

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

### Forgiveness

*From the Middle Ages comes this legend about a nun who claimed that she had a vision of Christ. The bishop asked her, '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 asked her, '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 is all about new beginnings. Fortunately, God doesn't buy into 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.

### Easter Services

Maundy Thursday (March 28) 7.00pm Washing of the Feet

Good Friday (March 29) 10.00am Celebration of Christ's Passion

Easter Sunday (March 31) 9.30am Holy Communion

### AGM

Our AGM will be held in the hall at 10.45am following our 9.30am service on Sunday 7 April. This won't be a lengthy meeting but it is an important event in the life of our church. If you would like to put your name forward for vestry, please let me know, or you could contact Noleen (027 534 2115).

### Finances

At this stage we are running in the red for the year. Remember, any contributions made before 31<sup>st</sup> March qualify for the tax refund for this financial year! And just in case you have misplaced it – bank a/c 06 0991 0056055 00!

### Time for a Smile

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

### To Ponder

'God often visits us but most of the time we are not at home.' French proverb.

## Build

Excavations are well under way and we hope to have glulam and steel beams, and precast concrete slabs appearing on site very soon. A billboard promoting our project has been erected on Chapel Road, so now the public will know just what the purpose is of those excavations taking place in the park!



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