



CROSSWAYS

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR ST PAUL'S AND WHITWORTH

The Greatest King

By Revd Canon Matt Tarling

AT the Sunday services at the beginning of this month we explored what makes a good ruler. There were all sorts of characteristics which we would value in a king, queen, president or prime minister. One word which came up a few times was 'kindness'.

In the bible there are lots of different rulers. Some of them are good ones, some are bad examples. All of them have their successes and none of them are perfect. Our experience of leaders – ceremonial or political, national or local – is similar. The history of human authority is often summed up as "the good, the bad and the ugly". However, we do recognise what is good in our leaders and

evidently kindness is high on the list of desirable attributes.

In the book of Proverbs there is a great treasure-chest of wisdom about life. It covers all areas of life, including the rule of kings. One of them says this, "*Love and faithfulness keep a king safe; through love his throne is made secure.*" (Proverbs 20:28)

The word 'love' has lots of meanings today and it did when this proverb was written. But in this proverb a word is used which could be written in English as 'goodness' or 'kindness'. Sometimes it's written in bibles as 'loving-kindness'. You get the idea. It's the sort of love which shows up in kindness towards others. So, a good king is kind. Or a



Children design a Jesus Is King banner at August's All Together service

good queen, president or prime minister. A society benefits from kind leaders as we all enjoy being treated kindly by one another.

One of the things that stands out about Jesus in the gospels is his kindness. He met and ministered to a whole variety of people. Some of them needed his help or approached him as a teacher or friend. Others opposed him. His kindness to all, even those he needed to firmly rebuke, is clear.

Sometimes people

struggle with the idea of Jesus being 'lord' or 'king' because we struggle with leaders having power or authority. That's because power and authority can be abused and that does great damage. But when a king handles their authority kindly, it is a blessing. This is what we long for from our leaders. It is what we find in Jesus. He used his power and authority to do good for others and ultimately to sacrifice his own life for our salvation. He is so kind.

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

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Churches unite to host popular holiday club

MORE than 100 local children enjoyed three days of action-packed activities at the Spennymoor Churches' Holiday Club.

The hugely popular summer holiday club, organised by St Paul's and Trinity Methodist churches, returned for its third year, and this year's theme focused on 'Treasure Seekers' as the children discovered about Jesus being the ultimate treasure.

Across the three days the children enjoyed drama sketches with Short Ted Silver and Bluebeard Bill, played games, got creative with an array of craft activities and sang and danced their hearts out.

An evening youth event also saw 30 teenagers get together for a spray paint workshop led by Lewis Hobson from

Durham Spray Paints which also included an inspiring talk on the Christian faith by Craig Scott, Family Ministry Leader at Bethany Church in Houghton-le-Spring.

The holiday club had been in the planning for the best part of a year and would not have been possible without a huge number of volunteers involved in the organising and running of the event.

Kate Tarling from the organising team said: "We had such an awesome three days and it was so worth it to see all those children having loads of fun, asking great questions about who Jesus is, working together and being so creative. We had an amazing team of volunteers, and a huge thanks to each and every one of them. It was a



Just some of the volunteers who helped with the Spennymoor Churches' Holiday Club

privilege to be part of and we loved having the chance to get to know the children and families in our community."

Comments posted on social media show just how successful the event has been. Aimee said: "Another amazing year or as my older two boys said 'even better than last year'. Thank you for putting so much thought, time and effort into making three fabulous days for the kids."

Charlotte said: "Thank you very much for all the effort you have all gone to, to make the holiday club so much fun

for all the children! Lilly had a blast and has already asked to come back next year!"

And Jasmine added: "Thank you all so much! My little one has loved every second and can't wait for next time."

To watch video highlights from the holiday club, take a look at the St Paul's Spennymoor Facebook or Instagram accounts (search St Paul's Church Spennymoor), or Trinity Methodist Church Facebook page.

There's also a photo round-up from the holiday club on page three of Crossways.

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Highlights from the Spennymoor Churches' Holiday Club



TOP: Young Treasure Seekers

MIDDLE: Vicar Matt gets a bucket of water forfeit

BOTTOM: Building pirate ships

TOP: Everyone sang and danced their hearts out

MIDDLE: Creating iconic dance moves

BOTTOM: The youth spray paint event

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FOR YOUR PRAYERS

For Prime Minister Andy Burnham and the new government.

For students waiting for exam results.

For continued opportunities following the Holiday Club.

For those struggling with health issues.

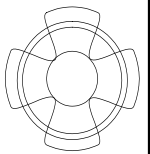


PRAYER FOR AUGUST

Lord, you are the Light that the darkness can never conquer. Pour your light into the darkness of this world, so that people can see better ways of solving problems. Pour your light into the confusion of our nation's difficulties, so that people can see new strategies and possibilities. Amen.

Source: The Intercessions Handbook

Parish Registers



HOLY BAPTISM

Whitworth

12th July Hallie Autumn Wake

St Paul's

12th July Ester Stainthorpe

CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

St Paul's

8th July Walter Bridgewood

9th July Owen Fitzgerald

Next Archdeacon of Auckland announced



THE Bishop of Durham has announce the appointment of the Revd Stephen Edmonds, currently Acting Archdeacon of Doncaster in the Diocese of Sheffield, as our next Archdeacon of Auckland. Stephen, who served his curacy in Sunderland at St Ignatius the Martyr, Hendon. Bishop Rick said: "I look forward very much to Stephen returning to the Diocese of Durham, now as Archdeacon of Auckland and a member of the Bishop's Leadership Team. Stephen was clear that his love for the North East of England, its people and its saints lay behind his clear sense of call to this role, and I am confident that he will rapidly gain the affection and trust of the churches of the Archdeaconry as he serves them."

(Words and photograph: Durham Diocese)

LADIES AT ST PAUL'S

ALL WELCOME

WEDNESDAY
EVENINGS

7.30 - 9.30 PM

August 12th Pub Trip

A trip to the pub, meeting at
The Grand Electric Hall, Spennymoor
Wetherspoons

Ladies welcome to come to socialise
with a drink and / or food

Contact : ladies@stpaulsspennymoor.co.uk



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