

# The Week

week starting 16 2 20

125

*Connecting the Sunday Sparkle at Hearsall Baptist with the Daily Dust of Life*

## Welcome

What were you best at during your school years? Have you developed talents in this area through your life?

## Worship

### **Read Matthew 21: 12 - 17**

- For what reasons was there a temple in Jerusalem?
- How had people behaved in a way that disrespected those reasons?
- Thank God that we ourselves are God's **building** (1 Corinthians 3:9); that Jesus' **body is a temple** (John 2:21) and that **our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit** (1 Corinthians 6:19). All are invited to give him praise.

## Word

### **Read 1 Corinthians 3: 1 - 4**

- Last Sunday (9<sup>th</sup> February) we heard about how some like to be in an in-crowd to keep others out. They saw this as wisdom, a kind of wisdom which Paul called worldly. Paul also spoke of God's deeper wisdom - the suffering love of Christ freely offered to all. Why did Paul find the behaviour described in these verses to be so inconsistent with the deeper wisdom of God?
- What are equivalent temptations for Hearsall, or for the church more widely?

### **Read 1 Corinthians 3: 5 - 7**

- How does Paul counter the tendency towards factions in the church?
- In verse 7, Paul is quite dismissive of the contributions of particular individuals to God's mission. How do you feel about that? Is he exaggerating to make a point, or should we be loathe to pick out individuals who have made outstanding contributions to church life?

### **1 Corinthians 3: 8 - 9**

- What is the 'one purpose' we all have in verse 8?
- What is the one purpose of our church?

- Who will reward us for the work we do?
- What is our status in God's great building project - or in God's great agricultural programme?
- What talents do you bring to church life? What do you really enjoy doing? Is there something you used to do, that you'd like to begin again? Is there some new area you'd love to develop? How does your talent relate to the 'one purpose' of Christ's church?
- Who is the most important person in church life?

### Response

- Consider Jesus' criticism of the Pharisees, that everything they do is to be seen by others (Matthew 23:5). Do some secret things this week!
- Undertake some new task to help the church or God's wider mission, but one that you do secretly. After you've done it, reflect on how you felt.
- Pray privately for the church and for others.