

St Paul's in the Park

Newsletter February 2018

The story goes that one day St Francis of Assisi laid his hand on the shoulder of a young monk and said, 'Brother, let us go into the town and preach.' The young monk was very excited about having the opportunity of observing the great man at work, preaching to the crowds.

They went into the town and walked around the streets, talking to people and generally interacting with them, but not once did St Francis actually address the crowds. The young monk was disappointed and said so to St Francis.

St Francis replied to him, 'My son, we have walked a long way and seen many people. They have observed how we have interacted with them. We have been preaching while we were walking. It is no use walking anywhere to preach unless we preach as we walk.'

We can lecture, teach and preach until we are blue in the face, but in the end people will be influenced more by what we do than what we say. Albert Einstein said, 'Setting an example is not the main method of influencing people, it is the only method.' If we are to wear the label of 'Christian' with any sort of pride, our actions need to reflect that.

'Mark out a straight path for your feet. Then those who follow you, though they are weak and lame, will not stumble and fall, but will become strong.' Hebrews 12:13

Lent Discussion Group

Our Lent discussion group is under way. We meet in the hall on Thursdays. Pizzas are served from 6.00pm and we get under way at 6.30pm, finishing at 7.30pm. You are most welcome to join us. We are looking at passages from the Bible and reflecting on how they relate to our own lives.

AGM

Our AGM will be held following the 10.00am service on Sunday 25 March (Palm Sunday). This is an important occasion for our Church, so we would love to see you there. If you would like to nominate someone for a position on vestry, please have a chat to them before then.

Ash Wednesday service

We had a wonderful evening service on Ash Wednesday, combining with the Tongan and Samoan Methodist congregations, who worship at St Paul's every Sunday. Highlights were both congregations singing a hymn for us and when it came to the Lord's prayer, we all prayed in our own language. A truly moving Pentecostal experience!

We are thoroughly enjoying having our Tongan and Samoan friends on board at St Paul's. I believe we are all richer for the experience.

Anglican Missions Lent Appeal

There are countless charities and appeals which we could support but this is one I would like

to promote. There are envelopes on the table at the entrance to the hall, so please do give it some thought.

World day of Prayer

All Saints, Howick, are holding a service on Friday 2 March at 10.30am to observe World Day of Prayer. Members of our congregation are warmly invited.

Holiday

I will be taking a week off March 12-18 in order to recharge the batteries.

To Ponder

‘To do all the talking and not be willing to listen is a form of greed.’ Democritus of Abdera



Eve gets an easy question.

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