



CROSSWAYS

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR ST PAUL'S AND WHITWORTH

Will you pray for Bishop Rick?

By Revd Canon Matt Tarling

ON Sunday 7th June Bishop Rick Simpson will be installed as Bishop of Durham in Durham Cathedral. This brings to an end quite a long process of identifying, calling and establishing a new bishop. When Bishop Paul Butler retired in February 2024 the Vacancy in See committee (of which I am a member) gathered to create a profile of the diocese and elect representatives who would take part in the selection of a new bishop. Those representatives were part of the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC) along with others from the Church of England and the House of Lords. That group sought out a new bishop and one was due to arrive in early 2025. However, they chose not to take up the appoint-

ment. So, the process rewound a bit and the search for a new bishop continued during 2025. This culminated in the calling of the Archdeacon of Auckland, Venerable Rick Simpson, to be our new bishop.

Once he had said yes, a curious series of events then happened which follows a tradition that dates back centuries. The King wrote to the College of Canons at Durham Cathedral (of which I am a member as well!) asking us to elect Rick Simpson as the new bishop. We did so, and the notice of election was sent to Bishopthorpe Palace, the office of the Archbishop of York. Once he had confirmed the election, Rick was then consecrated as a Bishop in York Minster. Lee and I travelled down to York to witness this



The Rt Revd Rick Simpson (Photo: Duncan Lomax)

event. 'Consecration' means the 'setting apart' or dedicating something or someone for a special purpose. Bishops are priests who have been identified as leaders among fellow leaders

who will be able to oversee the rest of the clergy and the churches under their charge. On 7th June Bishop Rick will then be installed in the cathedral

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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

VICAR

Revd Canon Matthew Tarling
01388 327603
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CURATE

Revd Lee Earl
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CHURCHWARDENS

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Wayne Rhodes: 01388 816643
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Copy deadline for July edition
Friday 26th June

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Will you pray for Bishop Rick?

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which means he is not just 'a' bishop, but 'the' Bishop of Durham.

How can we pray for him? The role of 'bishop' is a difficult one. In the words of the service when a bishop is ordained to that role, it says, "Bishops are called to serve and care for the flock of Christ. Mindful of the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life for his sheep, they are to love and pray for those committed to their charge, knowing their people and being known by them."

This reflects Peter's words in his letter in the Bible: *be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them – not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lord-ing it over those entrusted*

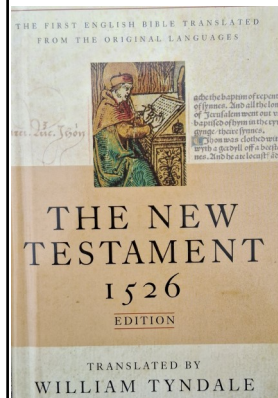
ed to you, but being examples to the flock. (1 Peter 5:2-3)

Rick has been in diocese for quite a few years and knows the joys and challenges of ministering in our region. Please pray for Rick as he prepares for his installation on 7th June and as he leads us from there onwards. Pray that he will be faithful to the gospel. Pray that he will have wisdom as he provides vision and leadership. Pray especially that he will grow in his own love for Jesus and that as he loves Jesus, he will love us, Jesus' own flock.

As Crossways went to print, a number of extra tickets for the service had just been made available and can be booked on the Durham Cathedral website. The service will also be live-streamed on YouTube, which begins at 3pm on 7th June.

BRANCEPETH ARCHIVE
presents

on 6th and 7th June
in Brancepeth Castle



To commemorate the 500th anniversary of the arrival in England of the New Testament translated by William Tyndale...

..an Exhibition in the Constable Tower and Archive Room about the man, his work, his lasting influence and much more

The exhibition will be open to the public on...

Saturday 6th June 9.00am - 4.00pm
Sunday 7th June 2 - 4.30pm

ADMISSION FREE

For more information contact 0191 378 0974

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Mothers' Union prayer capsule visits St Paul's church

A prayer capsule to mark the 150th anniversary of the Mothers' Union made a visit to St Paul's church in May.

The capsule's journey sees it travelling across the northern province, covering each Diocese and stopping at many parishes where the pray-ers of Mothers' Union members were added.

The St Paul's branch of the Mothers' Union welcomed the capsule, along with Durham Di-ocesan President Kath-

leen Wilson and other trustees for a special ser-vice giving thanks for the work of the organisation over the past 150 years.

Pauline Storey wrote the prayer for the St Paul's branch which was added to the capsule dur-ing the event.

Later in June the cap-sule will arrive in Lon-don where it will be stored in the archives at Mary Sumner House, the Mothers' Union's head office.



Members of the Mothers' Union with the prayer capsule
Photos: Revd Canon Matt Tarling



Spring in bloom at Whitworth Church



THANK you to Verna McEneny who sent in this photo-graph of the beautiful spring flowers in bloom at Whit-worth Church!

LADIES AT ST PAUL'S

ALL WELCOME
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
7.30 - 9.30 PM

June 10th

Book Exchange

Please bring along any unwanted books to exchange and have a go at some creative writing led by our lovely Christina.

Location:
St Paul's Centre Cafe Area

Contact : ladies@stpaulsspennymoor.co.uk

CLEMS SPENNYMOOR

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815451

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FOR YOUR PRAYERS

For the Rt Revd Rick Simpson as he is installed as Bishop of Durham

For our churchwardens Christopher Luke, Samuel Thumaty and Kath Hall as they are sworn into office on 14th June at Durham Cathedral.

For the Spennymoor Churches Holiday Club preparations ahead of the event in July.

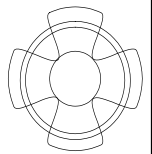


PRAYER FOR JUNE

Lord, we pray for those who are going through times of trouble, some perhaps in our families, some in our church, some in our wider circle of friends. We know you to be both Lord and healer of your broken world and we ask you to touch with your generous love all those who are on our hearts today because of their special need. May your love flood their lives with hope and healing, in spirit, mind and body. Amen

'The Intercessions Handbook'
Rt Revd John Pritchard

Parish Registers



HOLY BAPTISM

St Paul's
 24th May Leo George Hale

CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

St Paul's
 15th May Jackie Boyes
 19th May Joyce Hall
 21st May Maurice Baker

— SPENNYMOOR —
TOWN BAND
& Youth Band
Summer Concert
Pay on the door!
 An Evening of Brass Music
 — For all the family —

ST PAUL'S CHURCH SPENNYMOOR
SATURDAY 6TH JUNE
7:30PM
 £8 Children 16 and under free
 ALL PROCEEDS SHARED WITH ST PAUL'S CHURCH

Great Music - Local Talent - Community Spirit
Everyone Welcome

Trinity Methodist Church
 Edward Street, Spennymoor

Join us for a cuppa, a bite to eat or just a natter. Activities and toys for little ones.

Yummy cake stall!



SATURDAY 6TH JUNE

10AM - 12 NOON



Spennymoor Churches
Holiday Club

We're raising funds for our joint children's summer holiday club please support us if you can!

Connected

All Together and Eat Together

SUNDAY 7th June at 10:30am is All Together at St Paul's. We're continuing our journey through God's Big Picture, discovering how God's saving love unfolds in the events of the Bible. We will be having a bring and share lunch afterwards, so do come along. Food contributions need to avoid nuts and be non-perishable or brought in a cool bag/box if they need to be cold.

Follow our churches online

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www.facebook.com/stpaulsspennymoor