

# Where's Your Chair?

Acts 12 1-11



As the hills stand about Jerusalem,  
so the Lord stands round about his people, from this time forth for ever more.  
Psalm 125:2

## **Praising:**

Long my imprisoned spirit lay  
fast bound in sin and nature's  
night:  
thine eye diffused a quickening  
ray –  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with  
light;  
my chains fell off, my heart was  
free.  
I rose, went forth, and followed  
thee.

## **Reading:**

Acts 12:1-11  
The Church prayed fervently

King Herod was attacking some of the Jerusalem-based believers. He had James the brother of John killed but this is only the start. Having seen that James's death actually boosted his popularity ratings with the Jews,

Herod arrests Peter and locks him up in prison, chaining him to two guards. The only thing the Church can do in response is pray. Pray they do, with an urgency and energy that brings miraculous results. While the angelic rescue itself is under way, Peter is convinced that he's in the middle of a vision or a dream. But what makes the reality of the escape even more significant, is that it takes place the very night before Peter was due for release anyway. When believers pray and when God chooses to demonstrate his power to maximum effect, no prison is impregnable.

## **Listening:**

## **Praying:**

We hold before you Lord those who find themselves imprisoned:

- those in Maghaberry, Magilligan and Hydebank prisons and those who care for them
- those whose lives are controlled by illness, worry, loneliness, separation and grief
- those struggling to escape from debt, unemployment, addiction, shame, regret and guilt

Father: from the beginning you have led your people out of slavery into freedom, and in Christ you have done the same for me. Of course until my release, I had no idea I was bound. Amen

## **Doing:**

Wednesday, 18 May 2016