



SUNDAY 14TH JANUARY 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

Second Sunday of the Year

I don't know when you left school (or you may be still there) or when you considered yourself to be no longer a student but could I remind you that the word 'disciple' simply means a student or a learner? In other words, folks, we all carry 'L' plates and are on an ever-increasing learning curve which does not finish this side of the grave and may not finish on the other side either!

In the Gospel story today two disciples, that is students, of John the Baptist call Jesus "Rabbi" and the Gospel story tells us that this means teacher. It's one of those wonderful little signposts that we get in the Scriptures from time to time, but whenever anyone calls Jesus teacher that person is about to be taught something.

We all think of Jesus as a wonderful teacher who had a brilliant way of teaching through stories and who gave messages of love, support and compassion to people through his manner, gestures and words. You and I are studying him in order to be able to do the same.

Any teacher will tell you, I hope, that in order to teach well the teacher needs to keep on learning too. Each one of us is learning and teaching others by our manner, speech and attitude towards people as much as we do through any formal lessons that we think we are wanting to share.

A great opportunity for each of us to continue learning to become more like Jesus will be provided by the Mission Weeks mentioned in last week's partnership note which are coming up in late February and in March. Finding out more about Jesus' style and love means that we become more shaped in his ways. Others will notice whether they say so or not. Thank you for continuing to be a student.



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ESCOMB PARTNERSHIP NOTE

This Tuesday 16th January there will be a preparation meeting for the events which we need to arrange within the Mission Weeks. We'd love to see you, to hear your views and to appreciate your interest. The meeting is at St Mary's in Bishop Auckland at 6pm. We'll keep a seat warm for you! Please accept this invitation. It's not only for people who currently have roles in our parishes. It's for all good learners who, like yourself, also have a lot to give. See you there!

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"I don't make predictions. I never have, I never will." -- Terry Venables

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"In reality, there has only been one Christian, and he died on the Cross." -- Friedrich Nietzsche

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"The remarkable thing about Jesus was that, although he came from the middle class and had no appreciable disadvantages himself, he mixed socially with the lowest of the low and identified himself with them. He became an outcast by choice." -- Albert Nolan

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"All shall be well and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well." -- Mother Julian of Norwich

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"Who teaches, often learns himself." -- Italian proverb