



August 16th 2020

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

And finally 3: Moses and me

As I give thanks to God for forty years of ordained ministry, I have been thinking about Moses, who took Israel out of Egypt at 80 and saw the Promised Land at 120 and then died without entering in. He never retired! Deuteronomy 2v7 says of Moses, *'The Lord your God has blessed you in all the work of your hands. He has watched over your journey through this vast wilderness. These forty years the Lord your God has been with you, and you have not lacked anything.'*

However, let me quickly put a safe distance between Moses and me!

1. Unlike Moses I was not born in a strange land, but the last time I went to Golders Green, the Jewish area I'm from in London, it seemed very different to Derby!
2. Unlike Moses I have not been pursued by the armies of Egypt, but I will not forget the many cars hooting me as my motorbike lights failed in thick fog on the M1 in 1979 and I was miraculously rescued by an angel, absolutely true, honest!
3. Unlike Moses I have not been sustained miraculously every day by manna from heaven, although a miracle happened when Janet and I went to meet Bishop Alastair for the first time after my appointment. The top button of my clerical shirt came off 10 minutes before our meeting, and we were at a loss as to what to do. I went into the Wedding Dress Shop and they quickly did the repair, such a relief!
4. Unlike Moses I have not found myself struggling to speak, although there was the time when I really put my foot in my mouth. Before being ordained 40 years ago, I was looking for my first job as a Curate, I met the vicar of one church, and then wrote to the Bishop to say I didn't think the vicar was very open to the Holy Spirit!
5. Unlike Moses the Red Sea has not miraculously parted for me, but snorkelling on honeymoon, I was chased by a Trigger fish in the Indian Ocean, I was so scared!
6. Unlike Moses, I have not been barred from entering the promised land, although it was a nervous moment when I saw Derby County play Arsenal at Pride Park and sat with Derby supporters, I had to stay quiet when Arsenal scored – and won!

I have not been a Moses in any shape or form but I can echo his words. I have been aware of God's blessing in all my works. I have sensed God watching over me and God has blessed me by encouraging me through his Spirit and with exceptional colleagues and friends who have guided, helped, cautioned and laughed.

I find myself looking back over these years with immense gratitude, as there is so much to be thankful for. No one can take such a period for granted. Somehow, in spite of myself, God has been gracious not just over days or even years but decades. Thanks be to God!

Paul

Returning to Church: Sunday 16th August

After conducting thorough risk assessments to comply with government guidelines, we intend to return to church on Sunday 16th August. Details are as follows:

We plan to hold a **short half hour service of Holy Communion at 10.15am** (this is to allow those travelling by bus to get there in time for the service).

As we will have limited numbers due to socially distanced seating, people wishing to attend need to **book in advance by 12 noon on the Friday preceding the Sunday service**. For those with internet access, booking will be via the Eventbrite website (see below) Those without internet access can phone the Church Office (01332 360790) and leave a message before 12 noon on Friday and we will book you in.

Church doors will **not be opened until 10am**, and entry to church will be via the small car park on St. Peter's Churchyard and the Tower door. Everyone attending need to wear a face mask or face covering and sanitise their hands on entry. There will be a one-way system in operation throughout the church to ensure social distancing is kept, and someone will show you to your seat. Access to St. Peter's Centre for toilet access will be monitored so that only one person goes into the Centre at a time.

The service will include the Gospel reading for the day, a short 5 minute (maximum) homily, and two hymns or songs, usually played and sung by one of worship leaders, or, occasionally, via CD. Communion (bread only) will be brought to members of the congregation in their seats to avoid movement around the building. We ask people to sanitise their hands before and after receiving the bread.

There will be no offering in the service, but money can be placed in the slot of the table behind the Sound Desk before or after the service.

There will be no refreshments served after the service, and we ask people to leave straight away (again observing social distancing) via the Tower door and sanitise their hands on exit. Service sheets (which will be placed on chairs before the service) should be taken home with you.

At 11am we will hold our usual service of worship on Zoom. Please note the slight change in time to accommodate the earlier service. For the present this remains our main act of worship, with a full sermon, readings, songs and prayers. If you would like to join via the internet (computer, tablet or phone) or via telephone (landline or mobile) and don't currently have the details, please get in touch.

This is very new for all of us, and we will continue to monitor what we do, both in the light of experience and in the face of changing government advice and guidelines. If you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to be in touch as we seek to worship God safely and in diverse ways!

Final instructions for Sunday

This will be a simple service of Holy Communion beginning at 10.15 and ending at 10.45. There will be a brief sermon and communion, with bread only. Access to St. Peter's will be through the Tower Door on St. Peter's Churchyard, and not via the main entrance on St. Peter's Street. Doors will open at 10.00.

To attend, you need to register by 12.00 (noon) on Friday, and you can do this by:

1. Phoning the Church Office on 01332 360790 or
2. Registering online at <https://stpetersderby.eventbrite.co.uk>

Please leave your name, phone number and the number of people your wish to register from your household or bubble. This needs to happen each Friday you wish to attend.

There are 25 spaces per service and if the service is already full, those registering by phone will receive a call informing them of this. For those registering online, please register for the waiting list.

If you have registered but are then unable to attend, please cancel your registration by phoning the Church Office or via the Eventbrite website, and we will then allocate your place to someone else. This will also help us gather information about the numbers wanting to attend the service.

If possible, please bring your own hand sanitiser, but we have some available. Also, bring your own face mask or face covering.

We will keep registration details for 3 weeks for Track and Trace and then we will delete them

You do not need to bring anything to confirm you have booked, we will have a list.

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.



Prayer ...

In this very testing time for us all, do not hesitate to ask for prayer for any concerns. We all face difficulties 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**