

# WEEKLY SERMON

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## The King we all need

It had all looked so promising at the start. Saul was young, tall and handsome (1 Samuel 9:2). Who wouldn't want a man like that to be made their king?

Surely, he would be a great warrior and lead Israel to victory against their enemies?

Despite his young age there was an admirable maturity about Saul. When his father rushed in one day to announce that the family's herd of donkeys had wandered off, Saul hadn't complained when his old man told him to go and find them; there was no hint of the grumpy, rebellious teenager in Saul.

And when the donkeys were hard to find, Saul had stuck at the task and refused to give up.

Then, as the search dragged on, there came that encounter with Samuel, the man of God. When the prophet was alone with Saul he had whipped out a flask of oil and dumped the lot on the young man's head.

At the same time, he dropped the bombshell that the Lord had anointed him to be king of Israel.

But Saul didn't let all this go to his head. Back at home he tried to behave as if nothing had happened and later, when Samuel arrived to oversee the coronation, Saul hid himself among the supplies!

The prophet announced, 'Do you see the man the Lord has chosen? There is no one like him among all the people.' (1 Samuel 10:24) And it was true. On top of his looks, he was respectful, persevering, and humble.

Who wouldn't want a king like that? And the people agreed: "Long live the king!" they shouted. And when a handful of miseries dissented, Saul even had the grace to forgive them.

But in the end Saul blew it all and failed Israel big-time. It was jealousy of David that did for him (1 Samuel 18:6-9). And, of course, the lesson God's word is teaching us is that the King we really need is Jesus.

As we look forward to the Coronation of King Charles III on May 6\* we wish him well and pray for him. At times we know he will disappoint us and so we commit ourselves to love and forgive him – he's only human! Above all our prayer is that he would know that Jesus is the King he really needs.

**Rev Canon Mark Jones, Vicar of Padiham with Hapton and Padiham Green**

\*For parish and school resources to celebrate the Coronation on the Diocesan website [click here](#).

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