

## *St Mary's Church News*



### *Step Out of the Boat*

I have recently re-read the wonderful story of how Jesus walked across – notice, not through but across – the Sea of Galilee; rescued his impetuous follower, Peter, from drowning when he jumped over the side of the boat and tried to do the same thing and finally calmed the vicious storm in which the disciples had found themselves, before calmly stepping into the boat with them all to finish their voyage to the other side of the lake. All of this in just a few short verses (Matthew 14:22-33). There are so many amazing things about this story, far too many to unpack here, but I want to talk about just one of them.

I wonder if, perhaps, at the moment you feel a bit like me? Recently I have felt a little, well quite a lot actually, like one of those disciples in the boat that morning, being buffeted by the storm, tossed about by the wind and the waves. It's been dark for a while now and it's still not yet light enough to see where we're going; we've all been rowing hard, so we're pretty tired but it feels like we're hardly moving some days; certainly, the safety of the shore seems a long way off. We aren't even certain what the shore will look like when we do eventually get there, but we know that it won't be the one we left earlier this year. Does any of that sound familiar?

Are we there with the disciples, peering out of the boat, looking for the figure striding towards us across the waves? And even if we are, what are we going to do when he asks us to trust him and to step out of the boat? Are we going to jump straight over the side like Peter? Or are we going to be like somebody from one of our favourite TV sitcoms, in a 'no, no, after you, I insist' kind of way, whilst all the while hanging on to the side for dear life with absolutely no intention of letting go?

We've been through a lot already this year and all the signs are that we aren't out of the woods just yet. Things are beginning to change now though, and no longer can we just huddle in the bottom of the boat and hope for the best. There are bound to be some difficult choices ahead as we start to move forward again and how we react to them will be what makes the difference, to our faith and our church life, as well as to what we do in everything else. At some point, as Christians, we will be called to step out in faith. Hopefully it won't be quite so dramatic as that day on the Sea of Galilee but we can take hope from the fact that Christ will be there, calling us, and reaching out a helping hand to grab us; he has no intention of letting us sink! Look after each other and stay safe.

Best wishes,

*Revd Paul Maple*  
*Curate, Churches of Welton, Dunholme and Scothern*

### ***Threechurchespray***

During September, St Mary's, St Chad's and St Germain's churches in our benefice will be praying for Welton streets as follows: Beckhall, The Wells, The Carrs, The Harrows, Furrow Close, Ridge Close, Pond Close, The Grove, Tinkermere Close, Willow Way and Ayam Close. If you would like to join us as prayer triplets or would like to know a bit more before you make up your mind, please contact Glyn on 861907 or Dave on 860986.

### ***Light Up St Mary's***

**Friday 11th September: Marjorie Bassett**, in loving memory of a loving Mum, Nan and Great Nan on the anniversary of her 97th birthday, from all the family.

**Saturday 12th September: Harold Storr**, in loving memory of Harold Storr on what would have been his 100th birthday, with love from all the family

**Wednesday 23rd September: Albert Bassett** in loving memory of Albert Bassett, still greatly missed by all the family.