



September 8<sup>th</sup> 2019

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

### **#JesusToo: Christianity is keeping us radical**

This headline in The Sunday Times got my attention: *#JesusToo: Christianity is keeping us radical, says historian. Tom Holland's new book paints Christianity not as a staid religion but as a subversive energy that is still 'ripping up society.'*

And what claims he makes in *Dominion: the Making of the Western Mind*. According to this radical new history, Christianity is a major catalyst for transformation as it "repeatedly sends out pulses of energy that rip up society." It is the "greatest revolutionary movement" the western world has ever seen, paving the way for secularism, civil rights movement, the Beatles and #MeToo.

He says Christianity has two deeply subversive ideas at its heart: that all people are equal and that the weak are heroic. "The first is there in Genesis: that God created every man and woman in his image, giving an inherent dignity to every human. The other thing Christianity does in the context of classical civilisation — Greece and Rome — is unbelievably radical: it places a premium on the weakest of the weak."

This is embodied in the crucifixion, when Jesus "suffered the excruciating death of the lowest of the low. This is the idea that lies molten at the heart of Christianity: the fact that the beggar or criminal might be closer to God than the king, emperor or Pope."

These Christian tenets gave rise to a "truly radical idea," that every human being has rights. This put in place the conditions for revolutions many centuries later, including the secularism of the Enlightenment, which he says, is imbued with Christian values, "the welfare state, concern for minorities and the poor."

In the 1960s, Martin Luther King used Christian ideas to win white support for civil rights, echoing the biblical line that there is no "Greek or Jew" to argue for equality of all races. "White Christians had to accept the truth of that and, although there was a lot of hostility towards King, the civil rights movement was effective because he was able to prick the consciences of white Americans."

Meanwhile, Christian ideas become divorced from religion, a trend embodied by the Beatles: "The Beatles articulate deeply Christian ideas that are absorbed without any reference to Christianity: all you need is love."

Holland sees the #MeToo movement as a return to a puritan idea that men have no rights over women's bodies. "Puritans were interested in sex in marriage but against men sleeping around. In the 1960s, western society became more sexualised and men felt they had a right to harass women, so #MeToo is essentially an attempt to reimpose Christian sexual morality, but without admitting it's sexual morality."

Paul

## **Coming soon ....**

### **Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, lunch together after the service**

You are invited to join us, and bring the family – all are welcome to come after the service, and with fun dingbats quiz too! Next dates are November 3<sup>rd</sup>, December 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, from 8.00 – 10.00am, Prayer Breakfast**

This is our monthly prayer breakfast, all welcome.

### **Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 November 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, Gift Day**

Please see the leaflet on the Publicity Table at the back of church.

## **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 has begun 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. Last week's word was 'No.'

## **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**  
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**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**