

25th April 2021

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.” When Peter said those words about Jesus to the council of religious leaders in Jerusalem, he was sticking his neck out. More than that, he was risking his life.

A few years back, in 2011, I was preaching on these verses from Acts 4, which comes up this Sunday in the lectionary. Back then I noted how we don't really face the same kind of risk that Peter did, or that Christians in some other countries might face, when we speak out as followers of Jesus. We might face a bit of incredulity, ridicule or apathy, but nothing worse. I find myself now, just 10 years later, sadly wondering if that is still the case, or whether these days we do risk more than just a bit of eye-rolling or teasing if we make such exclusive claims about Jesus Christ.

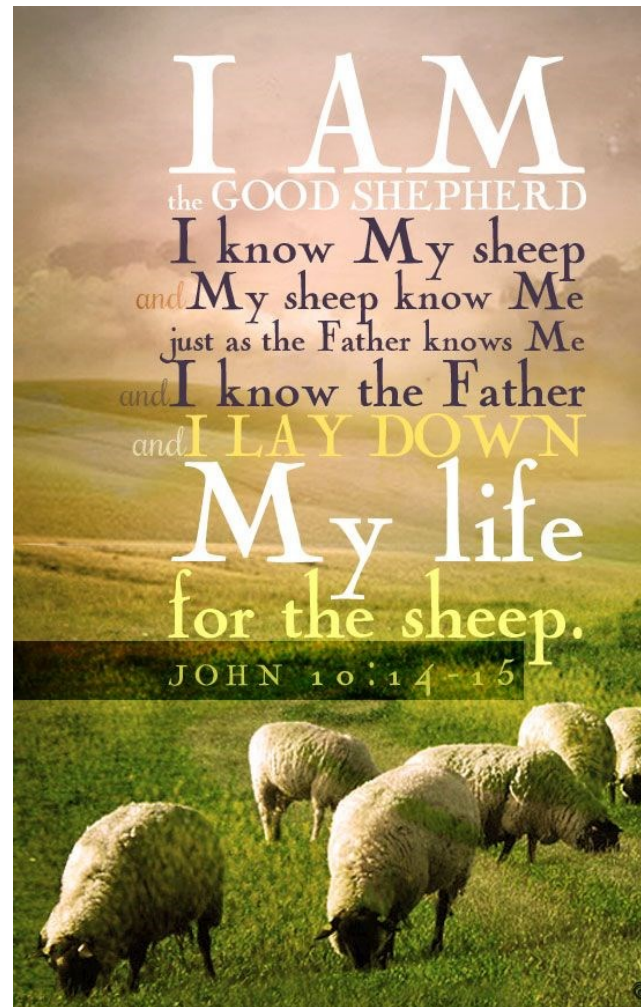
How was Peter able to be so bold?

We read that he is filled with the Holy Spirit. Just when he needed to take a deep breath and answer the interrogation of the authorities, God stepped in. God inspired the words that Peter would utter. God gave him the courage to say them. We can pray for the same Spirit.

Later in the chapter Peter concludes by saying “We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.” Peter is simply sharing his own story. He cannot deny his own lived experience of knowing Jesus and seeing him at work in the lives of all those who encountered him. We can pray that we would have our own experience of Jesus at work in our lives and have our own stories to share.

One of the things Peter had experienced was hearing, first-hand, Jesus explaining, ‘I am the good shepherd and I lay down my life for the sheep. The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life – only to take it up again.’ Why is Peter so convinced that salvation is found in no one else? Because no one else had died for him. No one else had conquered death for him. None of the other gods or prophets or philosophers on offer had done that. Not then. Not now.

Catherine



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Our APCM will be held on **Monday 24th May at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church**. All necessary COVID precautions will be taken; however, like last year, we will probably be Zooming the meeting as well.

