

St Paul's in the Park Newsletter January 2021

Influence of Bible

A Russian teenager, living in Paris around 1930, was aggressively anti-Christian and hated everything to do with God. After listening unwillingly to a talk by a priest, he decided to read a gospel to check whether the priest's picture of Christianity, which the young man found repulsive, was supported by the Gospel account.

Not to waste time unnecessarily, he chose Mark, the shortest Gospel. Before he reached the third chapter, he suddenly became aware that on the other side of the desk stood the figure of Jesus. His hostility crumbled and he became a disciple of Christ. He became Metropolitan Anthony, the Russian Orthodox Archbishop of London.

We may not have such a dramatic experience when reading the Bible, but it is good practice to ask God to speak to us before we read the Bible. It is surprising how often he does speak to us if we are open to his word and to his presence.

'Only fools say in their hearts, "there is no God.'" Psalm 53:1

'All scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true.' 2 Timothy 3:16

Schedule of services

It has been proposed that we offer two services on Sundays. The first service will take place at 8.30am and will be a conventional Holy Communion service. The second service will be held at 10.00am with a focus on singing. It is likely that this service would be held in the hall. This new schedule will commence on Sunday 21 February.

Details such as just what music/singing we will have at the 8.30am service and do we have communion every Sunday at the 10.00am service are still to be finalised. We really would value your feedback so please do provide us with that. You can speak to either me or a member of vestry.

Ash Wednesday/Lent

Lent gets under way with Ash Wednesday on Wednesday February 17. We will be holding a service at 7.00pm to celebrate this.

We will also be running an evening Lent Group but plans for this are still to be finalised. Watch this space.

Word for Today

The copies of the latest edition of Word for Today are now available. You can pick one up at church or I can send you a copy. Please let me know if you would like one sent to you.

Food Bank

Just a reminder that we are collecting non-perishable food for the South Auckland Christian Food Bank. Please bring your offerings to church.

Time for a Smile

A man bumps into a friend as he comes out of the dentist's. 'Oh,' said the man, 'I've just had all my teeth taken out. Never again!'

YouTube Services

Apologies to those who have been missing our YouTube services. These will resume soon. We are actually looking at the possibility of going live, but will keep you posted.

To ponder

'The price of doing the same old thing is far higher than the price of change.' Bill Clinton



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