



September 1st 2019

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

Heaven: The Ultimate Reality

All these faithful ones died without receiving what God had promised them, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed the promises of God. They agreed that they were no more than foreigners and nomads here on earth. They were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. Hebrews 11 v 13,16

Recently I read about Hope and Gabe, two babies who were unable to see or hear or function properly due to a genetic disease. They died at such a young age, and as David, their father, reflected on this, he said that they were not born for this life but for the next. He believes they were ushered quickly to the next life, where they will one day receive resurrected and renewed bodies.

He said, As we opened our eyes to the reality that this life is preparation for the next, our perspective about the "tragedy" of their short lives was transformed. We decided it was not really so sad that they spent only six months limited by a physical body that was hopelessly flawed. And I ask you, is it really less than the best if the person you love lives less than the eighty to ninety years we have come to define as a lifetime? Not if we see this earthly life as a rehearsal for the real thing.

While most great stories end with "and they lived happily ever after," C.S. Lewis ended The Chronicles of Narnia's *The Last Battle* differently. As the heroic efforts of the Narnians fail, the storybook ending seems conspicuously absent. But immediately upon their deaths, the Narnians find themselves in a wonderful new land where they are reunited with those they love and with Aslan himself. Lewis writes, "*They were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story which no one on earth has read: which goes on forever: in which every chapter is better than the one before.*" Everything that had happened before was put into perspective as their real life and real story began.

So it will be for us when we embark on our real lives – our forever lives – in the presence of God. Then we'll realise that what has gone before was just a shadow of, a prelude to, our real lives in heaven. This life is not all there is, and neither is it the best there is. There is something better, somewhere better, someone better than any thing, any place, any person who has captured our devotion in the here and now. It is real. And it is forever.

As you reflect on this during in the coming months, you may want to say this prayer: *Heavenly Father, help me to see beyond what seems so real in this life into the joyful reality of the next. Give me eyes of faith to see into the distance and welcome the promises of God for a better place, a heavenly homeland.*

Paul

Coming soon

Tuesday, September 3rd, 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 dates are October 1st and November 5th.

Sunday, September 22nd, 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 fun dingbats quiz too! Next dates are November 3rd and December 15th.

Saturday, September 28th, from 8.00 – 10.00am, Prayer Breakfast

This is our monthly prayer breakfast, all welcome.

Sunday, October 6th, Gift Day

More details next week.

Good news!

Imagine Foundation have given us a second grant of £7,500 for Inside Out

New sermon series

As we begin a new term, Paul is starting a new sermon series entitled Words for a Disciple. Each week he will focus on a particular word that is fundamental to the life of a follower of Jesus.

PCC Update

Leadership Community Day Reflections included: It was good to be together as a community, to have space to reflect on the church in a wider context, to look at where we are. Now we need space for prayer rather than quickly moving into action.

Inside Out Green Pastures has partnered with New Life Church to purchase a 30 bed hostel on Harrington Street. We are now exploring other options for partnerships, including with YMCA, and also Faith Hope Enterprise, a Christian organisation offering a 3 bed property exclusively for Inside Out, with potential for other properties in the future, including for women. There will be no financial risk to us.

We are building relationships with CT Skills (Education Provider offering courses as introduction for work) and building a portfolio of activities for people to be involved in.

We have 11 mentees and there is a growing sense of community. A Facebook page has been set up, and mentees are using that to offer support to one another.

Appointment of Kismet Barber as Vicar's PA and Projects Administrator Kismet will work 2 days for chaplaincy (Workplace Chaplaincy in Derbyshire and Derby City Centre Chaplaincy in the upstairs office), 1 day for Inside Out, 2 days for St. Peter's.

Bishop Lonsdale C of E Primary School Anita is a Foundation Governor at this school in the parish of St. Luke's, Stockbrook but whose catchment covers part of our parish. There may be occasions for pupils to visit St. Peter's if St. Luke's is not available. A school is being built in our parish on the new Castleward development.

John Ferguson Following a Bishop's Advisory Panel that included interviews, a pastoral exercise and presentation, John has been recommended for ordination training. He plans to be self-supporting and work full-time and offer part-time ministry.

Treasurer's Report Neil reported that we have over £70k in the current account. A legacy has been received for just under £20k, and gift aid is just under £13k.

Safeguarding Anita is working with Kismet to build on the work already completed in the Safeguarding Audit and will report back to PCC.

Building Report We need to renew the slates and lead work on the vestry roof. It was agreed to raise money for the work at the Gift Day in the October.

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, 11.00-12.30: refreshments are served

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

Vicar's PA and Projects Administrator
Kismet Barber
office@stpetersderby.org.uk

Building Manager: Melvyn Wood
Kitchen Supervisor: Gillian Wood

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

Inside Out Project Worker: Wayne Haycock
wayne@insideoutderby.org.uk

Church Wardens: Tim Benson, 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

Parish Safeguarding Links: Revd. Anita Matthews and Kismet Barber