



October 11th 2020

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

The Rule of Six

“Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Rom 8.37-39

Steven Croft, the Bishop of Oxford writes this to the Church this week: *After a difficult year, we are now facing an immensely challenging winter. All the graphs for coronavirus are moving rapidly in the wrong direction. There are more restrictions, more challenges to our health, more threats to our economy and way of life, and more challenges for our church communities.*

Thanks be to God for the ministry of clergy, lay ministers, wardens and thousands of volunteers who have worked to sustain worship, both online and back in our church buildings. Thanks be to God for the love and care extended out to the community, in partnership with many others through different ministries. Thanks be to God for our schools and chaplaincies in every place which are channels of God's grace. There has been immense creativity and renewal everywhere, but there is also now a deep tiredness.

But the announcements of the last two weeks will bring fresh mountains to scale. How can we live well as Christians in these times? Our aim must be to bring as much of the church safely through the pandemic as we are able but also to continue to extend love and care to our neighbours in months of acute spiritual, physical and social need: to be the Body of Christ in the world. This is the call of every disciple to everyday faith.

He suggests using the number six as a springboard for generous faith, courageous hope and life-giving love, and outlines six ways to live well in the coming season:

- **Six months is the new horizon** Focus on Easter and the hope to come
- **Six days to work and a sabbath to rest** Reclaim the gift of one day each week for rest and re-creation.
- **Six people to journey with** Rediscover church as small groups of people supporting one another.
- **Six ways to be salt and light** Identify the people and community organisations you can support.
- **Six percent to your church** If your income is stable, increase your giving to sustain the local church.
- **Six people to pray for** Pray they may discover the riches of our faith.

With my prayers and love, *Anita*

Harvest and Mission: Creating Space

How many people look at a polluted area, mutter something like “yuck” or “what a shame” or “someone should really do something about that” – and then move on? How many people look at such a place and see possibility for a green community space where people can connect, socialise, plant food, enjoy nature, play, even worship?

CMS mission partners Kailean and Kim Khongsai, originally from Manipur, north east India, have lived in Southall, London, for 11 years. Kailean said, “God placed us in Southall, a multicultural, vibrant place but sadly when we arrived we saw the area suffered from lack of community engagement and environmental under standing. Many green spaces were neglected. We felt the need for a community project that could address the issue.

“With very limited resources, we took up a small plot in an overgrown allotment and started a food growing project in 2010. It was daunting as this was the first community project in the area and we just didn’t know how people would react – we prayed a lot! The project was well received by the local community and local churches. This triggered our imagination to grow wilder.”

In 2013, Kailean and Kim spotted a three-acre piece of derelict land called Wolf Fields in the area, close to a housing estate, a church and a school. “The site was very abused, used for drug taking, littered with beer cans, syringes, old mattresses. Even nearby residents avoided it.” But the Khongsais fell in love: “We could see the site’s potential. We had no doubt that God would love to see his creation well looked after (Genesis 2:15).”

Getting planning permission from Ealing council, the landowner, and startup funding for the project was no easy task. “It required lots of prayer, determination, and patience.” Permission granted, one of the first tasks was clearing 54 tonnes of rubbish. To attract wildlife, nest boxes and a bird feeding station were installed. New paths were laid to improve site access. A food growing project was started. All of this was accomplished with help from people in the surrounding multicultural, multi-faith community.

In 2014, a competition was held across four local primary schools to design a sensory garden, and the final design was crafted by a seven-year-old. Local people helped with planting, and various companies donated products, time and expertise to help the sensory garden become a reality. In February 2018, a Braille information board and an audio post were installed in conjunction with Ealing Association for the Blind

The Wolf Fields project has given us the opportunity to work in partnership with local churches in reaching out to the wider community. It also gives us the opportunity to serve people with physical or mental challenges. Last but not least, we have the opportunity to proclaim good news – God’s love for his creation – in a practical way to various faith and cultural backgrounds,” Kailean and Kim said.

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. 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 concern you have. We all face difficulties and challenges, but prayer makes a difference. In an emergency, call Janet (07828 280455), and she will ask those on the prayer chain to pray for you.

Sunday 10.15am: simple service of Holy Communion

Please book in by 12 noon on Friday. If you have internet access, booking is via the Eventbrite website, using this link: <https://stpetersderby.eventbrite.co.uk>. For those without internet access, booking is by calling the Church Office (01332 360790). Please leave a message and we will book you in.

Please tell us if you are coming with others from your household. We need to collect name, address and phone details and keep them for 21 days in case we have to provide a list of attendees for track and trace purposes. The church building is now equipped with automatic hand sanitisers – just hold your hands underneath them!

Zoom details...

On a Computer, Laptop, Smart Phone or Tablet:

The easiest way is to click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/450891605?pwd=czNCTTJuaUJpQ3VIOVlnUm1zS0tKQT09>

Alternatively:

1. Open Zoom and select 'Join' or 'Join a Meeting'
2. Enter the Meeting ID: **450 891 605**
3. Select 'Join'
4. When prompted for the Meeting Password, enter **73837**
5. Select 'Continue' or 'Join Meeting' and you will be connected

By Phone – these are the numbers you must now use:

1. Pick any one of the numbers below (doesn't matter which), if one doesn't work, pick another: 0203 481 5240 ; 0131 460 1196 ; 0203 051 2874 ; 0203 481 5237
2. Dial the number and when prompted for the Meeting ID press: **450 891 605#**
3. You will then be prompted for a Participant ID, just press **#**
4. Finally, you will be prompted for the Meeting Password, press: **73837#**
5. You will be connected and able to hear everything that is happening

If you have any problems with accessing the service on Sunday, please call Anita.

Space to take notes from today's readings, prayers and sermon.

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Kitchen Supervisor: Gillian Wood

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 Link: Revd. Anita Matthews

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**