



May 26th 2019

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

Measuring success

Recently I have been made aware of the extreme financial pressure on many dioceses. At the same time, a friend tells me that the parish where he worships has been awarded a substantial sum of money from the Strategic Development Fund.

Measurable outcomes are a central tenet of a new way of funding ministry, and this money has been granted on the understanding that specific targets will be met. These include: "30 new Fresh Expressions of Church developed, with 600 participants; 35% of participants unchurched; 25% of participants under 30; 70% lay led." And by 2020.

Another diocese is planning eight church-plants by 2023, and its list of outcomes includes to "engage with the elderly and lonely through five home visits and two church community events each week in each church plant."

This raises the question about what the Church understands as constituting success. "We need to do more" is a mantra that is often heard when there are difficulties in our society, but throwing money and targets at areas of perceived weakness or need in the life of the Church is not necessarily going to solve our problems.

Growth is important, but as well as numbers and targets, growth is also about transformation and the Kingdom of God, and counting numbers is an inadequate way of discerning the presence of the Kingdom. However, numbers are a great way to reassure us that what we are doing is somehow significant, and that we are in control. Of course, this is often an illusion, but they certainly feed the illusion!

There is nothing wrong with achievements. It is good and important to be able to look back at achievements and feel a sense of satisfaction at a job well done. The problem arises when we are constantly preoccupied and driven by the need to be achieving something, ticking some box on a list, to the point when this begins to rule our lives.

Much of the pressure behind achievementism comes from the culture that we inhabit: a world of constant change, rush, noise and busyness. We always seem to be trying to do more. In a world of ever-increasing acceleration, we can attempt to do three times as much in one day as our grandparents might have even thought possible.

It is difficult to see how a day spent in pastoral ministry, prayer, sermon preparation could be measured numerically. How do I log and measure the value of time spent in visiting a member of St. Peter's in hospital, or pondering what God might be saying to us and how I communicate this in my next sermon? I will write more about this next week; meanwhile, your comments are always welcome.

Paul

Coming soon

Thursday, May 30th, 1.05, Ascension Day Holy Communion, Derby Cathedral

All are welcome to attend this Ascension Day Service with members of other City Deanery churches, on this day of great significance in the Christian calendar.

Saturday, June 1st, 2.00-4.00, Downsizing Sale, Convent of the Holy Name Morley Road, Oakwood, Derby DE21 4TB

You are invited to this sale at the Convent, with many stalls, everything must go!

Sunday, June 2nd, Lunch together after the service

You are invited to join us, and bring the family – all are welcome to come to lunch after the 10.45 service – and with a dingbats quiz too! Next date is July 7th.

Monday, June 4th, City Deanery Celebration at 7.30pm with Bishop Libby at St. Mark's Derby, Francis Street, DE21 6DE

All are invited to this Deanery Celebration Service with the new Bishop of Derby.

Tuesday, June 11th, 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.

Saturday, June 15th, Derby Christian Women's Network meeting, 10.00-2.00

Meeting at YWAM, Overcame House, Whitaker Road, Littleover, this has replaced the Prayer Breakfast this month.

Saturday, July 13th, from 8.00 – 10.00am, Prayer Breakfast

This is our monthly prayer breakfast, all welcome.

Nick Parish on a St. Peter's placement

I was born in England, but grew up in Seychelles, where I lived until I was 4, and Pakistan, where I lived until I was 14, where my parents were missionaries.

We returned to England so that my older brother could do his A Levels. After finishing school, I did a Theology degree in Durham, and then returned home to Worthing to do teacher training. I then worked at our local High School teaching RE.

In 2003, I married Anna, continued to teach RE, then became Head of Department. After a year, I moved to managing the school's behaviour support provision. Our first son, Joshua, was born in 2006. In 2008, we moved to Repton, where we ran a boarding house for 10 years. During this time, our second son, Luke, was born.

During a visit to our church in Worthing, the vicar said he felt I should consider ordination, which I'd been thinking about for some time, this was the nudge I needed to get the ball rolling. In September, after being recommended for training, I began a three year course at Queen's in Birmingham (where John Ferguson is studying!). It's a place of great variety, and I'm enjoying becoming a part of the community there.

We live in Repton and attend the village church. During my summer term placement at St. Peter's, I'm looking forward to meeting and getting to know you, and also discovering as much as I can about all that St. Peter's offers the community. I'll try to get involved as much as I can, both on Sundays and during the week.

PCC Update

PCC news

This was the first 'normal' meeting of the new PCC following the Inside Out special meeting in March. Newly elected members were welcomed, but due to the small size of the PCC, it was agreed to co-opt Bill Poole as an additional member.

Friday Service

Derby City Mission are now leading this service with support from those who have led in the past. DCM will continue without this support from September.

Inside Out

We continue to be both encouraged and challenged – and seek the prayers of the congregation for this ministry with ex-offenders and those in danger of offending or re-offending. The Inside Out community is growing, the numbers of participants meeting with mentors is growing, and so our need for more resources also needs to grow.

Leadership Community Day on June 22nd

This will be a significant occasion as we set time aside at Bradbourne Church Hall, near Ashbourne, to pray and look at the scriptures and seek guidance for the vision, strategy and future ministry of St. Peter's.

Safeguarding

We are making good progress with completing the Safeguarding requirements. Recently, we have received literature including a 'Promoting a Safer Church' from the Deputy National Safeguarding Adviser to the Church of England, this is now on the noticeboard.

Lent Project

This year the Lent Project is supporting Brace Bridge in Kolkata, where the Dalit community live by the railway tracks; & Green Pastures, who provide accommodation and much more for the homeless. The Lent Project will close next Sunday.

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