

## St Paul's in the Park Newsletter January 2024

### Forgiveness

Corrie Ten Boom and her family had hidden Jews in their house in the Netherlands. The Gestapo found the family out and sent Corrie and her family to Ravensbruck concentration camp. After the war, while at a church service in Munich, she came face to face with one of the former Ravensbruck prison guards. Corrie had just delivered a message of God's forgiveness and the former guard, not recognising her, asked Corrie personally for forgiveness for the atrocities he had committed.

Corrie struggled within herself and found that at first she could not forgive him, but she quickly prayed and then extended her hand to him. In her words, 'As I did, an incredible thing took place. The current started in my shoulder, raced down my arm, sprang into our joined hands. And then this healing warmth seemed to flood my whole being, bringing tears to my eyes.' *"I forgive you, brother!"* I cried. *"With all my heart!"* For a long moment, we grasped each other's hands, the former guard and the former prisoner. I had never known God's love so intensely, as I did then.'

Never, ever underestimate the power of forgiveness, and the beauty of forgiveness is that it works both ways. It brings as much power to those forgiving as to those who are being forgiven.

'Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other just as God in Christ has also forgiven you.' Ephesians 4:32

**'He who seeks vengeance must dig two graves: one for his enemy and one for himself.'** Chinese proverb.

### John Bean

We farewelled John at a wonderful service in the King's College chapel last Wednesday. John had been an integral and loyal member of the King's community for many, many years, taking on a variety of roles during his tenure there. In 2017 John and Rhys joined our congregation and have been stalwarts ever since. Church just won't be the same without John. Our love and prayers are with Rhys and her family.

### Build

We are under way! Excavations making good progress.



### Time for a Smile

A man is being interviewed. 'When is your birthday?' asks the interviewer. 'November the twelfth,' says the man. 'Which year?' asks the interviewer. 'Every year,' says the man.

### Word for Today

The latest edition of Word for Today has arrived. You can pick a copy up at church or I am very happy to post to you.

### Foodbank

Thank you so very much for your support. Keep it coming! There is such a need in our community.



### To Ponder

'Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved.' Helen Keller

Have a wonderful and blessed 2024!

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