

# **CUTTING EDGE CAMELOT, No 45**

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

**'Virtually Church but with some way to go...'**

## **Welcome**

Welcome to this Sunday's edition of Cutting Edge Camelot.

## **Scripture Passage**

*Matthew 14.22-33*

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

## Reflection

Our Bible passage from Matthew begins with the word ‘immediately’ because the events come straight after the feeding of the five thousand. Jesus sends the disciples off across the lake, while he takes some time out to pray. But as evening comes, the conditions on the lake deteriorate; the boat is being battered by wind and waves. The disciples – many of them fisherman – were scared: it must have been an unusually bad storm. Jesus’ appearance walking on the water does little to reassure them, in fact it makes them even more terrified! But Jesus calls out to them: “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid”. And Peter, who is often a little impulsive, replies, “Lord, if it is you,



command me to come to you on the water”. Jesus commands Peter to come, and he does, and for a few moments he too is walking on the water with Jesus. But then the reality of

his situation hits him – the strong wind, the large waves – and he begins to sink. Peter calls out, and immediately Jesus is there, holding him tight and rescuing him. Jesus asks him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?”, and as they get into the boat the wind ceases. After the roaring wind and waves, you can imagine the sudden calm and quiet, and the awe that came over the disciples as they worshipped Jesus and proclaimed, “Truly you are the Son of God”.

What an extraordinary event to have witnessed! And the fact that we have a record of the event shows what an impact it had on those who were there. But what might it mean for us today?

I think it has a lot to teach us about **faith**.

First, it is a reminder that the life of faith, the life of being a Christian, is not all plain sailing! Just as the disciples battled with the waves, far from land, and with the wind against them, sometimes we find ourselves battered by the waves of life, feeling as if we are far from safety and security, and as if everything is against us. I wonder how many of us have felt that during these last few months? However, this passage is a reminder that Jesus comes towards us and meets us in these times. Despite the fact that the disciples were fishermen, and therefore may well have had the experience and knowledge to cope with the storm, Jesus comes to them in their distress. And when we face the inevitable storms of life, Jesus comes to us too.

The second thing we learn about faith in this passage is that the life of faith is rarely free from doubt. Again and again throughout the Bible, we see that even those who seem to have the deepest faith have moments of doubt. Even as Peter sees Jesus walking on the water he says, “Lord, IF it is you...”; I wonder if you’ve found yourself thinking or praying, “Lord, IF you really want me to do X, please do Y”, or “IF this message really is from you, then...” We want reassurance. After Peter has courageously stepped out of the boat, he notices the strong wind and begins to sink. He begins to doubt. This isn’t to say that whenever we have moments of doubt we will literally begin to sink, but it is a reminder that when we take our eyes off Jesus and when we allow ourselves to become so overwhelmed by our fears and by our circumstances, we can feel as if we are sinking deeper and deeper into our doubts. And we need to remember that when we, like Peter, call out, “Lord, save me!”, Jesus is already there, coming towards us and ready to stop us sinking into our doubts.

You may wish to offer up to God any doubts or fears that you are currently struggling with, safe in the knowledge that Jesus is with us, and that even when the storms of life come and when our doubts and fears threaten to engulf us, he does not leave us, he holds us tight.

*Anna*

## Hymn Suggestion

A modern song which Anna suggests you might look at is 'Oceans' by Hillsong. You can find this at:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1m\\_sWJQm2fs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1m_sWJQm2fs). A more traditional suggestion might once again be 'Eternal Father strong to save'.

## Points for Prayers

- For our spiritual growth and discipleship as we respond to the good news of Jesus Christ
- Thanksgiving for services planned and taking place in the Group following the easing of lockdown
- Thanksgiving for care, skill and courage of NHS workers and those in care homes
- Those suffering from coronavirus in hospitals, care homes and at home
- Need for further largescale testing and research into and development of a vaccine as soon as this can be achieved
- For Beirut in the aftermath of the terrible explosion earlier this week
- For wedding of Martin and Lizzie taking place in the benefice on 12<sup>th</sup> August
- Bishop Peter receiving hospital treatment (please see notice below)
- Prayers for those affected economically by the lockdown, for businesses and those who have become unemployed
- Prayers and thanksgiving for contributions to the foodbanks and for those helping to take these to the foodbanks.

