**Tuesday 4th August**

2 Corinthians 1: 8a-10

We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us,

In this passage Paul is describing to the Corinthians the immense stress that he was under. He elaborates on this throughout the letter, but especially in chapter 11 where he describes unimaginable danger, persecution and difficulty as he pursued his calling to take the Good News of Jesus around the known world. And yet…through all of this, Paul finds that the difficulties send him to the Father. He learns to fully rely on God. After all, this God has the power to raise the dead! He is strong to save! And so even though Paul expresses times of despair, he doesn’t remain in that place. Rather, he has learnt to lift his eyes and to set his hope on the Saviour.

Many people are living with great pressure at the moment. Where do we run to in those times? Run to the One who has power to raise the dead.

*Father, as we continue to live in difficult days, we pray that you would teach us to run to you. We ask that you would be our first port of call. We praise you because you are full of love and compassion, you are faithful and you are strong to deliver. Lift our eyes to Jesus we pray.*

*Lord, we ask for your help and wisdom for all those that are responsible for making decisions and agreeing policy through this time. Help us to navigate this time with you as our compass. Amen*

