



19th February 2012

**Welcome to St. Peter's, we hope
you enjoy your time with us.
Please stay for some
refreshments afterwards!**

The Season of Lent

Lent, which begins on Wednesday, is a time to get in touch with the big picture of reality and with the core desires and dreams that inspire us.

Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness fasting and praying, wrestling with his vocation. He was tested through hunger and the temptations of reputation and power. He emerged announcing a vision that he called "the Kingdom of God."

Above all, this is about a world in tune with a God of love, generosity, compassion and joy. He imagines this world in parables and vivid images, and gives signs of what it is like by healing, forgiving, welcoming the marginalised, and gathering a community of friends. He also embodies it against opposition, and Lent culminates in remembering his death and resurrection.

What might a 21st-century Lent be about? It is a time to begin or renew good habits that orientate our lives to God and the Kingdom of God. The four basic practices are prayer, fasting, study and giving. It is madness to ignore how lives have been and are being transformed by taking these seriously, but it is easy to miss out on the vision such practices are meant to serve.

David Ford, Regius Professor of Divinity at the University of Cambridge, writes, *Lent is a time to dare something beyond the habitual, to imagine responses to God that reflect something of God's own breathtakingly surprising creativity, generosity, wisdom and superabundant, joyful and sacrificial love. Lent cries out for the extraordinary and extravagant.*

What could this mean? We might try prayer that goes beyond set times as we stay up for a night or go on a retreat. Or we might fast for a while not only from food but also from media and electronic communications to allow us to focus on essentials without distraction. Or we might study something that really stretches us.

Our response as a community include worshipping with liturgies from different traditions each Sunday, inviting you to live simply for one week on £10 per person, coming to a Malawian lunch, going to a group meeting with Anita or me which will include the celebration of Holy Communion, and to give to our Lent Project.

Paul

Dates for your diary

Tuesday, February 21st, Recharge, 8-9pm

As this is Shrove Tuesday, we will have pancakes at Ryans Bar during our Recharge evening. Do join us for this informal event – with video, discussion, music – where we look together at the relevance of faith to contemporary life.

Wednesday, February 22nd, Ash Wednesday, 7.30pm

We mark the start of Lent with a service of Holy Communion.

Sunday, February 26th, Sarah Hare, St. John's College, Nottingham

We look forward to meeting Sarah, who is studying Theology at St. John's College, where Paul was a student in the 70's and where Anita works one day a week as a Formation Tutor. Sarah will worship with us, share in ministry and be part of our community until the end of the year.

Friday, March 2nd, Women's World Day of Prayer Service, 2pm, Central URC

The service has been prepared by the women of Malaysia, and the speaker is Bernice Watkins, who was educated in Malaysia and is now a member of Osmaston Road Baptist Church. The theme is "Let Justice Prevail." Everyone is welcome to this time of prayer and worship – all ages and not just women!

Sunday, March 4th

Reserve the date: Lent Project Malawian Lunch, following the 10.45 service.

Cathedral Lent Programme: February 27th – March 26th

A nationally recognised figure will speak each Monday at 7pm. Every address will be preceded by a service of Compline sung by members of the Cathedral Choir.

February 27th Bishop Graham Cray: Freshly Expressed Church

March 5th Dr. Giles Fraser: Radical Church

March 12th Bishop David Stancliffe: Worshipping Church

March 19th Professor David Martin: Established Church

March 26th Dr. Martin Percy: Being the Church Today

Monday, March 19th and Thursday, March 29th at 7.30pm: Extra Lent Groups

Anita and I, or another member of the staff team, will attend all our small groups on one occasion to share some teaching and celebrate Holy Communion. For those of you who are not in groups, we have arranged two additional evenings, on Monday, March 19th and Thursday, March 29th. Please note the dates and be ready to join us.

Easter Sunday, April 8th, 10.45am, Baptism and Affirmation of Faith

If you have not been baptised, then Easter is a great occasion for this, providing a wonderful opportunity to publicly declare your Christian faith. If you have been baptised, but have come to faith since then, you could publicly affirm your faith by immersion in the waters of baptism. If this is the right time for you, Easter Sunday 2012 will be memorable, that's for sure! If you would like to ask about the possibility of Baptism or Affirmation of Faith, please talk to Anita or Paul.

PCC update

Goals for 2012

Following a discussion at the January PCC meeting, the Staff Team drew up a list of 30 goals based on the Mission Action Plan. The PCC discussed and approved the goals, and they will be circulated in a leaflet shortly. Points to note include:

- Building confidence in faith: There will be a Leadership Community Day on September 22nd for the Staff Team, PCC, Group leaders, Worship Group leaders.
- Spiritual growth and development: There will be a weekend away at Edale in October for those in their 20's.

St. Peter's Centre

Additional costs are emerging, including blinds, heaters, signage, flooring for existing church and CAP office. Building work is due to be completed by mid-April, then the Official Opening is on 9th June from 2-5pm with the Bishop of Derby. Rathbone will provide catering for the tea, and Hot House Jazz will be playing.

Treasurers Report

The General Fund was in surplus by £10,752 at the end of December. However, to help address the decline in general giving, a finance leaflet has been written by Bill. The PCC approved up to £1000 for the cost of tidying up wiring and a replacement radio microphone.

Building Report

The chancel work on the floor and pews is progressing well, and the PCC approved a quote to remove the mould and repaint the chancel walls. The ramp will be started once the area in front of the sound desk is done.

And also:

Children's Society Boxes

Pam Roberts writes: Thank you to all Children's Society Box Holders for your efforts this year. We have raised £280.91 from the boxes and Christmas card sales totalled £51.86 for which the Society is most grateful. If anyone would like to become a children's society Box Holder please speak talk to me. Just popping in a small amount of loose change each week, or the cost of a daily newspaper, would help to make such a difference to the life of a disadvantaged child in the UK.

And finally

Prayer

If you would like prayer for anything you are concerned about, or if you would like to give thanks to God, please go to the Prayer Chapel after the service where two members of the pastoral team will be available. Also, in the event of an emergency, call Pam Roper (01332 760420) and she will inform members of the prayer chain.

Weekly refreshments and services – all welcome

Tuesday: 11.00am Church is open, tea and coffee is served.

Friday: 11.30am Church is open, tea and coffee is served.
12.30pm Ecumenical service

Space to take notes from today's readings, prayers and sermon.

Contact details:

Vicar: Rev'd Paul Morris
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St. Peter's is a community of faith, hope and love in the heart of the city

See our web site at www.stpetersderby.org.uk

St. Peter's Centre office (01332 360790) is open as follows:

Monday to Wednesday from 9.00-3.00, Thursday from 1.00-3.00
Lesley is the Projects Administrator, involved in Christians Against Poverty,
Serve the City and Derby City Centre Chaplaincy.
She is also Paul's Personal Assistant.