



October 18th 2020

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

Facing Reality

“I've lived through some terrible things in my life, some of which actually happened.” Mark Twain

I read an article this week by Jason Swan Clark, a pastor in South London. It explored two different ways of responding to Covid19 as Christians, both of which I recognised. One is to deny the true reality of what we're facing, hiding behind saccharine sweet platitudes and Bible verses to protect ourselves from feeling any real emotion about the situation. The other, like Mark Twain in the quote above, to catastrophize, is to make the events of life worse than they really are. Dread, fear, panic, worry, turn what we face into something far worse than it really is. In other words, it's not that bad things don't happen to us, it's that we make things even worse than they really are.

Do you recognise those responses? At a time when our TV screens and newspapers are once again full of doom and gloom about the upsurge in Covid cases and the winter months ahead, it's very easy to default to one of them (or to fluctuate between the two depending on how well or otherwise our week is going). And of course, doing so is human and natural. But the question is – how can we hold the truth of the Bible, God's promises, and the reality of the pandemic together in a healthy tension where neither overshadows the other?

Perhaps the answer lies in facing reality head on, without pretending that things are different to how they are, whilst drawing strength from the Bible as a book which is shaped in the crucible of human suffering and fear, as well as joy and faith. As Paul writes: *We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.* 2 Cor 4:8-12 NIV

May these words bring us comfort and hope as we continue to live with the reality of Covid19.

With my prayers and love,

Anita

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Some of you may remember that we were due to hold our APCM during the 10.45 service on 26th April, along with sharing brunch together! Sadly, and like so many things in these strange times we live in, we were unable to hold the meeting. This has now been rescheduled to happen via zoom as part of our 11am service next week, **Sunday 25th October** (unfortunately without brunch, but bring your coffee with you!). It may seem strange to incorporate the meeting into our worship. But it's a time when we look back with gratitude for all that has happened over the past year and look forward with faith and expectancy for all that is to come – so what could be more fitting than to express that within the context of praising and thanking God!

One of the things that happens in the APCM is the important task of electing churchwardens and PCC members. As usual, forms announcing the meeting, along with election forms for churchwardens and PCC members are on the Tower notice board in church, and will be taken down before the meeting. But this year, as not many people are able to come into the church building, we have also sent them out via email or post with this news sheet so that everyone has access to them.

For those who may not be sure of the processes, PCC members serve a 3 year term, and are nominated by those on the electoral (membership) roll. Churchwardens serve a 1 year term, but can be elected to serve another term, and are elected by those on the electoral roll as well as by anyone living in the parish.

This year we have a vacancy for a Churchwarden as Sung-Hee has moved to Manchester. We also have 4 vacancies on the PCC because Eddie Chambers, John Ferguson and Bill Poole have completed their 3 year term, and Kismet Barber has decided not to continue as a PCC member. Eddie, John and Bill are able to become PCC members again if they are proposed and seconded. And finally, we have 2 vacancies on the PCC for members to represent St. Peter's on the Deanery Synod, the Derby City Deanery of Derby Diocese. All nominations must be proposed and seconded (but don't forget to discuss this with the person concerned before the forms are filled in!) If you would like to know more about what being on the PCC involves, please have a chat to me or to any member of the PCC.

A prayer for mental health

Lord, look upon us with the eyes of your mercy.

May your healing hand rest upon us;

may your life-giving power

flow into every cell of our bodies

and into the depths of our souls,

cleansing, purifying,

restoring us to wholeness and strength

for service in your Kingdom.

Amen.

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.

St. Peter's in the City Staff:

Acting Vicar/Associate Priest: Revd. Anita Matthews

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Vicar's PA and Church Administrator

Vacant

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Inside Out Project Worker: Wayne Haycock

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Building Manager: Melvyn Wood

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](https://twitter.com/stpetersderby)

www.stpetersderby.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Link: Revd. Anita Matthews

IN THE WEEK

**The church office is closed until further notice,
but telephone calls to the Office on 01332 360790 and
emails to office@stpetersderby.org.uk will be monitored**