



SUNDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2019

DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

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

ESCOMB PARTNERSHIP NOTE

23rd Sunday

"That'll be £8.50 sir", the man behind the counter said. "What? For that?!" was my reaction. A small trifling object that I thought would be about three quid was under discussion. The man launched into a spiel about mineral rights and transport duties and would have continued had I let him. I chose not to buy. "There's a cost to all these things", was his parting shot.

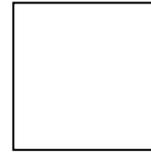
And he's right. Everything costs. Great crowds followed Jesus, today's Gospel reminds us. We'd probably have been with them in those days but we say we're following him now anyway. Like any attractive figure there were committed folks and hangers-on, dedicated supporters, fascinated students and those hoping for handouts and miracles. But there's a cost.

In an old story about a truth cave it was sought by many and discovered by few, a persistent traveller succeeded after a long and arduous journey in finding the cave. An old wizened figure sat at the entrance. "Is this the truth cave?" the traveller asked. "Yes", said the old person, "How far do you want to go in?" "How much truth do you want to discover?" The traveller hesitated. He'd thought of taking a few pictures to show the folks back home. He wasn't sure how deeply he wanted to engage with the truth. It's one of those stories designed to make us think.

Jesus reminds us of the real costs of following him. It involves giving him priority and may come before close family members. There'll be hardships to bear - as he bore them - no one gets by without suffering.

We work out in advance whether we can manage any venture - it's not rocket science - we're doing it all the time. Energy, money, abilities all get weighed in the balance before we decide it's go or no go. It may require giving up other options or preferences if we're serious about the task. Jesus asks us to give up all our possessions to follow him. Are you still there?

In effect he's saying 'Get real'. This is how it goes. This is what it costs! What am I or you going to do about it after hearing that? We can clog up our lives with possessions. We accumulate a lot of baggage. Jesus' own advice to those he sent out ahead of him, more or less required them to travel light and rely on the God whose work they were doing. The cost is called trust. Like the truth cave, how far do you want to go in?



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ESCOMB PARTNERSHIP NOTE

Climate Action in our Partnership

We're facing a climate emergency, the biggest threat to our very existence and the natural world we have ever seen. But what are the facts? And what can WE do about it?

Come and hear Anna-Lisa Mills (Director of True North Sustainability and Chartered Environmentalist) tell it like it is and inspire and empower us to look at the ways forward.

Climate crisis solutions are already out there - we can join with others to begin to make them a reality here in Bishop Auckland.

Go to the link to book your free ticket at the Eden Theatre, Bishop Auckland Town Hall, Market Place, Bishop Auckland DL14 7NP.

<https://actionnetwork.org/events/climate-change-what-we-need-to-know-what-we-need-to-do>

7.30pm to 9pm on Friday 30th August, 2019. Doors open at 7.30pm. Free car park 1 minute walk away, retiring collection to be split between Friends of the Earth and expenses.

Good Friday 2020 Passion Play - OPEN CALL EVENTS

The Passion of Christ is to be re-enacted and performed in the Market Place, Bishop Auckland.

We want to showcase the talent of people of the North East and are looking for anyone who would like to be part of the cast, including Jesus, the disciples, Mary, High Priests... plus many more. We are also looking for those who'd like to help behind the scenes, costumes, make-up crew, backstage, tech support, props, stewards and support teams. All cast and crew must attend at least one OPEN CALL event. If you are interested in playing one of the main characters we are holding AUDITION CALL events too. These will last a maximum of 90 minutes but include time to find out more, ask questions and of course, start the process to you being involved in a team and become a part of this momentous story. We want all of our various communities, towns and villages to be involved and represented so do share and invite others. It's going to be a collaborative community intergenerational process, with skill sharing and friendship forming, at its heart.

If you'd like to be considered for one of the major acting roles come along to one of these audition sessions... please bring with you a head shot and also be prepared to showcase your acting skills by acting out a script we can provide at one of our OPEN CALL events. Further info email: passionplaybishopauckland@gmail.com.

Saturday 17 August at 10.30am at Wear Valley Christian Church, DL14 7JX

Wednesday 11 September at 6.30pm at Bishop Auckland Methodist Church, DL14 6AH

Saturday 7 September at 10.30am at St Mary's RC Church, DL14 6PQ