



May 10th 2020

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

For a time of anxiety

One challenge of lockdown is understanding exactly what's happening out there in the big wide world, so I was grateful for the recently published Office of National Statistics survey results on the UK's reaction to coronavirus. Two things struck me. First, 4 in 5 adults said they were 'very worried or somewhat worried' about the effect Covid-19 is having on their life now. Second, nearly half of adults reported 'high levels of anxiety.'

It's not unreasonable to be anxious, for we face an invisible, persistent, lethal enemy about which even the experts know little, and we are all hearing of those close to us who have caught the virus and of those who have died.

One of many differences with the Blitz of 1940 and now is that everybody was kept so busy on 'the war effort' they had too little time to worry; now we have too much time. Anxiety is a worm gnawing away in our mind, a shadow hanging over everything. As Charles Spurgeon said, 'Anxiety does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows, but only empties today of its strength.'

Anxiety is bad news in so many ways. Medically, it's a stress that, over the long term, harms the body. Psychologically, anxiety turns difficulties into insurmountable obstacles and makes sensible people do unwise things. Anxiety erodes the good things in our lives and poisons life. It's hard to be cheerful when you're fearful.

So how do we defeat anxiety about Covid-19? Some people trust in statistics and say that because they are young and fit, the probability of a serious infection is low. Others put their faith in luck and cross their fingers. Others appeal to fatalism, 'if I'm going to get it, I'm going to get it.' Personally, I don't find any of these much comfort.

I do get anxious for myself and my family but I try to make sure anxiety is a visitor not a resident in my mind. My response is based on my faith in a God to whom I have access through Jesus. In fact, Jesus' words in Matthew 10v29-31 about the value of sparrows and the hairs on your head, where Jesus says, '*So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows.*'

I hold onto two things from this. Firstly, in the mention of two biological processes – death of sparrows and baldness – God is telling me he is in control of the smallest things and that includes viruses. As Psalm 31v15 says, 'My future is in your hands.' This powerful view of an all-powerful God in supreme control of everything is balanced by the second truth in this passage: God can be known as our loving Father who views and values us as having greater value than sparrows.

God our Father is in charge, he loves his children, is in control and cares for us. And that is what I believe and trust.

Paul

Bible Study with Zoom

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

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

Message from Derby City Mission regarding their Food bank.

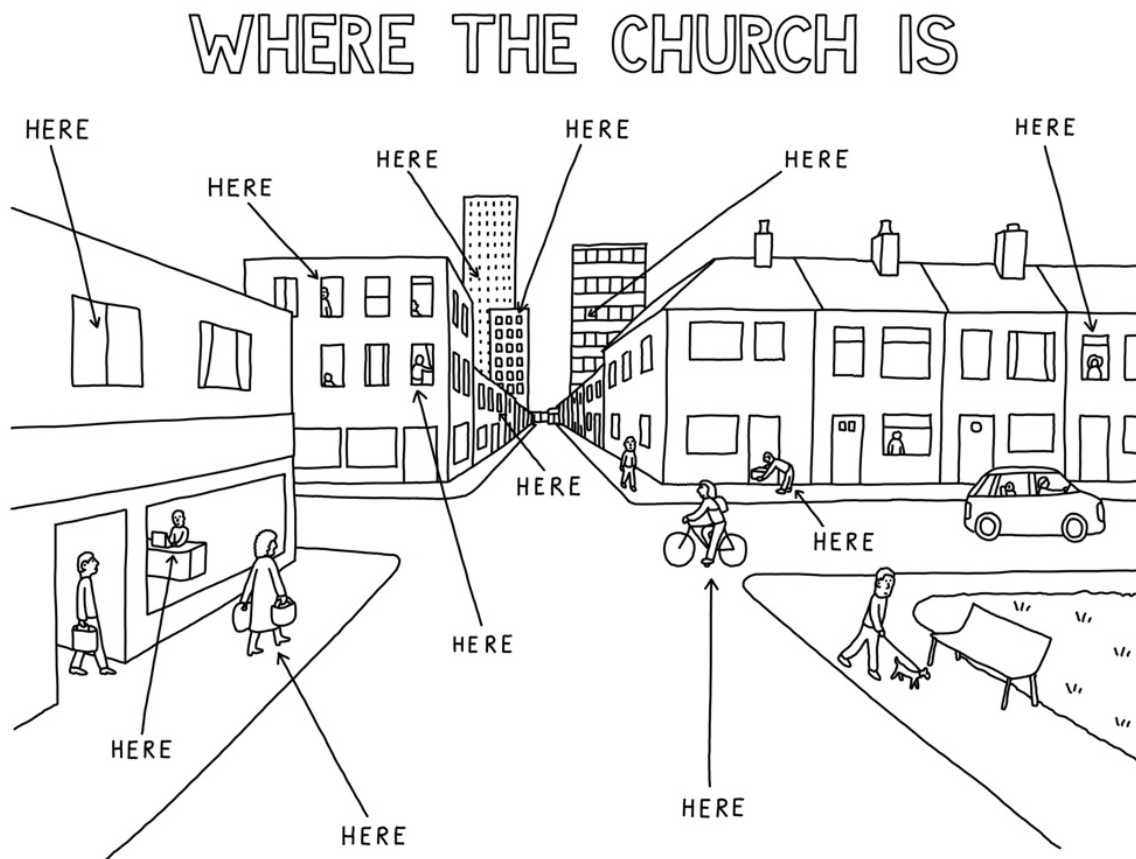
The demand on our Foodbank is at an all-time high as we see an unprecedented number of first-time clients in crisis. As we are running out of food, we have launched the 'Shop but can't drop' appeal for any who want to give to our food bank but can't get to us due to isolation. This appeal will be used to replenish stocks of the items most in need. Donations can be made in two ways:

1. By giving tinned potatoes, tinned meat (corned beef, spam), rice, cuppa soups, egg boxes, carrier bags. These can be taken to our Basics Bank Warehouse at Unit 6, Robinsons Industrial Estate, Shaftsbury St, Off Osmaston Park Road, DE23 8NL 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 next 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

This picture is always true – but it seems more relevant in lockdown!



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
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Vicar's PA and Church Administrator
Kismet Barber
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Building Manager: Melvyn Wood
Kitchen Supervisor: Gillian Wood

Associate Priest: Revd. Anita Matthews
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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**