

## Direction

- *(With children)*
- What is that on the screen?
  - (compass)
- How do you use one?
  - have a map and a compass, and demonstrate
  - idea of needing direction, otherwise we just wander
- Thinking about death - but that also means thinking about life and living
  - what is it - or who is it - that sets the direction for life?
- As Christians our compass in life is set by Jesus:
  - *Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2)*

### Prayer:

- be my compass...

## Are you ready?

- Introduction about whether we are ready for death
  - about the TV programme on Thursday evening on BBC1 that showed someone in their last moments, slipping away after succumbing to cancer
  - about my "cancer scare" a few years back?

## Feeling Ready or Really Ready?

- Difference between feeling ready
  - and really being ready
  - (and shutting our eyes to the impending crisis!!)
- Exams as an example...
- Are you feeling ready for death? Are you truly ready for death?

## Paul's Perspective

- Paul's particular context:
  - jail and persecution for proclaiming Christ
  - though his readers in Philippi were not in jail, he urges them to join him in rejoicing in their situation
- He does so because he has a perspective on life - and on death - which shapes his priorities and confidence now
  - he is ready for all that lies ahead, he is prepared for both life and death
- Reference Paul's confidence of God's work in them in [1:6](#)
- Reference Paul's prayer in v.9-11: [that they would love and know Jesus more](#)
- Paul recognises the possibility of being afraid ([v.20](#)) in face of death - there is no shame in that! (not wanting to be ashamed, desiring courage)

## Are you ready?

### Ready because we know Christ now

- v.21, "[for me to live is Christ...](#)"
- Do you know him - not just about him?

### Ready because we will be with Christ after

- v.21, "[to die is gain...](#)"
- We'll explore more about the nature of our heavenly hope next week, what it is we have to look forward to:
  - but it will be with Christ...

### Ready because we serve Christ now

- v.27, "[Whatever happens, conduct yourselves....](#)"
- v.22, "[fruitful labour...](#)"
- Wherever we are on the journey towards our physical deaths, will we put Christ first?
- *Offer to pray/chat with people at the end...*