

Thoughts from the Prayer Corner 5

If you were to go on a journey with Jesus by boat, I wonder what sort of craft you might choose?



A small sailing boat? Plenty here to choose from



Or perhaps something a little more “old fashioned” like a man-at-war



Or a sailing boat with sails of your own choice of colour and design



Or a simple rowing boat. This one seems to have a captain already and a paint job wouldn't go amiss!

Or perhaps something completely different, the choice is yours.

Having chosen your mode of transport, take time to think about why this particular type of boat appeals to you.

As you get ready to set sail, maybe there are one or two questions you might like to ask:

The first essential. Is the boat seaworthy?

What preparations do you need to make?

Weather conditions, what are they?

Supplies, what do you need?

Compass, maps etc, do you have them?

Radio, flares etc in case of emergency

Are you sailing alone or with companions?

What level of experience do you have?

Sometimes our faith journey with Jesus can be akin to setting sail in a boat. There are times when we journey alone, others when members of our Church family will join us for part of the way, and then there are times when we party onboard. There will be times when we lose our way, or, find ourselves tossed around by the waves of life, or becalmed in the middle of nowhere waiting for the wind to carry us forward. Often, we will find new lands of discovery and new peoples to meet, stories to share.

As we take time to reflect over the past few months and prepare to transition into a new phase in life, I wonder where your journey has taken you?

Maybe your boat has been moored up in the harbour waiting for a favourable tide to take you out, or perhaps the time has been spent in preparation.

Perhaps you have been waiting for others to join you or maybe you are intending to sail alone.

Or, could you have been at sea for the whole time, encountering storms, finding new skills, experiencing times of peace and calm.

Perhaps you are weary and find yourself waiting just outside the harbour for the tide to bring you in for refreshment and renewal.

One thing we know, **God loves us**. He knows us inside out, He knows our thoughts before we have formulated them for ourselves.

Psalm 139:1-6 reminds us:

- ¹ *You have searched me, LORD,
and you know me.*
- ² *You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.*
- ³ *You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.*
- ⁴ *Before a word is on my tongue
you, LORD, know it completely.*
- ⁵ *You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.*
- ⁶ *Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.*

And verses 23-24

- ²³ *Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.*
- ²⁴ *See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.*

May we truly know Emmanuel – God with us through the coming weeks and months. Amen

Margaret