pm in St Paul's church and will welcome George Courtney as guest speaker.

Parish Registers



HOLY BAPTISM

St Paul's

10th August	Noah Hall
10th August	Sonny Dargue
24th August	Jesse Rhea

Whitworth

24th August	Luca Harry Turnbull
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CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

St Paul's

1st August	Eddie Owens
14th August	Walter Joyce

In the steps of St Paul - a pilgrimage to Greece

COME and walk in the steps of St Paul in one of the most amazing journeys ever made! Paul's second missionary journey, described in the Bible in Acts 16-18, brought the good news of Jesus Christ to mainland Europe for the first time and involved times of extraordinary encounter and personal challenge.

Philip Plyming, Dean of Durham, will be leading a pilgrimage to Greece from 7-16 October 2026, and is inviting people from across Durham Diocese to join him. Pilgrims will be tracing Paul's steps, from his arrival in the port of Neapolis through the trials of Philippi, his famous sermon in Athens, ending at cosmopolitan Corinth where Paul made his home for eighteen months. Travelling the length of Greece, pilgrims will travel through stunning scenery and take in some unforgettable sights, including the Meteora monasteries, the Acropolis in Athens and the Corinth canal.

Philip has researched and taught on Paul for 20 years and led many pilgrimages to the Holy Land and Greece, and he is looking forward to leading what will be an unforgettable trip. For more information and to any questions please contact Martha Stewart, via eadean@durhamcathedral.co.uk

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