



CROSSWAYS

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR ST PAUL'S AND WHITWORTH

The gift of remembering

By Revd Canon Matt Tarling

I HAVE written about 'remembering' before in November issues of the Crossways newsletter. But don't worry if you can't remember what I said! There are lots of things we do and say and which are said to us which are important at the time but don't remain so. That's okay. Many things are like good meals. They nourish and fill us at the time, but if you can't remember what you had six weeks ago, that doesn't matter. What's more important is that it kept you going.

At the beginning of November, we will be remembering lots. On 1st November it is 70 years since St Paul's was reopened after the fire of 1953. On 2nd November we will hold our annual All Souls

service of remembrance and thanksgiving for loved ones who have died. Finally, on 8th November we will remember the sacrifices made by our armed forces and others during the world wars, mindful of other conflicts since and continuing now.

For some of us, those events will bring back personal memories. Perhaps you were there when the church caught fire or when it was reopened. You may be remembering a loved one at All Souls who has died very recently. World War II may have been a significant childhood memory for you and you may have lost a relative in that war or in conflicts since.

Not all of us will find ourselves with personal memories at the begin-



Silhouette soldiers to remember those who lost their lives in past wars and conflicts

ning of November. However, it can be appropriate to remember together even those things which were before our time or happened to other people. This is for two reasons. First, our common humanity, and particularly our connectedness as followers of Jesus, means that we can share in one another's joys and griefs. Saint Paul, in his letter to Roman Christians encouraged them to, "Rejoice with

those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn" (Romans 12:15). So, when we remember together as the people of God, we do so with personal memory but also on one another's behalf.

The second reason is that the God before whom we remember is eternal. That is why things which happened in history and in the lives of others elsewhere or before we were born still matter. They matter to

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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

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The gift of remembering

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God and come within his sovereign oversight of all things. This makes sense of the 'remembering' that we do during Holy Communion when we remember Jesus' sacrifice made more than two millennia ago! It also makes sense to remember wars which occurred

in the last century and people whom we never knew personally.

So as we remember together a church restored 70 years ago, our and others' loved ones and two world wars, we do so before a God for whom they all matter.

Samuel Thumaty begins training

By Revd Canon Matt Tarling



IT has been with a mix of joy and sadness that we sent Samuel on his way to Cranmer Hall in Durham for training for ordination in the Church of England. Joy because it is brilliant to see him follow the call of God into this new stage of training and ministry. Samuel has worked as an evangelist and pastor in India and received some bible training, but this offers the opportunity to pursue the call even further. We have enjoyed Samuel's service in the church as a churchwarden, preacher and youth leader. He has also brought fresh viewpoints and technological understanding to the life of our church. So, it's with sadness that say goodbye to him! Susan, Jeremiah and Abigail remain a part of our church family as they all continue to live in Spennymoor. You will probably bump into Samuel from time to time too! Please pray for the whole family as they adapt to college life and get ready for changes to come. Samuel will, God-willing, be ordained in July 2028. That will feel very soon as two years at college is not a very long time. It's our prayer that God will bless the whole family as they make this new step to serve him new ways in the future.

Vicar Matt elected to General Synod



CONGRATULATIONS to Matt on his election to serve as a member of General Synod - the Church of England's national assembly. As a member of the House of Clergy representing the Durham Diocese, Matt will serve a five-year term and his role will see him help shape the future of the Church of England and shine a spotlight on the great work our churches are doing in County Durham.

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Appeal to restore church sundial

IN the October edition of Crossways, we reported on the recent building works at St Paul's Church – including replacing stone across various parts of the building, a restoration of the clock face, repairs to the gutters and downpipes, providing ramped access, and more. With the completion of that schedule of works, we now turn our attention to one further restoration – the church sundial.

Situated above the main door, the sundial requires significant work due to the deterioration of the paintwork and storm damage which resulted in the gnomon becoming detached from the board. The present

piece was last restored in the late 1980s, and now warrants specialist work to bring it back to its former glory.

As we launch an appeal to restore the sundial, we're keen to find out more about the history of the installation and to see what it looked like, prior to its last restoration in the 1980s. Did you get married, or have a baptism at St Paul's and posed for photographs which shows the sundial above the south door? Do you have any memories which you'd like to share with us to help us discover more about the sundial? Email office@stpaulsspennymoor.co.uk, or speak to Christopher Luke at St Paul's



with any information you're able to share.

The Parochial Church Council has committed to restoring the sundial which will cost just under £6,000 for a specialist contractor to undertake. We're pleased to report that £4,000 has already been pledged which includes donations from individuals, and a local business, and we're now pushing ahead to raise the final £2,000 needed to start the work. Can you help us as we work towards raising the remaining funds?

As the sundial is a key feature of the exterior fabric of the building as people enter the church, we're keen to see the restoration take place, but we can only do this with people's generosity. Please prayerfully consider if you can make a

donation to help us reach the £6,000 target. If you are able, donations can be taken to St Paul's on a Sunday, Wednesday or Friday morning (please clearly mark as 'Sundial Appeal'). To make a bank transfer, please email office@stpaulsspennymoor.co.uk so we can provide you with the details.

Debit card contactless donations can also be made using the card reader at the back of church which has a special Sundial Appeal donation option.

Thank you for considering the appeal as we work towards restoring an important piece of the church building which will be another stage of ensuring the Grade II listed building is preserved for future generations.



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FOR YOUR PRAYERS

For vicar Matt as he attends the new session of General Synod in November in London.

For the Reverend Dr Jitesh Patel who has been appointed as the next Suffragan Bishop of Jarrow following approval by His Majesty the King.

For Samuel Thumaty as he settles into training for ordained ministry at Cranmer Hall in Durham.

For our armed forces working around the world engaged in defensive operations and peacekeeping work.



PRAYER FOR NOVEMBER

O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those people who have been injured or who have died in active service. As we honour their courage and cherish their memory, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life, peace and hope, now and forever. Amen

Source: The Church of England

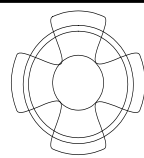
*At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
we will remember them.*

Remembering loved ones



A SERVICE of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for All Souls will take place on Monday 2nd November at 7pm in St Paul's Church. During the service there will be an opportunity to light a candle in memory of loved ones no longer with us and hear their name read out during a period of prayer and reflection.

Parish Registers



THANKSGIVING FOR A CHILD

St Paul's

11th October Navy Pauline James

HOLY BAPTISM

St Paul's

25th October Jackson Cole

25th October Henry Oliver Norris

25th October Ruby Rae Norris

CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

St Paul's

15th October Ivy Frizzell

23rd October Irene Wayman

29th October Enid Barr

Harvest thanksgiving

THANK you to everyone who supported the foodbank appeals at our churches' harvest services in early October.

Also in October, it was wonderful to welcome one of The Oaks Secondary School's Sixth Form

classes for a visit to St Paul's church, and a huge thank you for their generous foodbank harvest donations which you can see pictured above.

Everyone's donations will make a huge difference to the lives of local people who are struggling with the cost of living, or require some short-term help.

The foodbank needs donations all year long so please do continue to support if you can - donation points are available in both churches, and the St Paul's Centre is open weekday mornings for donations.



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