



SUNDAY 11TH MARCH 2018

DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

The Parishes of: Bishop Auckland || Newton Aycliffe & Shildon || Willington
Crook, Tow Law & Wolsingham || Tudhoe || Coundon, Ferryhill & Windlestone

ESCOMB PARTNERSHIP NOTE

Fourth Sunday of Lent

“Help for Heroes” was the slogan on the man’s jacket. He rattled a collection tin and called out something about sacrifice.

Name any area of life and we hopefully accept sooner or later that success is not achieved without sacrifice. Life is generated, protected and enhanced by those who go the extra mile and habitually give over the odds - you may recognise yourself here.

Love costs. We get very used to familiar terms like *“the love of God”*, but we need to unpack how simple phrases are often very limited shorthand for a wealth of costly stories that should stir the imagination. “God loved the world so much that he gave his only son.” Would you give yours? For this world?

Pausing to ponder on those who spend themselves, despite opposition, to effect great change for the benefit of people unable to help themselves, we meet pale replicas of a God who is the definition of love itself. The life of Jesus is for us required reading if we are to keep ourselves sharp and make our own the command *“love one another as I have loved you”*. Study his style, his prayer, his company and keep on learning.

It’s so easy to get stuck in our own routines and be bound by our own agendas. To miss the gospel message because it has a familiar ring to it and doesn't shock anymore would look like awful complacency.

That’s why the Help for Heroes man felt obliged to shout.



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ESCOMB PARTNERSHIP NOTE

The Mission

The weather hasn't helped, folks! A lot of great work has gone into preparing mission events and that must not be lost. Most of the presentations and hoped-for gatherings have been rescheduled so that we can share one another’s company at a time and in a more manageable climate.

The Candlelit Taize service at Our Lady & St Thomas’ Church in Willington will now be on this Sunday 11th March at 6pm. Light refreshments will be served.

Big thanks to all who braved the elements to get to any of the arranged events that did happen. To everyone who put in the time, effort and expense from the planning through to delivery, you have our immense appreciation. There’s a growing community sense already in our Partnership and a readiness to learn and share together. It promises good things for the future.

The Mission Week for St John’s School begins this coming Wednesday 14th March. Please take a look at your Mission timetables and attend what you can.

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“Love seeks only one thing: the good of the one loved. It leaves all the other secondary effects to take care of themselves. Love, therefore, is it’s own reward.” -- Thomas Merton

“All life is growth. This is especially true of the spiritual life. It continually grows. To stand still, to look back, is death.” -- Herbert Slade