



August 23rd 2020

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

And finally, 4: Be courageous

So, after being Vicar for 11½ years, writing more than 600 news sheet letters and preaching over 340 sermons, this is my final Sunday with you!

It does feel strange, and if you are retired, I think you will know what I mean. There is a wide range of feelings, from excitement to uncertainty, and many different thoughts too, as I look back with gratitude for all that has happened, but also disappointment at what has not been achieved. But I can say this: I have always done my best.

I am now looking forward with expectancy and faith and will do all I can to embrace this new word in my life: retirement. It is a negative word in English (meaning to retreat or withdraw), in German (*ruhestand*) and French (*retraite*) but it is such a positive word in Spanish (*jubilacion*) where it means jubilation, to be set free with joy. I trust the Lord will lead me into this new experience; of freedom, joy, rejoicing.

As I have reflected on these years, I remembered the December 2013 issue of Derbyshire Life and the article written by Sir Richard Fitzherbert, who in 1989, at the age of 24, inherited Tissington Hall and Estate. This article was featured on his regular page entitled, 'A Baronet's Diary' and is called, *A 21st century solution*.

With a couple of hours to pass while my car was being serviced, I wandered into the city centre and ventured into St. Peter's. What I found brought delight to my heart as this religious establishment has been dramatically transformed for the 21st century into a vibrant venue, meeting and training centre all within minutes of the shopping centre and other retail streets. With facilities for groups from 10 to 100, the centre is flourishing as well as being a popular place of worship (its original intention of course) and thanks to the investment of over £400,000, the church is thriving and taking many bookings. Our church at Tissington is now organ-less for the next six months as the instrument has been removed for renovation. Perhaps we should take a leaf out of St. Peter's book and look at alternative income streams as well as our usual services.

Throughout my time here we have taken risks, doing our utmost to develop and mature a church fit for mission in the 21st Century. But what about this next season?

I don't often talk about football because for many, it is an uninteresting subject, but I want to do so here. I have always supported Arsenal and, irrespective of whether you think they are a great club or not, and play attractive football or not, I want to mention the values that run throughout the club: *Always move forward; Be together; Act with class*. To practice these values is a worthy aspiration during the vacancy. I hope and pray that you will do this, and that together you will be courageous followers of Jesus Christ, trusting in him and taking risks for his Kingdom. Thanks be to God!

Paul

2009

Paul and Janet, Jasmine and Luke, David, Adam and Annie



2020

Paul and Janet, Jasmine and Luke, David and Rebecca and Eliana (and one more on the way!), Adam, Annie and Phil



Paul writes:

I have had many opportunities to share my thoughts and feelings, but Luke, Jasmine and Janet want to do this too, so here is a brief comment from each of them.



I remember the church services when Jazz and I would always giggle when everyone prays, and then the time when we, and other children, would all dance during the final hymn. Once the service had finished and coffee was being served, I remember being given a squirt of cream cheese from the bottle, getting multiple biscuits behind the serving desk, and then we would run about the church and Dad would scold us!

Changes are difficult, it will be hard leaving, some of you held me as a baby! All of you will be missed and it's going to be hard finding a new church but we look forward to visiting, you will see us again! *Luke*



As we are leaving I want to share some fond memories. There was the time I went to the Toddler Group run by Lesley and Mum. I remember the snacks: crackers, grapes, squirty cream cheese! All the children would play on the slide but it was in the corner playing with the football and orange and the yellow Little Tyke car that I especially liked. In church after the service I loved my biscuits and Luke and I would take lots of biscuits and be told off by the people running refreshments. Serving at Christmas Lunch on Jesus is also a favourite memory. Even though I have been going to another church, St. Peter's was always my home. I will miss you loads. *Jasmine*



I want to thank you all for your kindness and support in making me and the children always feel welcome and appreciated. It was quite a steep learning curve in the beginning as I didn't know much about the Church of England, liturgy or being a Vicar's wife! I remember being worried and asking Paul what I should wear, and jokingly he said that a special uniform would be provided! He reassured me that I could just be myself and actually, I have always felt able to be that.

It was a wonderful experience being on the Staff Team for the first 5 years, I learnt so much, what an adventure! I will always be so thankful for this, and will remember St. Peter's as a gracious church, willing to take risks and try new things. *Janet*

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.

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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**