

27th June 2021

## Courageous

I must admit I never really understood adrenaline junkies. I couldn't see the attraction of launching myself off the side of a bridge, with just a piece of elastic tied to my ankles. I quite liked my retina attached to the back of my eyeball, thank you very much. And I didn't fancy the idea of screaming round and round in circles, sitting 6 inches off the ground in a glorified lawn mower; or running round a forest, firing balls of paint at someone. But then I tried white water rafting and OH MY LIFE!!! I was buzzing afterwards.

We might have come across those who wouldn't class themselves as adrenaline junkies or thrill-seekers, but who do seem to court danger or engage in risky behaviour in relationships or in business or in their lifestyles.

As we think this week about having courage, it's not thrill-seeking we have in mind, but it might mean taking risks—albeit calculated ones.

There may be times when God 'calls us out of the boat'; when he asks us to take a pretty big step of faith and to trust him for the outcome. I guess we need to prayerfully consider our own motivation in situations like that and make sure we're not engaging in a bit of spiritual thrill-seeking. But sometimes, like the disciple Peter, 'out of the boat' is exactly where God is calling us (Matthew 14.22-33).

We might not consider ourselves in the same league as Peter, when it comes to taking a courageous step of faith, so what about Nehemiah? Nehemiah was a planner, an administrator, a manager—you could hardly call him impulsive and he certainly wasn't a thrill-seeker. But his story shows us how God calls all personality types to have courage and take great steps of faith.

Maybe Nehemiah's story shows us a greater kind of courage (Nehemiah 1 & 2). Peter impulsively leaps over the side of his boat to walk towards Jesus over the stormy waves. He almost doesn't think about what he's doing, until it's too late and the wind and waves are coming at him from all sides. Only then does he seem to realise what a crazy thing he's doing... and starts to sink.



Nehemiah, on the other hand knows exactly what he's letting himself in for. He knows he's risking his life approaching the Persian king for permission to return to Israel, to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. He knows the task is huge. He knows he's going to face opposition and intimidation. But he does it anyway. He accepts God's call with his eyes wide open.

Perhaps there is a bit of 'Timothy' about Nehemiah. Timothy, the young church leader is encouraged by Paul not to have 'a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline (2 Timothy 1.7). Not having a spirit of timidity is not about being gung-ho, it is about knowing the power of the God we worship; it is about loving him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and— from that place of power and love—prayerfully using the gifts, discernment, wisdom (and common sense!) God has given us to chart a way forward. That way forward might be bold and require great courage' but that's very different from being reckless or foolhardy.

The most excitement and jeopardy I get these days might be watching the final of Sewing Bee, but that doesn't mean the white-water rafter in me is completely gone. There are different types of courage—the Peter, Nehemiah and Timothy types—and at various times in our Christian journey we will need all of them.

*Catherine*

## Funeral of Pamela Skipwith

Pamela's funeral will be on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June at 12.45pm. Numbers allowed at the funeral will be somewhat limited due to the continued requirement for social distancing, so do please check with Guy before planning to attend.

However, the service will be on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82512221683?pwd=cmsreUhpWFVycm1aelhjTFNtZytkUT09>

Meeting ID: 825 1222 1683 Passcode: 141721

## 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: Nehemiah 2.1-6, 11-18; 2 Timothy 1:1-12

### 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=R2lUZUJjMDRnTGhINIFPejRLTW5Xdz09)

[pwd=R2lUZUJjMDRnTGhINIFPejRLTW5Xdz09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78321229825?pwd=R2lUZUJjMDRnTGhINIFPejRLTW5Xdz09)

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

## Open Air Service

We will be holding an open air service in the churchyard on **Sunday 11th July at 4.00pm**. Being outside means we can sing some songs and hymns, so bring a deck chair or a picnic rug and join us (and pray for sunshine!).

## Midweek Communion Services

Our midweek Holy Communion services will start again Thursday 1st July at 10.00am. It will be lovely to gather again for this traditional, yet relaxed and welcoming service.

## Dementia Training

Our pilot Zoom Dementia Training course begins on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> of July, 2.00pm**. It consists of 4, weekly, 1 hour sessions on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> July and 4<sup>th</sup> August. Anyone interested should be able to attend all 4 dates.

Places are limited, so please apply as soon as possible. Other sessions will be run again later in the Summer. Please email [avrilinnocent@btinternet.com](mailto:avrilinnocent@btinternet.com) or speak to Val Creasey (07790 344850) or Avril Innocent (07794 260029).

## Prayer



Please continue to pray for Guy Skipwith and all Pamela's family. Please pray for Nita Heath's son Antony and grandson Ben. Please pray for Muriel Rowley and Jill Hurst. Please pray for Daniel Timmis, being christened on Sunday and for his family.

## Foodbank Items Needed



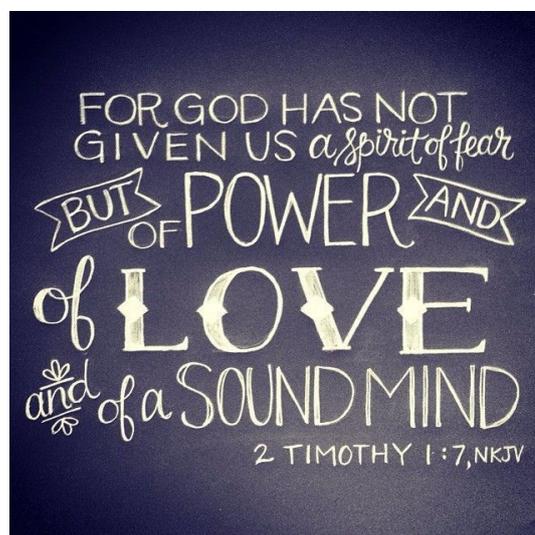
### Stock Items urgently required

**No Stock—** UHT Milk Biscuits Small Jars of Coffee Rice Pudding Sponge Puddings / Slab Cake Long Life Cartons of Fruit Juice Custard Tinned Spaghetti

**Low Stock—** Jam Toilet Rolls Baby Wipes Deodorant

**Other—** Shampoo / Conditioner Shower Gel Washing-up Liquid Cleaning Products Laundry Tabs Wet Dog Food Dry Cat Food

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.



## St Mary's Brass Band

I bet you didn't know we had one!! Our Brass Band isn't the musical variety, it's the faithful band of volunteers who help to clean the brass items and fixtures in our church. The group could really do with a few more willing pairs of hands. The 'hours' are flexible to suit you. If you would like to know more, or are interested in helping, then please contact Nita Heath on 01630 655559.

## 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](mailto:stmarysmd@btinternet.com)

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

**Website:** [www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk](http://www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk)

**Facebook:** @StMarysMarketDrayton

**Vicar:** Catherine McBride

**E-mail:** [vicarofstmarys@gmail.com](mailto:vicarofstmarys@gmail.com)

**Phone:** 01630 656943

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