



April 14th 2019

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

Preparing for Holy Week

A YouGov poll this year found that only 50% of people associate Easter with Jesus. If you are under 24 that drops to less than 44%. The most important event of the year is reduced to a double bank holiday, Easter eggs and sports events. The Cross of Christ is so far in the distance it can no longer be seen. National news media describe next weekend as the 'Great Easter Getaway,' with over 1 million people flying from Heathrow Airport, and 26 million people getting away by car.

What about you? What are your hopes for Holy Week? Maybe you've been so busy with the stuff of life that you're wondering how we even got to Easter so quickly; one moment it's Christmas and the next it's Easter, right in front of us.

We want to be close to Christ, to come to his cross daily, yet so often his Cross is in the distance. This year, have you been at the foot of his cross, captivated by Christ, listening to his word for you or is the cross something to return to from afar?

The calendar brings us back to the Cross, so as you begin Holy Week, where do you start your journey? In your mind's eye, if you imagine where the cross is, is it small or large, close or far? For me the cross is large, on the horizon, always visible, gigantic in scale, but it's all too easy to carry on and live as if it's not there.

The cross is afar because it is so strange; chocolate, sport and holidays are closer and more comforting. The brutal execution of the Son of God on a rubbish dump is hard to look forward to, stay close to, it is 'alien' to the aspirations of daily life.

In Holy Week, we remember the cross and move towards it. We draw close to where we may not want to go. Everything in our lives, everything in this world that we would rather escape, every fear and loss, every pain and anxiety, how can this be good, looking at all the bad piled up high?

The way to the foot of the cross is piled high with our rubbish and decay, so I may want to escape. Is that why the disciples were not there, at the foot of the cross, at the greatest moment in history? Why did they not cling to the cross, stay as close as possible, as Jesus poured out everything he had and all that he was for them?

The gospel writers tell us little about the cross as they stood before it. It's as if they were so overwhelmed with it, the emotions, blood, sweat, tears and immensity of it, that all they can report is the bare facts. For at that moment, all the pain and loss, the death and decay of all who are and all who will be, was placed on Jesus. In this Holy Week, here is your opportunity to focus on the cross once again.

Paul

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

At our APCM on March 24th, the following appointments were made:

Churchwardens: Sung-Hee Lee and Tim Benson

PCC members: Kismet Barber, Wayne Haycock, Lesley Kitson, Carolyn Miller

Our PCC members are: Paul, Anita, Sung-Hee, Tim, Neil, Wayne, Lesley, Bren, Eddie, John, Carolyn, Kismet.

Coming soon

Friday, April 19th, Good Friday Ecumenical Service

St. Peter's in the City Good Friday Service April 19th at 10.45

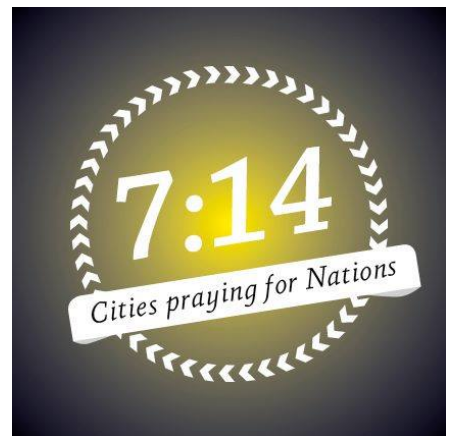
As pilgrims we journey together...

**As we reflect on the message of the cross,
we join together in the heart of the city centre for
worship, fellowship and Hot Cross Buns!**



Wednesday, April 24th, 7.14pm-8.14pm, St. Peter's in the City Churchyard

Last year, Christians from city churches gathered in our church garden for an hour prayer meeting about the issues around Mamba in the city. They are thankful that there have been some improvements about this, and have decided to meet again to pray and 'stand in the gap' about knife crime. The time of 7:14-8:14pm is taken from the concept of God's people gathering for prayer in 2 Chronicles 7v14, *'If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.'*



Tuesday, May 7th, 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. Next date is June 11th.

Saturday, May 11th, from 8.00 – 10.00am, Prayer Breakfast

This is our monthly prayer breakfast, all welcome.

Responding to Lent – it's not too late!!!

Read a Lent book

Finding the right Lent book through this season can be tricky. Do you feel called to expand your horizons and engage with God in the wider world? Are you seeking encouragement in personal discipleship? Is your prayer life a concern? Please check out the Lent in our lending library.

Give up plastics

Use less plastic over Lent. This is the message from the Anglican Communion's Environment Network. They have produced a set of daily challenges, which include going for large sizes of shampoo, requesting retailers to use zero plastic packaging & implementing a 'No more bottled water & cool drinks' water policy at church & home.

The Environmental Co-ordinator for the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, Canon Rachel Mash, called attention to the fact that worldwide only 10–13% of plastic items are recycled. She says, "The nature of petroleum-based disposable plastic makes it difficult to recycle and they have to add new virgin materials and chemicals to it to do so. Additionally there are a limited number of items for which recycled plastic can be used. Petroleum-based plastic is not biodegradable and usually goes into a landfill where it is buried or it gets into the water and finds its way into the ocean. Although plastic will not decompose into natural substance like soil (i.e. biodegrade) it will break down into tiny particles after many years (i.e. degrade). In the process of breaking down, it releases additives that were used to shape and harden the plastic (i.e. toxic chemicals) which make their way into our food and water supply. These toxic chemicals are now being found in our bloodstream."

The Moderator and Primate of the United Church of South India, Bishop Thomas Oommen, endorsed the green message, saying. "If we live a life committed to avoiding all kinds of disposable plastics, the manufacturers would be forced to avoid all disposable plastics, and we would be contributing towards a lesser carbon footprint. If Lent is a time we think about how to foster life rather than destroying life, it is our spiritual commitment to avoid plastics since it 'kills' life. As I hope that this year's Lent would be a meaningful time to reflect, repent, reorient and rededicate our lives to accomplish God's will, I ardently pray that God would enable all of us to continue our life in an eco-spiritual pilgrimage fighting against all causes of ecological catastrophes, particularly the disposable plastic catastrophe."

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

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

Building Manager: Melvyn Wood
Kitchen Supervisor: Gillian Wood

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

Church Wardens: Tim Benson, Sung-Hee Lee
Inside Out Team: Wayne Haycock

Administrator: Hilary is on maternity leave
office@stpetersderby.org.uk

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

Parish Safeguarding Link: Revd. Anita Matthews