

September 19th 2021

**Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ.**

**In this time of uncertainty,**

**we declare: Jesus is Lord!**

**Put Out into Deep Water (3)**

It can be quite something reading through Paul’s adventures, can’t it! I referred in my last sermon to Paul’s ability to bring people both to conversion and to rioting – it seems he had quite a talent for it.  Causing a riot is not something we covered in our training for the priesthood!  But it wasn’t just riots that Paul had to deal with.  If you read 2 Corinthians 11, you’ll come across this:  *Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea,**I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers.*

So, not all plain sailing for Paul, but certainly awe-inspiring.  And that’s just a snippet of a longer list in 2 Corinthians.  And looking back to our ‘Heroes of Faith’ series, we can again be awed by the actions of those who have served God in such remarkable ways.  People doing amazing things for God.  But there’s a danger, too.  It’s easy for us to think something along the lines of, ‘I could never do that’.  It’s easy to think we’re not brave enough, or clever enough, or any number of other reasons.  We might even just think we’re not in the right place.

My Mum’s parents were wonderful, godly people.  Grandad worked in missions, with lots of journeys to India, preaching all over England, and generally having a fairly ‘visible’ role in serving God.  But Grannie was a warrior on the battlefield of prayer, and didn’t have to leave the lounge to engage in her service to God.  Indeed, in many ways, her influence on me spiritually was greater than Grandad’s.  It can be easy for us to worry that we’re not doing ‘big things’ for God, like my Grandad was able to do.  But some of us might be called to serve God in our lounge rather than in a far-flung country – maybe through prayer, maybe through hospitality, maybe something else.

When Jesus told his disciples to put out into deep water, he wasn’t expecting them to learn a new skill at that point.  He didn’t tell them to start farming, or hunting, or take up carpentry like him.  He was telling them to carry on with what they were doing already, but to keep at it, regardless of the frustrations they’d experienced.  They needed to trust that, by keeping doing the right thing, they would see results.  I wonder if that story came back to them sometimes when they were ‘fishing for men’ as Jesus led them on to doing.  Keep going.

With my prayers,

Nick

**PCC Update**

**Harvest:** We plan to celebrate Harvest at our service on 3rd October. We will be collecting items to donate to local food banks – more details in next week’s news sheet.

**Christmas Lunch on Jesus:** The PCC decided, with regret, that it will not be possible to hold CLOJ in the usual way this year due to the ongoing uncertainty around Covid. Like last year, we will instead deliver gift cards to individuals and families who are nominated to enable them to buy their own Christmas food at Sainsburys. The date for delivering gift cards and CLOJ publicity will be available soon – watch this space!

**Inside Out:** As we begin to emerge from Covid, we are opening up the inside Our project again (it has kept supporting people throughout Covid, but many of the activities had to be put on hold). We have invested in sports equipment to enable Derby County Community Trust to run boxing and circuit training sessions for the Inside Out mentees, and we are looking forward to starting our weekly community lunch again. We are also delighted to have appointed a new member of staff to work alongside Wayne in developing the project. Revd Jo Honour has a wealth of experience in prison chaplaincy, and currently works at HMP Sudbury, as well as being involved in ministry at St Barnabas Derby (where Derek, her husband, is Vicar, and John Ferguson is curate!). Jo will be working two days a week for the project, usually Mondays and Tuesdays (although times may vary on occasion. Please do look out for her and introduce yourself if you’re around in St. Peter’s Centre on those days!

**WORTH:** The PCC is exploring partnering with WORTH, a Christian charity in Chesterfield providing long term aftercare to women who have been affected by domestic abuse. Do check out their website <https://worth-charity.co.uk> to find out more about the range of groups and services they provide. Although we hope that the partnership will be between WORTH and St. Peter’s, we anticipate people from other churches getting involved in the project too (we are already in touch with some people who have expressed interest in being involved). Please pray about this possibility, and, once again, more details to follow soon!

**Afternoon Tea at St. Peter’s**

It was wonderful this week to see the Afternoon Tea up and running again, with lots of familiar faces, many delicious cakes, and a heartwarming performance from Silvertones choir! If you missed it why not think about coming along to a future gathering. Upcoming dates are Tuesday 12th October; Tuesday 9th November; and Tuesday 7th December. Tea will 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!

**Sunday refreshments after the service**

We are pleased to be 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!

**Praying for the Persecuted Church: The Maldives**

There are estimated to be a very smaller number of Christians in the Maldives. The vast majority of people living there are Muslim.

The Maldives – a densely populated chain of nearly 1,200 islands – are viewed by many as a luxury holiday destination, but behind the beauty of this island paradise lies an oppressive regime. The close-knit, homogeneous community keeps close watch on each other for any sign of deviation – which naturally includes religious choice. All politicians relentlessly claim that they are keeping the Maldives 100 per cent Muslim, effectively leaving no space for any alternative.

Conversion to Christianity can result in harassment, violence or imprisonment. Women could also be forced to marry a Muslim to lure them back to Islam. Vigilante mobs have been known to abduct citizens suspected of being irreligious or non-Muslim. Expatriate Christians, most of them working in the tourist sector and coming from India and Sri Lanka, are also closely watched, making Christian fellowship very difficult. The oppressive regime makes it effectively impossible for Christians to openly express their faith in Jesus. Women and girls, for example, must still abide by traditional dress codes, otherwise they risk dangerously exposing themselves. Remarkably, husbands, wives and children may not even know of each other’s faith – such is the dangers it could entail.

Sadly, the new government, inaugurated in November 2018, is showing no signs of hesitation in its determination to keep the islands entirely free from religious influence that’s not Islamic. That said, a speech by President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih in 2019 suggested a determination to work with other countries to root out racism, xenophobia and hate speech. This is good news, given that Maldivians have been taught from a young age to hate Westerners and non-Muslims in general. There is little hint of tangible change yet, but it’s a glimmer of hope for us to build prayers from.

Please keep praying for your brothers and sisters in the Maldives. 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 of Holy Communion:**

**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

**The church office is currently open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday between 9.30am and 1.30pm. Telephone: 01332 360790,** [**office@stpetersderby.org.uk**](mailto:office@stpetersderby.org.uk)

**St. Peter’s in the City Staff**

**Acting Vicar/Associate Priest:** **Revd. Anita Matthews** [anita@stpetersderby.org.uk](mailto:anita@stpetersderby.org.uk)

**Curate: Revd. Nick Parish** [nick@stpetersderby.org.uk](mailto:nick@stpetersderby.org.uk)

**Vicar’s PA and Church Administrator: Hilary Streek** [office@stpetersderby.org.uk](mailto:office@stpetersderby.org.uk)

**Inside Out Project Workers: Wayne Summers** [wayne@insideoutderby.org.uk](mailto:wayne@insideoutderby.org.uk)

**Revd Jo Honour** [jo@insideoutderby.org.uk](mailto:jo@insideoutderby.org.uk)

**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***