



May 3rd 2020

**Greetings in the name of our
Lord Jesus Christ.
In this time of uncertainty,
we declare: Jesus is Lord!**

Has the church left the building?

The Church has been forced to 'leave the building', unable to gather for its services. I have seen happy claims on social media celebrating this, and cutting comments that at last the 'Church has been forced to leave the building' in a kind of 'Let's see how you get on now' attitude. There are also comments of the 'Perhaps I will consider rejoining these churches now they've been forced to leave their services' kind.

The fact we are unable to meet is painful and something we grieve. Also painful is the curtailing of the community connections we have and the care we give to others. When we get back to and have our first Sunday service in person, I think we will need an extra hour just to get all the hugs and tears in that we need as we reconnect!

As we have reconfigured our Sunday service for Zoom, it has become apparent that St. Peter's was already more than a Sunday service or a building. In moving into the virtual, we have connected to what was already there. Our collective life, mission and purpose was far more than a meeting, similar to a family discovering their life in common is far more than the house they pay for and live in. You can't take a church online unless there was already a church outside of your meetings in the first place.

This season we are in, this crisis and forced isolation, is like an angiogram for us all. In an angiogram, a dye is injected into the blood vessels of the heart so that an x-ray can be taken to show the health of the heart. The forced isolation is an injection of dye into the heart of our lives. The health of our heart is revealed, i.e. what is alive, what is blocked and in danger of dying, and what is already dead?

Other things will be diagnosed and revealed. What is in the heart of those within the Church will be laid bare. How engaged and connected to the heart of the body those Christians are and the condition of their hearts. Even those in isolation from the church will have the health of their connection to the body of Christ revealed.

For some, it will allow a realisation of life-threatening blockages that need attending to. For some, it will lead to a cardiac arrest. Some will try a blood transfusion for a while until they can return to their isolation. I hope that some in separation from the body will realise they need to be transplanted back into the church. And some already established in the body of Christ will be more alive than they have been before.

So wherever you are, I pray this Sunday you will be blessed as you connect with us once again. And any of you disconnected and isolated before the coronavirus from the body of Christ, I pray you find your way back to life and connection that was always there for you. If one thing is different now, it is that there are more online doorways into churches than ever before.

Paul

Bible Study with Zoom

Tuesday, 8.00pm Bible Study by Zoom, hosted by David and Margaret Phypers

All are welcome to join, please email David at david@phypers.co.uk or text him on 07866 777015.

Financial news

We have received two substantial amounts in recent days:

- An anonymous donation of £5000 for whatever is the most pressing need at present, so maybe to our General Fund or to go towards regular outgoings.
- A £5,000 grant from Quadralene to go towards the appointment of a full-time Inside Out Project Manager.

Message from Derby City Mission regarding their Food bank.

The demand on our Foodbank is at an all-time high as we see an unprecedented number of first-time clients in crisis. Consequently, we are running out of food. We have launched a specific appeal for this called 'Shop but can't drop' for supporters who may want to give to our food bank but can't get to the supermarket or warehouse due to isolation.

This appeal will be used specifically to replenish stocks of the items most in need.

Donations can be made in two ways:

1. With a donation of the following food products: tinned potatoes, tinned cold meat (corned beef, spam), bags of rice and cuppa soups along with egg boxes and carrier bags. These can be taken to our Basics Bank Warehouse at Unit 6, Robinsons Industrial Estate, Shaftsbury Street, Off Osmaston Park Road, Derby DE23 8NL. This needs to be between 10am-12pm on Monday, Wednesday and Thursdays.
2. By donation to: www.derbycitymission.org.uk/appeal/food-bank-donations

Lent Project

We began the Lent Project on the Sunday after Ash Wednesday, March 1st, and now that we are through the Lenten season, it is time to end this project, which we will do on Sunday, May 17th. The total will be announced on Sunday, May 24th. To give, you can do a bank transfer to the church account, or send a cheque, or if you prefer, give an IOU until the time you can physically give your donation in a Sunday service. If you have any questions about this, contact Tim Benson, the Church Treasurer, by mobile on 07847 387902, or by email to: treasurer@stpetersderby.org.uk

Anita with an update on our Lent Project 2020

An update on Lent Project 2020: Raising £4500 for The Dorcas Project

As many of you will know, we are raising money for the work of Cathedral Relief Services (CRS) in Kolkata, and specifically the Dorcas Project, connected to an existing project, Ashakiran (Ray of Hope).

For women interested in working at Nari Dana, the first step is to take a 12 month course in tailoring and embroidery at one of the CRS Ashakiran Centres, as in this picture. In 2019/20 there are 214 women enrolled on this training.



The coursework is evaluated by an external organisation, and those that achieve the pass mark graduate and qualify to work at Nari Dana. This opens up the option of training on professional electrically powered 'Juki' sewing machines located at the central Nari Dana production centre, which is currently very small and not able to accommodate enough women.

Dorcas is a new centre for Nari Dana which will train 60 women in textiles and embroidery, enabling them to find employment or set up small businesses. The money we are raising through the Lent Project will renovate the building and provide the Juki sewing machines for the women to train on. The difference this project can make to a family is huge – it means that the mother can provide adequate food and medicines for the family, and the children can access education through the CRS Education provision, offering them the opportunity to break out of the poverty cycle which they are trapped in.

Above all, the Dorcas Centre will offer hope to some of the poorest women in Kolkata. Please pray for the project, and consider prayerfully what you are able to give to support it. Thank you.



Prayer ...

In this very testing time for us all, do not hesitate to ask for prayer for any concern you have. We all face difficulties and challenges, but prayer makes a difference. In an emergency, call Bren (07967 183601), and she will ask those on the prayer chain to pray for you.

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

Parish Safeguarding Links: Revd. Anita Matthews and Kismet Barber

IN THE WEEK

**The church and church office are closed until further notice,
but telephone calls to the Office on 01332 360790 and
emails to office@stpetersderby.org.uk will be monitored**