



# McClure Mumblings

Steve & Debs serving with The Navigators in Southampton and beyond

Mar 2018 Edition



## Happy Easter



### Finding Freedom: Jesus' Resurrection

"There exists such overwhelming evidence, positive and negative, factual and circumstantial, that no intelligent jury in the world could fail to bring in a verdict that the resurrection story is true." *Lord Darling (former Chief Justice 1914-1918)*

This past term with the students we have been considering the question of Freedom. The world around us tells us that freedom is about doing and saying whatever you want without limit or boundaries. Yet if we are honest we see that such boundaries are necessary. To make this point, Tim Keller cites the examples of the fish (who would not survive outside of its natural habitat of water) and love (the ultimate loss of freedom for the sake of another). Healthy boundaries are part of God's plan and purpose for our lives. God's big story shows us how God made us free but we rejected God's boundaries at the Fall and became slaves to our sin, to our natural inclination to live our way without reference to God. What was supposed to be a choice to be free actually led to becoming enslaved! God however had a plan to set us free from that sin, a plan which has been on God's heart since before creation to send His Son to pay the price of our freedom. Approximately 2000 years ago Jesus died a cruel death on our behalf but that is not the end of the story. On that first Easter morning two women went to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body with spices. Upon their arrival they found the stone was rolled away, the tomb empty and they were told that Jesus had risen from the dead. Whatever we conclude about what happened that day almost all scholars agree on three things: first, the tomb was empty; second, the disciple's believed that they encountered the risen Jesus; and third, these events had a significant impact on the early church. As the quote above suggests, the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus (and indeed for the accounts that record it) is overwhelming. What you make of this evidence?

Paul, in 1 Corinthians 15, spends time examining the evidence and the implications (if true) of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. If He did not rise from the dead then there is no hope for us; nor will we rise from the dead, and our faith is also futile. Our hope is built upon the fact that Jesus did rise from the dead and that one day we too will be resurrected, one day we will be truly free when we will be like Jesus. There will be no more sin, no more pain and no more death. Peter describes this hope as a 'living hope' not just because Jesus lives but because by God's grace we also live and look forward to all that God has in store for us. Easter is a huge reminder of the hope we have because of all that Jesus has accomplished for us. Let's celebrate the Cross and the Resurrection this Easter.



## Update & Prayer Points

**Student Ministry:** Since our last letter, life has been particularly full, but also quite rewarding. In the student ministry we have seen steady growth both numerically, but, also, more importantly spiritually. What fun it has been to labour alongside our maturing team who are going all out to help others grow as disciples of Jesus. Please pray for us next term as we continue our series of workshops on Freedom (looking at the big issues of Sexuality, Identity and Relationships) and looking at 1 & 2 Thessalonians in the small groups. Please pray too for our small group (who have done Christianity Explored with Debs and I): we will be seeking to develop deep foundations of Faith next term.

**International Missions Team:** Steve continues to serve with this team and really enjoys helping others to engage with God's heart for the nations. We are excited to have summer teams preparing to go to Thailand, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Ukraine & Slovakia. Please do pray for these opportunities that they would be times of much growth for all who go and also those on the receiving end. We will talk more about our trip to Norway next time but are pleased to say that flights are booked and plans are well under way for Discipleship Week and to have a small team come out for a slightly longer trip. Please pray for us as we continue to plan and prepare for this adventure.

**Formation School (with Above Bar Church):** Steve is now well over half way through this training year. It has been really fun to be a part of this and Steve is learning lots from it. Please pray that he would finish well in July.

**Family:** Debbie continues to enjoy splitting her time between her part-time OT job, the ministry and the family. As you can see from the photos all the kids are doing well and continue to be quite lively. As ever we covet your prayers for each of them that they would come to know true freedom.

*To God be the Glory,*

*Steve, Debs, Benjamin, Naomi, Samuel, Jacob & Aaron*

### Spring/Summer Dates:

- Fri 30 Mar to Sat 7 Apr:** Family Holiday in the Lake District
- Sat 28 April:** Celebration of 50 years of SOTON NAVS
- Fri 4 May:** Student Leadership Community (Southampton)
- Fri 4-Sun 6 May:** Global Fest Weekend (Above Bar Church)
- Fri 11-Sun 13 May:** Annual Reps Conference (Swanwick)
- Sat 2 June**  
End of Year BBQ
- Mon 23 July – Mon 6 Aug**  
McClures in Norway
- Fri 31 Aug - Sun 2 Sep:** NAVS Student Forum (Lake District)

**sotonNAVS** What's on this term

*Experiencing Freedom*

All regular meetings are at 53 Harefield Road on Thursdays at 6:30pm

JAN	11	Made to be Free Created in the Image of God
FEB	1	Are We Truly Free? (part 1) Captives of our Hearts
FEB	15	Are We Truly Free? (part 2) Captives of the World
MAR	1	Free Indeed! Living as God Intended
MAR	15	Christ Has Set Us Free Celebrating the Resurrection
APR	19	God's Gift to Us Exploring our Sexuality
MAY	3	God's Delight in Us Exploring our Identity
MAY	17	God's Desire for Us Exploring our Relationships

Find out more or get in touch with us via:

- Southampton Student NAVS
- @sotonnavs
- contact@sotonnavs.org
- Other Events:**  
 Film Night: 'The Truman Show'  
 (Thurs 21st 8pm & 8:30pm)  
 BIG WEDDING: 'Change Your Mind'  
 (Fri 23rd - Sun 25th Feb in Blackpool)

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