

March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2020

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

## **What is going on?**

Dear Friends,

These are tough times for us all, and for members of our family, friends, neighbours, colleagues – in fact, it seems, for absolutely everyone all over the world.

When you are self-isolating, keeping your distance, and when shops are closed and restaurants empty, when all the activities which you normally participate in are on hold, you have plenty of time to think about your life and the world around you.



We do live elaborate lives, don't we? We're complicated, layered, so entangled in many things. We go places and do things, many days are packed with activities and people, and when that all comes to a screeching halt for whatever reason, we're bewildered and stunned. When it comes to a halt because of a health scare, a pandemic, that makes it a lot more frightening, like some apocalyptic film that we have somehow fallen into and can't extricate ourselves from.

It's worldwide. I have talked recently to family in France and the Netherlands, getting the pulse of what life is like for them. The story I hear is the same: a bit of fear and a little panic, quarantines, shortages. These are occurrences most of us have never experienced in our lifetimes. Unprecedented. Terrifying. Worrisome, to say the least.

And here's my main thought about all of this, as meetings are cancelled, as we stop church services, as I anticipate working more at home, praying, processing, planning, studying, with 'phone conferences replacing meetings, and all the time wondering what happens next: this is the time that all those easy-to-make statements, about God being in control, about trusting God no matter what, about my faith, my trust in Him, are really being put to the test.

Do I really, truly believe what I say during the easy times, now when times are tough, when life isn't easy, when I can't have things smoothly working the way I expect or want it to? Do I *really* believe that God is in control of my life, of my circumstances, and of the world around me? Of the world at large? Or are they just easy to say but meaningless words? And will I let what's happening overcome me, or will I be an overcomer, because I know who's in charge and where my future lies? This is something worth pondering while you're sitting at home and wondering what's next.

Paul



## **Cancellations due to the Coronavirus**

The following have been cancelled until further notice: weekly Friday and Sunday Service, Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, Afternoon Tea on Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, Resource on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> and April 5<sup>th</sup>, and the Wednesday Bible Study Group. In addition, the Jubilee Debt Clinic on Tuesday and the Refugee and Asylum Seekers drop in on Wednesday will not be happening at St. Peter's, but support will still be given to users in other ways and locations.

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

### **Good Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, The Garden of Tears at St. Peter's in the City**

We are doing something new on Good Friday this year. The Garden of Tears will be an interactive, creative space full of live music, installations, poetry, film and meditation exploring themes of transformation in dark places, beauty of life from death, healing, brokenness, restoration and nature. There will be a reflection with readings, poetry, drama and music at 10.45 am and at intervals through the day.

### **Holy Week at Derby Cathedral, April 6<sup>th</sup> – April 10<sup>th</sup>**

John Bell, the Iona Community, is speaking on The Consequences of Being Human. He writes, *The Incarnation is widely associated with Christmas but the Word did not become flesh for one day or season only. In these talks we consider the risk which God took in being one of us and one with us in Jesus.* The addresses are at 6.30pm.

Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>: Touched by Pain

Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>: Troubled by Religion

Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>: Treasured by Women

Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>: Liturgy of the Last Supper, A reflection on Jesus' last supper with his disciples on the night when he was arrested and taken away for trial.

Good Friday April 10<sup>th</sup>: 12.00pm, Preaching of the Cross, 1.30, Liturgy of the Passion.

## **PCC update**

### **Coronavirus**

- This has led to a number of cancellations in our regular programme and our Lent programme.
- We will pay particular attention to providing pastoral support to our members, this is more complex being a network community and with a number of older people.
- We expect income from cash collections and rent to decrease over the next few weeks. At present, our finances are robust enough to cope with this.

### **St. Peter's Centre and Church Church and Hiring Terms and Conditions**

- We have updated the Terms and Conditions and now have three documents: Full Terms and Conditions, Terms and Conditions summary of hirers, and a Guide for St. Peter's members undertaking key holder duties.

### **Safeguarding**

- The PCC delegated responsibility for submitting Serious Safeguarding Incident Reports (SIR) to Derby Diocese.
- The PCC participated in Past Case Review 2 and will inform the Diocese that there have been no allegations against church officers or clergy which have not been referred to the appropriate body.



## **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**

**The church is not open but  
telephone calls and emails will be monitored**



**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 Church 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](http://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**