



September 12th 2021

**Greetings in the name of our
Risen Lord Jesus Christ.
In this time of uncertainty,
we declare: Jesus is Lord!**

Putting out into deep water: 2

Last Sunday we began our new series of talks, 'Putting out into deep water', based on Jesus' challenge to the disciples in Luke 5. The Acts of the Apostles is a wonderful testament to how the early Christians responded to that challenge and 'put out into the deep', taking the message of the gospel throughout Asia and founding many thriving centres of Christian community. If you have time, please do read through Acts chapters 16 – 20, the chapters on which our series is based (we don't have time to read the whole chapters in our Sunday worship, and it will help to set the talks in context). Reading the chapters together helps us to see the bigger picture, and trace the leading of God's Spirit in the events and encounters described.

Margaret launched our series with Acts 16 and the story of the apostles in Philippi, a place of metaphorical 'deep water', a new continent and culture. Initially the apostles must wondered where to start – there was no synagogue to preach in, no familiar places of meeting. But the Holy Spirit is at work, and they are led to a group of women praying by the river. Lydia becomes the first convert, inviting others into her home to establish a church. Paul and Silas, finding themselves in prison, bear witness to the gospel and lead the gaoler and his household to faith. Unexpected people in unexpected places! God is at work in that place, bringing the apostles into contact with the right people at the right time.

As we look forward as a community and prepare to put out into deep water, it's worth taking time to look back with gratitude and see God's hand at work in our own situation, bringing the right people at the right time. Margaret said in her talk:

Here at St Peter's God brought Paul Morris. His lasting legacy for us was to build the extension with the lift and break-out area, and to make space for activity within the church building itself. Proverbs 16.9 says, 'In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps.' Are you and I in that place where God can use us, his people here, living for him? As Paul sails to Macedonia, God has prepared the way for individuals to respond to the Gospel.

In the coming weeks as we reflect on where God is calling us in the future, may we draw on God's goodness and faithfulness to us, not only in the building of St. Peter's Centre but in so many ways, over so many years, and through so many people – some unexpected, but the right people in the right place at the right time.

With my prayers and love,

Anita

Prayers on the theme of Putting out into Deep Water

God of love

The sea is so great and our boat is so small.

Inspire us as we put out into deep water.

Help us to be contemplative, compassionate and courageous in your mission

Guide us by your Spirit to discover where you are working.

Help us to join in the building of your kingdom

And anoint us afresh to make disciples in your name

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ who calls us and sends us

With you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen.

Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders

Let me walk upon the waters

Wherever You would call me

Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander

And my faith will be made stronger

In the presence of my Saviour.

Prayer for Education Sunday

Lord God, we thank you for the education we have been privileged to receive.

We give you thanks and praise for the people in our lives who have taught us and supported us and helped us to take steps forward in our journey with you.

Help us to encourage and support all those who work in education and to appreciate the important work they do.

Empower them by your Holy Spirit,

as they seek to live out their calling and serve you in this way.

In Jesus name. Amen.

Castleward Spencer Academy

Please pray for the new Castleward Spencer Academy – the first school to be located within our parish! A number of people have expressed interest in being involved with the school, and we are already building good links. Watch this space!

Sunday refreshments after the service

Last Sunday we were pleased to start serving tea and coffee again after the service after a long time without being able to! We are currently using disposable cups which are recyclable (so please put them in the recycling bin). If you're able to bring your own mug/reusable cup please do so we can use less paper cups. Thank you!

Afternoon Tea at St. Peter's

It's also been a long time since the Afternoon Tea at St. Peter's has been able to take place, but Margaret and her team hope to be up and running again from September onwards! Planned dates are Tuesday 14th September; Tuesday 12th October; Tuesday 9th November; and Tuesday 7th December. Tea will be served in the church at 2.15pm, followed by a short service of Evening Prayer. All are welcome – please call Margaret on 01332 239134 if you're planning to come so we can cater for the right number of people. Hope to see you there!

Praying for the Persecuted Church: Saudi Arabia

There are an estimated 1.2 million Christians in Saudi Arabia. It's a small percentage (3.5%) of the country's total population of 34.7 million, the majority of whom are Muslim.

Whether Saudi or expatriate, Christians living in Saudi Arabia – where the official religion and law is Islamic – can expect to encounter severe opposition to their faith.

The few Saudi Christians from a Muslim background face enormous pressure, especially from families. Leaving Islam is one of the biggest sins a Muslim can commit.

Men could face physical and emotional abuse, and public shaming. To get them to recant, material incentives are offered – but refusing could entail death. Meanwhile, women could face a range of consequences, including forced marriage, divorce, sexual abuse and house-arrest. The submissive position of women in Saudi society can make it treacherously difficult to escape. Whether male or female, it is little wonder many believers choose to keep their new faith secret.

Besides being exploited and poorly paid, Asian and African workers are regularly exposed to verbal and physical abuse because of their ethnicity and low status. Being a Christian can exacerbate this. Expatriate Christians are wary of sharing their faith and gathering for fellowship as it could lead to detention and deportation.

Nevertheless, the small number of Saudi Christians has been slowly increasing and they are becoming bolder, sharing their faith with others on the internet and Christian satellite TV channels. Such public action has led to serious repercussions from Saudi families and authorities.

Please keep praying for your brothers and sisters in Saudi Arabia. Your prayers make an enormous difference to those following Jesus no matter the cost.

Prayer Meeting

A reminder of our weekly prayer meeting every Tuesday at 11am via Zoom. It's wonderful that a group are gathering each week to pray (and there is so much to pray for!) – please do come along if you can. For more details, please contact Geoff.

Prayer ...

In this testing time, do not hesitate to ask for prayer for any concern you have. We all face difficulties and challenges, but prayer makes a difference. In an emergency, call Bren (07967 183601), and she will ask those on the prayer chain to pray for you.

Zoom Joining Details for the 10.45am Service:

On a Computer, Laptop, Smart Phone or Tablet: Click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/450891605?pwd=czNCTTJuaUJpQ3VlOVlnUm1zS0tKQT09>

Alternatively:

1. Open Zoom and select 'Join' or 'Join a Meeting'
2. Enter the Meeting ID: **450 891 605**
3. Select 'Join'
4. When prompted for the Meeting Password, enter **73837**
5. Select 'Continue' or 'Join Meeting' and you will be connected

By Phone – these are the numbers you must now use:

1. Pick any one of the numbers below (doesn't matter which), if one doesn't work, pick another: 0330 088 5830; 0131 460 1196; 0203 481 5237; 0203 481 5240; 0203 901 7895; 0208 080 6591; 0208 080 6592
2. Dial the number and when prompted for the Meeting ID press: **450 891 605#**
3. You will then be prompted for a Participant ID, just press #
4. Finally, you will be prompted for the Meeting Password, press: **73837#**
5. You will be connected and able to hear everything that is happening

If you have difficulty connecting, please call Anita

St. Peter's in the City Staff

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Building Manager: Melvyn Wood

Church Wardens:

Tim Benson, Liz Runcorn

Kitchen Supervisor: Gillian Wood

We are a community of faith, hope and love in the heart of the city

Follow us on Twitter: @stpetersderby; www.stpetersderby.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Officer: 07828 280455

Please note that copies of the Safeguarding Policy are available in the Church Office or at www.derby.anglican.org/safeguarding

The church office is currently open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday between 9.30am and 1.30pm. Telephone: 01332 360790,

office@stpetersderby.org.uk