

St Paul's in the Park Newsletter 4 April 2020

Building Good Lives

There is the story of an elderly carpenter who was ready to retire. He told his employer of his plans to leave the house building business and live a more leisurely life with his wife. He would miss the paycheck but they would get by.

The employer was sorry to see his good worker go and asked him if he could build just one more house as a personal favour. The carpenter said yes but it was soon obvious that his heart wasn't in his work. He resorted to shoddy workmanship and used inferior materials. IT was an unfortunate way to end his career.

When the carpenter finished the build, his employer handed him the front door key and said, 'This house is yours. It is my gift to you.'

What a shock. What a shame. If he had only known he was building his own house, he would have done it all differently. Now he had to live in the home he had built none too well.

So it is with us. If we build our lives in a shoddy manner, we will have shoddy lives. Jesus was a carpenter himself. We have got to think of ourselves as carpenters, use the tools he has given us and build sound and worthy lives. How do we do that? Ironically and very simply it is not through what we do for ourselves but what we do for others; through caring for others; through carrying out his command to 'love our neighbour.' Never has this command been more pertinent.

'This is the message we have heard from the beginning: We should love one another.'
1 John 3:11

Sunday School

For those of you with young children, keeping them occupied can be something of a challenge during this lockdown period. Help is at hand. We have an online Sunday School resource available for you. Just go to

<https://sites.google.com/d/1CvNAtKdVImLW58GBjrJLmIxn30rbEdV/p/1RsVXrHRAFp3y2dseAuzMbVcSIUIAi7RJ/edit>

It has stories, songs and activities. Huge thanks to Anusha Soupen for setting this up for us.

Word for Today

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, I have ordered more copies of the current Word for Today. This little booklet has a few thoughts for each day, related to a reading. It takes just a few minutes to read but is a gem. It has become part of my early morning ritual and it is amazing how often the thought expressed is relevant to where I am at on that particular day.

If you would like a copy, please let me know and I will post one to you.

Giving

As we are unable to congregate on Sundays, a reminder that online giving is available. Bank account number is 06 0991 0056055 00. Enter your donor number. If you need one, contact Jenny Burrow – jrburrow2016@gmail.com We are still committed to all the expenses associated with the running of our church.

Help with Funding Application

We are close to finalising our application for funds to Foundation North. It has been a very involved process and I am indebted to our architect, John McClean, for offering his time and experience in driving this.

There are other possibilities we would like to pursue, such as Lotteries Commission, Tindall Foundation, Perpetual Guardian. If anyone would like to help with this, please let me know. It's a case of making enquiries, finding out what information is required, and then we will be able to provide the necessary info.

Christian Resources

If you are looking for good Christian resources to be used at home, google Christian Century. They are based in Chicago and their stuff looks very good. Many thanks to Sheryl Hogan for drawing my attention to them.

Phone Calls

Jacinda says, 'Test! Test! Test!'. I say, 'Call! Call! Call!' I cannot emphasise it enough – those phone calls are one way (about the only way!) we can let people know they are not forgotten and they are cared for. We need that so much right now. If you feel like letting off a little steam, do it over the phone with someone who is there to listen. And if you are listening to someone letting off a little steam, understand why it is happening and be patient about telling them about your frustrations. In other words, hear them out.



Time for a Smile

I think I am invisible

A man goes into the doctor's and says, 'Doctor, I think I am invisible.' 'I'm sorry,' says the doctor, 'I'm afraid I can't see you right now.'

I still think I am invisible

A man goes into the doctor's and says, 'Doctor, I still keep thinking I am invisible.' 'Who said that?' says the doctor.



Palm Crosses

We have many palm crosses to give away. These have been made by Mervis's brother, Cacious, from a flax bush growing in our garden and I am very keen that as many people as possible should receive one. They could be pinned up on the wall to remind you of this special time of our Christian year, but just as importantly, the cross itself is a symbol of love and so can be a reminder to us that in these extraordinary times we need to both give and receive love. It is a message that remains relevant long after the Coronavirus has been sent packing, so keep it in a prominent place.

Just let me know and I will post one to you. We are geared up to send out masses so don't be shy – it is something I would really like to do for you.

YouTube

You can access today's YouTube presentation at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MT0rjLRE02Y>

Many thanks to Onosai for editing and singing!

It just remains for me to wish you all the very best as we continue to work our way through these challenging and unparalleled times, and also as we enter the most important week of our Christian year. May the sacrificial and unconditional love of Easter be the hallmark and the marker for how we play our part in helping each other through this time.

God bless you all.

Rev Warner Wilder

warnerwilder30@gmail.com

021 548 407

