

## Newsletter – November 2018 St Paul's in the Park

*A priest saw a group of small boys sitting in a circle with a dog in the middle. He asked them what they were doing. One boy said, 'We're just telling lies, and the one who tells the biggest one gets the dog.' The priest said, 'Why, I am shocked. When I was a boy, I never even thought of telling a lie.' The boy said, 'Give him the dog, fellas. He's the winner.'*

A few days ago, a friend of mine posed the question, 'Does the truth count for anything today?' It is a fair enough question. Whether it is media (social or otherwise) or politics, both of which we depend upon for the dissemination of information, it is often difficult to separate fact from fiction, to separate the real truth from falsehoods that are paraded as truth. What has been happening in American politics in recent times is probably an extreme example, but unfortunately a reflection of today's values.

The sad part about this is that it works! Perhaps we shouldn't be blaming the media or the politicians, but rather us, the people, because we buy into it. It is what we have come to expect; we have almost become immune to it. In the end, it is about integrity and character. Let me ask you this, which of these two statements would you prefer to be made about you when you depart this earthly life? He/she was certainly a prominent person in society, but was lacking in integrity and honesty, or, He/she had a low profile in society but as a person of integrity and honesty, was of the highest calibre? For me, it is a no-brainer.

'Truth stands the test of time; lies are soon exposed.' Proverbs 12:19

'Whoever is careless with the truth in small matters cannot be trusted with important matters.' Albert Einstein

### **Christmas Services**

The schedule for our Christmas services is as follows:

Sunday 9 December 10.00am Carol service.

Christmas Eve 6.00pm Family Holy Communion service 11.00pm Holy Communion service.

Christmas Day 9.00am Holy Communion service.

I will send out a reminder notice nearer the time.

### **Stamps**

The Board of Missions collect used stamps in order to raise money for their outreaches. We have a box on the table in the hall for this purpose.

### **Festive Season**

As we move into a very busy part of the year with a myriad of commitments, social and otherwise, it is important that we don't lose our focus on what we are really celebrating; and, at the same time, to also not forget those for whom this time of the year might not be as joyous as the rest of us find it.

### **Richard and Margaret**

Richard and Margaret Warham have sold their home and are leaving Flat Bush. They are certainly hoping to pop back now and again, but I want to acknowledge the immense contribution and support they have given our church. They have been loyal servants and we will miss them.

Richard has promised to continue as Treasurer until the AGM in March but in the New Year we will be looking for someone

to take over that role.



**To ponder**

'The service we render to others is really the rent we pay for our room on this earth.' Wilfred Grenfell

Reverend Warner Wilder

[warnerwilder30@gmail.com](mailto:warnerwilder30@gmail.com) 021 548 407