



November 8th 2020

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

The Light of Eternity

I was recently given the gift of a book by John C. Lennox, "Where is God in a Coronavirus World?" That's a question which many of us may have heard people asking, and may have asked ourselves at times over these last few months. As Christians it's a vital question to reflect on in a time of huge uncertainty, instability and vulnerability. And as we prepare to go into a second lockdown we may be wondering how on earth we can make sense of it all.

Well, if you were hoping for a simple answer to that question, you will be disappointed! The book is very honest about the challenges of pain, suffering and natural evil. But it's equally clear that in spite of those challenges, God is right here in the midst of all that we face. And as Christians, we believe that our faith has something to say about this crisis which goes beyond the fear and hopelessness which many people are living with at the moment.

If that's the case, how does it affect how we respond and live? One vital thing is to consciously try to live in the light of eternity, remembering that this life is not all that there is. As CS Lewis once wrote:

Scripture and tradition habitually put the joys of heaven into the scale against the suffering of earth, and no solution of the problem of pain which does not do so can be called a Christian one. We are very shy nowadays of even mentioning heaven. We are afraid of the jeer about 'pie in the sky'...but either there is 'pie in the sky' or there is not. If there is not, then Christianity is false, for this doctrine is woven into its whole fabric. If there is, then this truth, like any other, must be faced.

The apostle Paul expressed a strong conviction about the reality of life which goes beyond what we can see. *I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us...For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8: 18, 38 – 39).*

As we enter lockdown with all the anxiety that surrounds it, may we keep reading those words and trying to live each day in the light of eternity.

With my prayers and love,

Anita

Christmas Lunch on Jesus

Christmas is rapidly approaching, and so is our annual Christmas Lunch on Jesus! Sadly we're not able to run it in its usual format this year due to social distancing, risk of Covid transmission and the possibility that we will still be under restrictions closer to Christmas. But the need is greater than ever, so we have worked with Sainsburys on a different plan.

This year we will be accepting referrals as usual, and purchasing gift cards to give to families and individuals to enable them to purchase their own Christmas food from the Sainsburys store in the Intu centre (if it is a large family we will give 2 gift cards). The cards can only be spent on food and non-alcoholic drinks, and the cards will be stored in the till supervisor's safe at Sainsburys to ensure they are not lost, sold, or wasted. We will print a special CLOJ Christmas Card with a paper voucher inside which nominees can take to Sainsburys and present at the till, and we will ask volunteers from local churches to go out and deliver the envelopes to families and individuals two weeks before Christmas (so still maintaining the personal element, albeit socially distanced, contact). We will also include information about Christmas events and invites to services etc.

It will, of course, not be the same! But we are all getting used to that....and we are determined to continue supporting vulnerable people in Derby and sharing God's love and generosity in these challenging times. If you're able to donate money, please donate via the St. Peter's website (paypal), or make a BACS payment to the Church bank account and tag it 'CLOJ.' And please watch this space for more details about delivering the cards.

From the Archbishops of Canterbury and York

A second lockdown will be upon us on Thursday. It is going to be different from the first one. The days are getting shorter and colder. We are anxious for ourselves, for those we love, especially those who are vulnerable and elderly, and for our families. We know that this pandemic is having a devastating effect on our economy and on people's mental health. Thousands of people are dying. The National Health Service is being stretched to the limit. We also know and must continue to bear witness to the fact that the poorest communities in our nation are suffering the most. We are in for a long haul. It is going to be a hard winter.

Bearing in mind our primary vocation as the Church of Jesus Christ to pray and to serve **we call upon the Church of England to make this month of lockdown a month of prayer.** More than anything else, whatever the nation thinks, we know that we are in the faithful hands of the risen Christ who knows our weaknesses, tiredness and struggles and whose steadfast love endures for ever.

In one of the climactic passages of the New Testament, Paul says to those who follow Christ that their "love must be genuine, that they hate what is evil and hold fast to what is good." He asks them to "serve the lord", exhorting them to "rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers." (See Romans 12.9-12.) None of this is easy. Especially not at the moment. But it is our calling.

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=czNCTTJuaUJpQ3VlOVlnUm1zS0tKQT09>

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:

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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**