



Northall Baptist Church – 200

years and still going.

A little Church with strong local links.

Travelling the Mediterranean

How the year is flying by. Nearly a quarter of 2022 done! We are still rushing around with plenty to do. Are you hoping to book a holiday this year?

A recent message at the Church was all about the Apostle Paul's journeys to spread the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ. What a busy life St. Paul led. And not too peaceful either with many attacks, imprisonments and shipwrecks!

To some these days, a little jaunt around the Mediterranean might be appealing after having had our wings clipped by the restrictions over the last two years.

So why was Paul travelling around the Mediterranean?

Paul, originally known as Saul was struck down by a bright light, after he had been persecuting the Christians with great enthusiasm. Paul then had a firsthand encounter with the risen Lord. Everyone has heard about how this happened on the road to Damascus. In everyday language, people talk about having a 'road to Damascus' experience. This means a complete change of direction. Paul changed totally as a result of his experience. He was blinded for three days until help arrived. He then had to escape from Damascus in a basket lowered from the city walls. This was the first of his trials after his conversion and there were many, many more. Paul was born in Tarsus, a city at the north eastern side of the Mediterranean. He learned how to preach the gospel of the saving grace of Jesus Christ instead of tracking down and punishing those who believed in Jesus. The Roman occupation at the time had improved travel and communications. Paul's specific calling was to preach and share this good news beyond Israel and to the known world at that time (Acts 9).



Sundays' table-top exploration of Paul's journeys..

Three Missionary journeys covered a huge area around Turkey, Greece, Israel, Syria and Italy. All current holiday destinations! How life has changed. Very few then had the resources to travel for pleasure. It was dangerous. Three times Paul was shipwrecked. 2 Corinthians 11 lists the many dangers he had faced including being arrested and imprisoned many, many times. We read elsewhere about his severe eye problems.

This doesn't sound like a good holiday. His last trip was to Rome where he was again imprisoned and likely later executed. But what a job he had done. So many heard the Good News because of Paul's unending efforts. The stories are all recounted in our bibles.

Our Sunday services, are now back in Church at 11 am. Feel free to join us for our worship and song. You will get a warm welcome. For those unable to attend in person we also stream our services.

For those interested in the history of Northall Baptist Church, a free copy of the booklet, Rebels in Green Pastures can be supplied or downloaded from our website: <http://northallbaptistchurch.org/>

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