

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

The importance of character

In the book *Art & Fear* by Bayles and Orland, the story is told of a ceramics teacher who, on the first day of class, divided pupils into two groups. Half the students were told they would be graded on quality. They were to design one, perfect pot. The other half were to be graded on quantity. On the final day of term the teacher would weigh the pots they had made. They would get an A for 50lb of pots, a B for 40lb, and so on.

The results were revealing. The works of highest quality were produced by the group graded for quantity – because they were trying, failing, learning. Those being graded for the perfect pot never took any risks, which is why they didn't grow. As Bayles and Orland said, "They had little to show for their efforts other than a pile of dead clay."

In Silicon Valley, companies are realising that credentials such as exam results, while important, are less predictive of success than softer skills: the ability to take risks, embrace the unknown and rebound from failure. In other words, character.

As I reflect on the word character, I am reminded of the striking headline in *The Times* on March 5th in an article about the late Sir Roger Bannister: *His character was even greater than his achievements.*

Bannister will always be celebrated for his seminal achievement on the track, (here is the photo when he crossed the line after the first sub-4 minute mile, from *The Times* on May 7, 1954) but those who knew him best remember his civility, honour and pioneering success as a neurologist. For 25 years after retiring from athletics, he combined his work as a hospital consultant with original research into the human brain. He published over 80 papers on the autonomic nervous system and cardiovascular physiology, helping to enhance our understanding of human functioning. Little wonder he said: "It still seems strange to me that the intrinsically simple and unimportant act of placing one foot in the front of the other as fast as possible for 1,760 yards was heralded as such an important sporting achievement. My achievements in neurology were far more important than anything I did as a runner."



I read the various tributes to Bannister that proclaimed his athleticism. They talked of how that great run taught us lessons about stretching the limits of human capability. I would offer a different perspective. I suggest that the deepest lesson is contained not in his achievements, but in his character.

Paul

Coming soon

Thursday, May 10th, to Sunday, May 20th, Thy Kingdom Come

Thy Kingdom Come is a global movement led by the Archbishop of Canterbury to encourage Christians to pray for others to respond to the Good News of Jesus, particularly during the period between Ascension Day, on May 10th, and Pentecost Sunday, on May 20th. We will be including this in our prayers. In addition, there are two ways that Christians of all denominations can worship together and pray for evangelism in our city. Firstly, by going to the 24/7 prayer room at St. Alkmund's from today until Saturday, and secondly, at a Beacon event on Pentecost Sunday at Derby Cathedral at 6pm.



Saturday, May 19th, 10.00-5.00, Pursuing His Presence, Riverside Centre, Derby

Join members of churches across the city and further afield for a day of equipping and encounter, with teams experienced in hosting the presence of God and enabling others to encounter His presence for themselves. The sessions will be helpful for anyone who is hungry to deepen their relationship with God and discover how He communicates His heart and purposes to us in so many different ways.

With a number of guest speakers and teams from Jubilee Church, Derby and Kings Church, Horsham, the programme will include main sessions and times of worship, and a number of seminars. The price for the conference is £15.00 per person.

Tuesday, May 22nd, 2.30, Afternoon Tea

With a different theme each month, come and enjoy a tea that has been described as *'just like at The Savoy!'* This is followed by Service of Evening Prayer at 3.45-4.00. The next date is June 12th.

Sunday, June 3rd, 12.30, Lunch together after the service

You are invited to join us, and bring the family – all welcome! The next date is July 22nd when we will have a BBQ in the Vicarage garden.

Tuesday, June 5th, 7.30pm: Faith in Science Lecture, Derby Cathedral

Why Science is a Gift not a Threat to Faith, Tom McLeish, Professor of Natural Philosophy, York University. Admission Free

A lively and inspiring speaker, Professor Tom McLeish is the author of 'Faith and Wisdom in Science' and 'Let There Be Science: why God loves science and science needs God.' Physics is his core discipline but he has worked with chemists and biologists, geographers and medieval historians, sociologists and theologians, exploring what it is to be human, to investigate the universe, and to contemplate God.

Lent Project

Please prayerfully consider how you can contribute towards the two projects we are supporting for our Lent Project. Please see the leaflet for more information. They are:

1. Bible translation into Balti, in Baltistan, Northern Pakistan. £1000 is required to produce 300 SanDisk that can be inserted into phones.
2. Mahamaya Education Centre. The Cathedral Relief Service works in city slums in metropolitan Kolkata and rural villages in surrounding districts. The balance of our donations will go towards the construction of an education and multi-purpose centre in the village of Mahamaya, West Bengal.

We will close the 2018 Lent Project on Sunday June 3rd.

Anthony Till

Hi. I'm an ordinand and on placement with you for the next few months. I am studying at Queens Foundation in Birmingham, on a part-time basis. I also work full-time as a specialist nurse in Nottingham.

I have lived in Derby all of my life. My home churches are St. Edmund's, Allenton & Shelton Lock and St. Osmund with St Andrew, Wilmoretton.



I have a particular interest in working with disadvantaged groups in Derby and I'm very much looking forward to my placement with you.

I'm married to Sandra, who is currently exploring a vocation as a Priest in the Anglican Church. We have been married for 32 years and have 3 adult children as well as 5 grandchildren and a 6th one due later this month. We also have an Irish Border Collie named Kaz. I like cycling, listening to a variety of music and cooking.

Please bear with me while I find my way around and learn how you do things and please do tell me if I'm getting things wrong, I'm here to learn.

Prayer ...

People wearing a 'Prayer Team' badge would be glad to pray for you. Do not hesitate to ask for prayer, this can be for any concern you have, it needn't be a crisis! We all face difficulties and challenges, and prayer works! Or maybe you would like to thank God for answered prayer. `Whatever your situation, we'd love to pray with you! In an emergency, call Bren (07967 183601), and those on the prayer chain will pray for you.

IN THE WEEK

Monday to Friday, 10.00-3.00: Church is open

Tuesday and Friday, 11.00-12.30: refreshments are served

Friday, 12.30: Lunchtime Service

Sunday, 4.00-6.00: Table Talk

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

St. Peter's in the City Staff:

Vicar: Revd. Canon Paul Morris
paul@stpetersderby.org.uk

Curate: Revd. Darren Howie
darren@stpetersderby.org.uk

Building Manager: Melvyn Wood
Kitchen Supervisor: Gillian Wood

Inside Out Administrator: Katy Lake

Associate Priest: Revd. Anita Matthews
anita@stpetersderby.org.uk

Administrator: Hilary Streek
office@stpetersderby.org.uk

Ministry Assistant: Patrick Tompkins
patrickrtompkins@gmail.com

Church Wardens: Kate Ellis & Sung-Hee Lee

We are a community of faith, hope and love in the heart of the city

Follow us on Twitter: @stpetersderby

www.stpetersderby.org.uk

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

Monday to Thursday from 9.00-2.30

Hilary Streek is Paul's Personal Assistant and St. Peter's Administrator.

Parish Safeguarding Links: Revd. Anita Matthews and Hilary Streek