

# MONMOUTHSHIRE **Free Press** 45p Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Dear friends,

Time is a peculiar thing when you think about it. As I am writing this, Margaret and I are about to travel to Birmingham to catch our plane to Genoa to board P&O's Oceania for a Mediterranean mini-cruise.

And when you read this on the 13th, we shall be on our way back. So where did that week go?

Seriously, time and travel and distance these days are so different from what they used to be in the time of Jesus, not to mention Paul the apostle and the various journeys he undertook.

Admittedly, the world 2,000 years ago might have seemed a 'smaller' place than it is today, and yet, it was the same world then as now, only with many lands not yet known and largely unexplored. One thing is for certain, the modes of transport then were very different, and everything took a lot longer.

Voyages were perilous, and travelling on foot the norm rather than the exception. It is an interesting fact that Jesus himself never travelled far from His home bases of Nazareth

and Capernaum, his three years on Earth covered only a few hundred miles in total, yet consider the impact He made then and continues to make today in our large and bewildering, often highly frustrating and still so wonderful world.

Our cruise will take us to within a stone's throw from Malta – well, on the map anyway! – where Paul was shipwrecked on one of his journeys.

Many also believe he might have got as far as to Gibraltar. Wherever he went, and just like with Jesus Himself, no heart was left unmoved and no soul untouched, and the Good News spread, and it continues to do so today.

Pentecost is not far away: May 15 this year. The time when God sent His Spirit. In one sense a unique event in history, and yet in another way a personal invitation on offer at any time by way of a gift we can and should be prepared to receive every day, if only we prepare to be amazed by what God can and will do for us still.

Thought for  
the weak



with the Rev Preben  
Andersen

**Rev Preben Andersen**