

St James News: Thought for the day – Monday 14th September 2020

All hands on deck – Rev Kit Gunasekera

Over the last couple of weeks, I have been back to a subject that has fascinated me, that of the Titanic. I am probably not alone in getting interested in that ship after James Cameron's film in 1998!

Jill and I visited the Titanic Exhibition in Southampton. It was told from the point of view of the crew, many of whom were from Southampton. There is a deeply poignant moment, when on the floor, is a large map of the city, and a red dot indicated where in the city those members of the crew who did not survive the sinking, had lived. And the floor is covered in red dots. It reminded me of the many acts of kindness and bravery and acts of service carried on by the crew, even as the situation deteriorated on board.

I was surprised to learn that out of 2208 people on board, nearly 900 were crew. To my untrained eye, that feels like a high ratio, although perhaps it's not.

Rev John Barter, the first vicar I really listened to, in the early 90's, used to say that the church was called to 'every member' ministry. As members of Christ's crew, the ratio of workers is 100%! When our services end with the words 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord' that is the call for each of us, 'for all hands on deck'.

May we experience the joy of the Holy Spirit as we love and serve the Lord today, wherever we are.

Bible Verse:

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. - Colossians 3:23-24