



August 2nd 2020

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

And finally 1 a new adventure

Over the next few weeks before my final Sunday on August 23rd, I have decided that the news sheet letters will be around the theme of retirement. I hope you don't mind!

I have been reading a fair bit about retirement over the last year, and if this is a subject that interests you, then I recommend this book: Retirement – the Psychology of Reinvention, by Kenneth Shultz, and published by Dorling Kindersley.

It is clear that change will feature strongly in the coming months for the Morris family, but whereas Jasmine and Luke will return to the rhythm of school and Janet to three nursing shifts a week, I need to discern what is right for me in terms of supporting my family and of serving Jesus. My career will be over, but my calling is for life!

I was helped in my reflections by Michael and Rita, my American friends, who have experienced retirement in different ways. Rita writes: *After Michael retired, he went from being gone during the weekdays from morning till night to being home all the time! My life and schedule stayed the same, but then he'd look at me with doleful eyes and say, "What are you doing for lunch?" I would reply, "I have plans." The inference was: "Make your own way. You're retired. Get a life." Eventually he did. There is life after retirement, no matter how busy and successful your career might have been, and we adjusted nicely to this new normal of his being around without a regular job to go to. In fact, now it's quite nice having him around all the time. Now I'm facing retirement, it's time for younger bodies and minds to take over. I am not, alas, immortal nor invincible.*

I realise that when you retire, your context changes, and the people you spent a lot of time with, talking on the phone, together in meetings, shifts into new and unknown relationships, and that's what I'm preparing for. It will be sad to not be in constant contact with the people I have come to love and respect over the last two decades.

But I know this is definitely what I should be doing, so I'm trusting God to flesh out this new season in my life with something meaningful and exciting, whether it involves new people or those I already know, new ministries or something I'm already involved in. Whatever my life entails, I look forward to it with relish, pressing on to what lies ahead but not forgetting for one second the blessings and the richness of relationships and experience that I have had the privilege to enjoy over the last years.

These words have helped me. We all make plans in life that never end up as expected, but that's ok. The most valuable thing isn't what you look for, it's what you end up finding. No matter the path you choose, what counts is who goes there with you, and I've been fortunate with that.

Paul

PCC Update

1. Paul's Report

Appointing the next Vicar

The Diocese of Derby currently has 15-20% of parishes without a Vicar. This is for a number of reasons, including that appointments take at least 9 months. We can be hopeful, therefore, to expect a new Vicar to be appointed in the next 12-15 months. The Bishop of Derby is positive towards the next Vicar also being Principal Chaplain of Workplace Chaplaincy in Derbyshire and Derby City Centre Chaplaincy. The Archdeacon of Derby will arrange to meet with the PCC in September or October.

Reflections on our PCC

At this, Paul's final PCC meeting, he shared the following reflections:

1. We have had very enjoyable PCC meetings. We have grown closer, and there has been a synergy about our meetings which has been productive and fruitful.
2. We have focussed on important matters, leaving many practical issues to do with the building, fabric, purchasing of supplies, to be dealt with by the Staff Team.
3. We have lived out our commitment of unity in the midst of diversity. Of course, we have not always agreed on everything, but we have kept in our mind's eye our calling to be a community of faith, hope and love in the heart of the city.
4. We have always tried to represent the diversity of St. Peter's. Amongst us are those who have been at St. Peter's for many years and others who are recent arrivals; some who love traditional worship, others more contemporary worship and others a bit of both; some who have been Christians for many years and some newer in faith; those who have studied Theology and others who know a little less. We have respected the differences amongst us.

And also:

- Anita will be meeting with an ordinand in the coming week to explore the possibility of this person joining us as a curate following their ordination at the end of June 2021.

2. Re-entering Church

A Working Party has met to discuss the way forward concerning restarting worship, private prayer and bookings in church. These proposals were agreed unanimously by the PCC, subject to the Archdeacon of Derby's approval of the risk assessment.

Sunday

The first service will be at 10am on Sunday, August 16th. This will be a half-hour service of Holy Communion with bread only. Those wanting to attend will need to book a place beforehand (more details to come in next week's news sheet). On arrival, stewards will show people to seats, which will be with 2m spaces. The wearing of masks will be required. The main service of the day will be the Zoom service that will start at 10.45. Paul's final service will be on Zoom on August 23rd.

Wednesday

- The plan is to open church for prayer only. This day works well for cleaning issues, as there are around 72 hours between Sunday and Wednesday.

New procedures

- Sanitiser will be provided at key locations, including the Tower door entrance and exit, toilets, at the Foyer/stairs Fire door, for Stewards and Clergy
- Leaflets, books and displays, children's toys have been removed, the Prayer Chapel and Chancel will be closed off, chairs and tables will be removed from the Tower area, the Collection will take place with a plate provided on a table.
- For toilets, access will be on a one-in and one-out basis, with the outer toilet doors kept open.

Bookings

- Work has started on plans to re-open for mid-week events. Hirers will be restricted to St. Peter's Centre only.

The PCC asked the Working Group to continue to progress:

- Setting up the booking system for service attendance.
- Setting up live-streaming services.
- Dialogue with hirers for re-introducing use of the facilities.

3. Treasurer's Report

A new grant of £7,500 from Imagine Foundation has just been received for Inside Out – great news! In addition, we have received £14,000 for Gift Aid. General giving is down, particularly on the collection plate, and this will have a knock-on effect to future Gift Aid tax. Rental income is expected to be £15,000 to £20,000 less this year with continuing reduction next year.

4. Reserves Policy

The PCC approved this proposal for a Reserves Policy, ensuring the following amounts are set aside for these purposes:

- £40,000 of unrestricted reserves to cover 6 months of operating costs.
- £10,000 for expected work on the St. Peter's Centre flat roof,
- £8,000 to cover Restricted Fund deficits
- £20,000 for changes to the heating system

This will be reviewed after the 2021 Quinquennial Report with the potential work on settlement cracks, stained glass window refurbishment, car park surfacing or other works that might be reported. An on-going assessment will be conducted of the impact of Covid-19 on finances to ensure that the church activities are sustainable.

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**