## **Services of public worship in August**

Please see the following schedule of services of public worship planned for the rest of August. This does not include all of the monthly services across the Group held pre-lockdown. So if a service in the Group which you regularly attended is not included in the schedule you are of course most welcome to attend any other service within the Group. However, because of the limitations on capacity in the various churches through the need for social distancing it would be appreciated if you could in these circumstances let the relevant churchwarden know in advance of your intention to do this.

Please note that the 11.00 am Sunday Worship on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August at St Mary's Yarlington is an addition to the previously published schedule of services. Any further additions to this schedule will be notified as and when they arise.

### Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August

9.30 am, Communion, Galhampton

9.30 am, Communion, St John the Baptist North Cheriton

### Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August

9.30 am, Communion, St Mary's Compton Pauncefoot

11.00 am, Sunday Worship, St Michael's North Cadbury

11.00 am, Communion, St Peter and St Paul, Maperton

### Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August

9.30 am, Communion, St Thomas a Becket, South Cadbury

9.30 am, Communion, St John the Baptist, North Cheriton

11.00 am, Communion, St Michael's North Cadbury

11.00 am, Sunday Worship, St Mary's Yarlington

## Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August

6.30 pm, Evening Service (Common Worship), Galhampton

### **Reopening churches for private prayer**

The commencement of a number of services across the Group means that the arrangements for private prayer will now change. The arrangements for August are as follows:-

## Sunday morning openings

### Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August

South Cadbury open from 10 am to 11.30 am

Compton Pauncefoot open from 9.30 am to 10.30 am.

### Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August

North Cheriton open from 9.30 am to 10.30 am

Compton Pauncefoot open from 9.30 am to 10.30 am.

## Midweek openings

### Wednesday afternoons, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>

North Cadbury, open from 2.30 pm to 4.00 pm (please note there is no opening on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August because of a wedding on that day.)

## Galhampton

Wednesday afternoons, 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm followed by Celtic Worship led by Alison at 7.00 pm.

## **Excalibur and the Parish Office**

Because of concerns relating to the hand delivery of parish magazines and also the relative lack of available content an electronic rather than a printed version of Excalibur will be produced during the period of the restrictions. This will be available on the website, [www.camelotparishes.co.uk](http://www.camelotparishes.co.uk), and will include Camelot People giving details of occasional offices in the benefice (this for the moment is confined to funerals during the suspension of both weddings and baptisms). The August Excalibur is now online and can be downloaded from the homepage of the website.

The Parish Office is now closed. Please contact Rob via email ([office@camelotparishes.org.uk](mailto:office@camelotparishes.org.uk)) or on 01749 850934.

## **Our Bishops**

Bishop Peter is stepping back from his duties for the moment in order to undergo treatment for leukaemia. Please pray for him and his family in this challenging time. Please pray also for Bishop Ruth and the rest of the Bishop's Staff as they take on the oversight of the diocese in his absence.

## **Church of England Daily Hopeline**

The Archbishop of Canterbury has launched a new telephone service, 'Daily Hopeline'. If you ring the free number 0800 804 8044 you can hear a recorded message and can also listen to well-known hymns along with prayers and a reflection based on a hymn.

## **Premier Radio**

Available from Premier Radio (DAB radio and channel 725 via Freeview TV) Sunday morning of sacred music, songs and teaching etc, 7.00am-12.00 noon. Includes 'Hearts and Hymns' by Pam Rhodes, 8.00 to 10.00 am with great variety of hymns and accompanying information.

Bible studies on weekday mornings.

### **Some other streamed resources**

Here are a selection of some streamed resources available online which you may find helpful:-

- The Royal School of Church Music website provides a Hymn of the Day and Sunday Self-Service with music, readings and prayers.
- The Prayer Book Society has details of online streaming of BCP services.

*Growing as a worshipper, a servant and a family*

*We pray that 'we might live in love,  
as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us'*

(Ephesians 5:2)