

WEEKLY SERMON

communicate@blackburn.anglican.org



How is Scalextric like the Kingdom of God?

I wonder how many of you are a fan of Scalextric? The slot car racing system that seems to have spanned the ages with no real changes to the technology behind it.

As a child, I was desperate to own a Scalextric. It was at a time when the cars had working lights and it was possible to get a digital lap counter-the height of technological advances! As with all children, I pleaded my case with my parents who said, “We can’t afford to get you one. If you want one, you’ll need to save the money yourself!” A disappointing response but understandable.

I am, by my nature, not the most patient person and one of my worst traits is my ‘hurry up’ trait, wanting to get things done yesterday. As a child, this was even more magnified and so the prospect of saving up over time from my meagre pocket money and small odd jobs was not appealing. However, the prize of the latest Scalextric was a great prize indeed and so despite my impatience I started to save. I drew up a chart on the wall and carefully noted down each pound saved. It took what seemed like a lifetime to save the money, but eventually the day came when I could purchase my beloved Scalextric and what a day it was. Such joy as I raced cars in the dark of my bedroom over bridges and around tight corners!

The Gospel reading for this week reminds me of this childhood memory. Jesus talks of the Kingdom of Heaven as a great treasure, one that it is worth pursuing at all costs. I look back at the determination of that impatient child, focussed on that one thing and wonder whether I pursue the Kingdom of Heaven with the same vigour and singlemindedness. Jesus ask questions of His disciples and us all through the telling of the parables of the treasure in the field and the pearl of great price in the passage. He asks us to what extent we pursue the Kingdom of Heaven, what its importance is in our lives and what we would give up for the Kingdom of Heaven. And so, as we reflect on this Gospel reading it is worth stopping to consider the place of Jesus in our lives and how much we truly desire for ‘Thy Kingdom to Come’

Stephen Whittaker
Director of Education