



March 15th 2020

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

Good news without coercion

In one city in the UK, a number of Muslim asylum-seekers have become Christians. There was no improper pressure to convert at the cathedral they went to for advice, friendship and other essentials. Local Christians, who wanted only to help and serve, did so with grace and charity. Those asylum-seekers now make up 40% of the volunteers at the cathedral's foodbank, as they seek to pass on the love and generosity which they were given.

To share faith in Jesus, we start by putting ourselves in the shoes of others, understanding and respecting that other traditions offer people community, solace, and even deep wells of spirituality. In our conversations, we must seek to speak of our faith without belittling or ridiculing the faith of others. As Rabbi Jonathan Sacks has said, "If you value faith, then you value the faith of others."

Manipulation and marketing can be smelt a mile off. Engagement with others needs to meet them as, when, and where they are, like the volunteers at the cathedral whose witness was rooted in care and concern for those whom they helped.

As we converse with those of other faith, we grow in our faith. When I was an ordinand, I was told to never engage in dialogue without being ready to be changed. This doesn't mean compromising deeply held convictions about the centrality of Jesus but it is the kind of change that enables us to see things afresh, and to receive the challenge of lives outside the Church that in some way point us towards God.

When you communicate joyfully the glory of the Gospel story, therefore, be prepared to listen deeply to people of other faiths, and learn something yourself, perhaps even encounter something of God that you had not found before.

We have a mixed record of evangelising crudely and carelessly. For white British people like me, there needs to be a clear and conscious awareness of our colonial legacy under the British Empire, and of the great damage that was often done in the name of Christianity. It means that we must consider that evangelistic efforts can be heard by people of other faiths as yet another exercise of power, not an offer of love.

The Christian message is not British, and it is not white: all are one in Christ Jesus, with every culture and language blessed and affirmed as gift in God's kingdom. The medium is the message: good news for all without manipulation or coercion. We need to be humble and sensitive to context and history when we proclaim that all of humanity is offered the gift of life with God through Jesus Christ. Even now, it is possible to do the right thing so badly that it becomes the wrong thing. But, although we may not have always been good news for all, the gospel always has, and will be.

Paul

Coming soon

Saturday, March 28th, 8.00 – 10.00am, Prayer Breakfast

This is our monthly prayer breakfast, all welcome. Next date is April 25th.

Sunday, March 29th, Derby 10k Road Race and 3K Fun Run

The Derby 10K is a 10-kilometre road race, organised by Derby County Community Trust that starts and finishes Pride Park Stadium and passes some of the city's iconic landmarks. The race takes place every year and is Derby County Community Trust's biggest fundraiser. This event will affect the Pride Park area and parts of the City for a few hours that morning and will lead to temporary traffic delays. A course map and times affecting various areas can be seen on the map on the noticeboard.



DERBY COUNTY
Community Trust

Sunday, March 29th, Resource and lunch after the service

It has been a few years since we did Resource, which was when we gathered together to learn about a particular subject for an hour or so, with food! At our last PCC meeting, it was suggested that we have a time of study on a Lenten theme during Lent. This will take place after the 10.45 Service on Sundays March 29th and April 5th, over a bring and share lunch.

Tuesday, March 31st, 2.30, Afternoon Tea

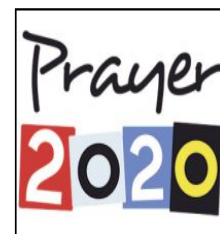
With a different theme each month, come and enjoy a tea that has been described as *'just like at The Savoy!'* This is followed by Service of Evening Prayer at 3.45-4.00. The next dates are April 28th and June 9th.

Sunday April 26th, Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) SAVE THE DATE

Please save the date and make sure you join us for our APCM, where we look back with gratitude for all that has happened over the past year, and we look forward with faith and expectancy for all that is to come. This year our APCM will take place during the 10.45 service, together with Brunch!

Praying together in 2020

HOPE Together are calling Christians of all denominations to pray on the 20th of each month at 20.20 for 20 minutes, so this Thursday! They say: "Through Prayer 2020 we are asking God to work through all that happens this year – personal witness; church outreach in villages, towns and cities; mission events and evangelism in all its many forms. Already this is catching the imagination of Christians around the world.



Anita writes about Lent Project 2020

Each year at St. Peter's we take the opportunity to focus on mission around the world through our Lent Project. This enables us to hear about and pray for projects which are making a real difference to local communities and expressing God's love in action. This year the PCC has once again agreed to support the work of the Cathedral Relief Service (CRS) in Kolkata, Northern India.



CRS works in city slums in metropolitan Kolkata and in rural villages in surrounding districts. Last year we supported the Brace Bridge Project, which provides health facilities, education and women's empowerment projects for people living in makeshift houses along the railway tracks. This year we are supporting a new CRS project, the Dorcas Project.

The Dorcas Project takes its name and inspiration from the story of Acts 9v36–42 where we read about the disciple Dorcas (also known as Tabitha), who “was always doing good and helping the poor”(verse 36). In particular, Dorcas supported widows, some of the most vulnerable women in society, and made clothing for them.

The Dorcas Project similarly seeks to help vulnerable women living in the slums of Kolkata by offering them training in sewing and embroidery. This will enable them to find employment, either with local textile companies or with the business run by CRS, called Nari Dana. Some take up a small loan from CRS after completing training to set up their own small business and work from their homes.

The Dorcas Project has a building (see photo above) located by the home of the Bishop of Kolkata. However, it needs renovating inside, and setting up with sewing desks and machines to train 60 women at a time in sewing skills. The cost of this is £4,500, and we hope to make a substantial contribution towards that. Please do pray for the project, and prayerfully consider what you are able to give – and be inspired by Dorcas the disciple who was always doing good and helping the poor!

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, 9.00-4.00: 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
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Associate Priest: Revd. Anita Matthews
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Vicar's PA and Church Administrator
Kismet Barber
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Inside Out Project Worker: Wayne Haycock
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Building Manager: Melvyn Wood
Kitchen Supervisor: Gillian Wood

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