

St Paul's in the Park

Newsletter September 2018

Forgiveness

From the Middle Ages comes this legend about a nun who claimed that she had had a vision of Christ. The bishop asked, 'Sister, did you talk to him?' And she said, 'Yes, I did.' He continued, 'If you have another vision, ask Christ this question: "What was the bishop's great sin before he became a bishop?"' He knew that only God and his confessor would know.

About three months later, the nun made an appointment to see the bishop. When she came in, he said, 'Did you see our Lord again?' 'Yes', she replied. 'Did you ask him the question about my sin?' 'Yes, I did.' 'And what did he say?' She smiled and answered, 'The Lord said, 'I don't remember anymore.'

I love this story, on two levels. On the surface, the nun could be a very clever person with a delightful sense of humour. On a much deeper level, it makes a strong statement about forgiveness. How often do we continue to beat ourselves up over a transgression when, having handed it over to God, we should be able to move on? Once we have unburdened ourselves to God, it is done and dusted; we are cleansed and it all about new beginnings. Fortunately, God doesn't buy in to that very human foible of storing something away in order to use it against us at a later date.

'I alone am the one who blots out your sins for my own sake and will never think of them again.' Isaiah 43:25

'And I will forgive their wrongdoings, and I will never again remember their sins.' Hebrews 8:12

This Sunday

This coming Sunday (23rd) Joanna Hand, Hagar NZ, will be speaking to us at our 10.00am service. Hagar is an international Christian charity serving women and children survivors of human trafficking, modern slavery and abuse. A retiring collection will be taken up in support of Hagar NZ.

New Church

Progress with the planning is continuing well. On Sunday 28 October our architect, John McClean, will make a presentation at our 10.00am service. Put this date in your diaries.

Volunteers

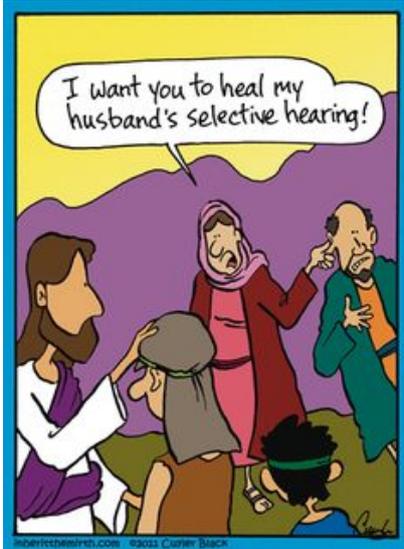
I post this reluctantly as I am very aware that we are a small congregation and volunteering invariably falls on a very few as so many are already committed in a variety of ways. However, if anyone could see their way to helping out with either Selwyn Seniors on a Friday morning, or with the cleaning of the church/hall on a Saturday now and again, please let me know.

Space

Carolyn Wellm runs a great programme for mums and their young ones, meeting in our hall Tuesday mornings. Here are a couple of things to consider. Does anyone feel like training as a support person – a more hands-on role? Or do you know anyone who might be able to assist with promoting the programme? You might like to financially support someone - \$45 per term, \$135 for a year. Do you know of anyone expecting a baby in the next few months that we can give information to about the programme? You can contact either Carolyn (022 657 5851) or me.

Blessing of Pets

On Sunday 7 October we will be holding our annual blessing of pets service, celebrating St Francis of Assisi. Pets of all sizes and types are very welcome. However, I am averse to snakes, so you can leave them at home.



To ponder

'Never does the human soul appear so strong and noble as when it forgoes revenge and dares to forgive injury.' Edward Chapin

Reverend Warner Wilder
warnerwilder30@gmail.com
021 548 407