The usual revision of the **Electoral Roll** will be taking place and you will need to be on the Electoral Roll if you wish to vote at the APCM. If you are not sure if you are on the current Electoral Roll, then you can check the copy which will be posted in church, or you can contact the Church Office. Nomination forms for joining the Electoral Roll will also be in church and will be on the church website. Copies can also be obtained from our Electoral Roll Officer, Ray Thomas (rdthomas67@hotmail.co.uk).

There will be 6 vacancies for PCC. Please talk to Catherine for more information about what is involved. Nomination forms will be available in church and on our website soon.

Regular Services

To join any of our regular Zoom services, click on the links below. If you need a copy of the liturgy for any of the services, please contact the Church Office.

Sunday 9.00am Communion Service in church

Sunday 10.30am ZOOM (Morning Worship)

Zoom link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09)

[pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09)

Meeting ID: 853 3712 4930 Password: 867888

Readings: Acts 4.5-12; John 10.11-18

Wednesday Morning Prayer 9.00am ZOOM

Zoom link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09)

[pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09)

Meeting ID: 899 4327 8704 Password: 730701

Thursday Evening Compline 7.00pm ZOOM

Zoom link: [https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78321229825?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78321229825?pwd=R2lUZUJjMDRnTGhINlFPejRLTW5Xdz09)

[pwd=R2lUZUJjMDRnTGhINlFPejRLTW5Xdz09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78321229825?pwd=R2lUZUJjMDRnTGhINlFPejRLTW5Xdz09)

Meeting ID: 783 2122 9825 Password: 3164610

You can join any of the above meetings by phone using any of the following numbers and the meeting IDs and passwords above: 0203 481 5237 / 0203 481 5240
0131 460 1196 / 0203 051 2874

Prayer



Please pray for the Queen and Royal Family in their loss. Please pray for the family and friends of Brian Maddox.

Please continue to pray for our deanery review process 'Shaping for Mission' and the team as they try to discern God's vision for our deanery.

Staying in Touch

Our Church Office is not staffed at the moment, but e-mails and phone messages are being picked up regularly:

Phone: 01630 653505 **E-mail:**

stmarysmd@btinternet.com

We will continue to post information to our website and Facebook page:

Website: www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk

Facebook: @StMarysMarketDrayton

Vicar: Catherine McBride

E-mail: vicarofstmarys@gmail.com

Phone: 01630 656943

If you do not wish to continue to receive these newsletters, please let us know.

Market Drayton Churches Together New webmaster needed...

Churches Together are looking for a new webmaster to look after its website. The site uses WordPress, which is an easy to use platform. For the last ten years it has been looked after by Randall Hardy who would like to pass on the responsibility to someone else in the coming months. Randall is willing to spend time familiarising his replacement with the user interface if necessary. Could this be an opportunity for you to serve the local Christian community? Time, motivation and not being terrified by computers are all that is required. In the first instance please contact Sue Frankfort on 01630 655158

Foodbank Items Needed

Stock Items urgently required



Coffee—No Stock

Custard—No Stock

Corned Beef—No Stock

Sponge Puddings / Slab Cake—No Stock

Whole Milk (UHT) Blue Carton—No Stock

Men's Deodorant—No Stock

Cooking and Pasta Sauces (no pasta needed)

Wet Cat Food

Long Life Cartons of Fruit Juice

Cleaning Products

Local Supermarket vouchers-

Morrisons/Lidl/Aldi/Asda/Sainsburys

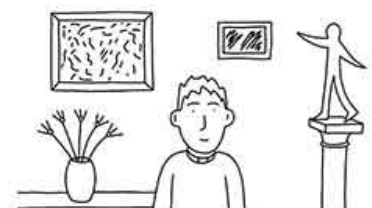
Donations can be dropped off at the Parish Rooms on Tuesdays and Fridays 9-11am. If you are unable to bring donations to the Parish Rooms or to the drop-off points in our local supermarkets, please contact Catherine McBride or Carol Corney, who can arrange to have someone come and pick up your donations.

BACKGROUNDS

FOR BROADCASTING FROM THE CLERGY STUDY



SCHOLARLY



ARTISTIC



SPIRITUAL



REALISTIC