



Our Vision Sunday started with our Vicar's 'Great Big Thank You' to anyone who has been a team member or in any way played a part in the mission and ministry of our church during the last year. Then came the second of our talks on **BEING INCREASINGLY COURAGEOUS for CHRIST**. Last week from Mark 6 (listen on the website if you missed it) we saw that Jesus is offering us courage as a gift for our times of vulnerability. This week, with the help of a handout we have the blueprint for the next few year's priorities at St Paul's. **Matt 14: 22-33.**

1. Peter's Courage (Part 1) Verses 26-29.

- All the disciples thought they were looking at a ghost, but impulsive Peter, on hearing Jesus' order to 'take courage', seeks the call of Jesus: 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water'. Jesus replies, 'Come' and all Peter has to do is to trust and obey: to believe and go to Jesus.
- Peter momentarily lives out 'Trusting obedience', he got out of the boat and (*literally*) 'began to walk, intending to come to Jesus'. But it takes courage to trust and obey, to believe and follow Jesus.

2. Becoming Increasingly Courageous for Christ at St Paul's will involve:

- **Believing:** We have crowds of people on our fringes: spectators to both church and faith. We want all of them to move from spectator to disciple: to discover the life changing gospel of grace and experience the reality of the living God: we need to be much more courageous in sharing the Good News. There are ways to achieve this through small groups, Sunday services, outreach and new initiatives.
- **Becoming:** We want to see everyone personally growing to be more like Christ, whether we have followed Him for a week or for 60 years. We need to learn to own our growth in faith and recognise that we are being transformed for the glory of God. Small groups will be great places for working this through individually, in the company of a small, courageous community of praying believers.
- **Young People:** We already have an exceptional Youth and Children's ministry here, but there are thousands of children and young people growing up in Dorking with no knowledge of, nor hope in, the Gospel. We must resource this work beyond maintaining the status quo and position it for growth.
 - Peter and team have just launched a new Wednesday evening ministry to 14-18s.
 - Ruth will be spending more time at our church school with its mission field of 300 families.
 - We'll need to appoint a part-time youth minister to work with Steve, to grow our schools work, our pastoral work and mission and ministry to the young.
- **Our role as a Resource Church:** The aim of our growth is not for St Paul's to become a huge church which draws in Christians from miles around but to be both effective in our own parish and to share our resources to help other churches to grow. Ruth has been meeting with the vicars of both St Martin's and St John's North Holmwood, praying and exploring how we can work together.
 - Dorking town grew in the 19th century and a new church was needed to serve this area. Our parish was carved out of St Martin's, which could be called the mother church, and funded by local people.
 - For decades, St Martin's has seen a decline in its congregation: their average age is 79 (the average age for the C of E nationally is 59). St Martin's has no Sunday school nor a youth group.
 - The plan is to partner with them and send a team from St Paul's to launch a new Sunday afternoon congregation at St Martin's, reaching out to families from St Martin's school and starting this January
 - We'll be joined by folk from St John's who would like to do something similar by December 2018.

3. Courageous levels of Giving will be needed!

- Employing an additional youth minister and resourcing other churches will be expensive for us even if we do manage to secure some grant aid. 10 new givers giving £50 a month = £6,000 and 100 existing givers raising their giving by £10 a month = £12,000. It soon adds up if enough people respond.
- October 1st is both Harvest and Pledge Sunday. We are invited to bring our pledge in for this vision as a thank offering to God for the bounty we have at St Paul's, using the yellow pledge envelopes.

4. Peter's Courage. (Part 2) Verses 30-33.

Peter stands in the water and looks at the storm, instead of looking at Jesus. His courage fails him and he sinks. His heroic discipleship had lasted for a fleeting moment, but no-one noticed, they all were too busy worshipping Jesus and recognising Him as 'Truly, the Son of God'. Being increasingly courageous for Jesus will mean taking more risks and therefore failing. We will 'get wet' sooner or later and Jesus will have to rescue us. Glory be to Jesus whose grace is sufficient for us, whose power is made perfect in our weaknesses. **2 Corinthians 12: 9.**