



November 29th 2020

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

Newness Is On Its Way

Here we again – Advent Sunday. And after living through the strangeness of lockdown, we may be wondering quite how we managed to get here! This has been a difficult time for many of us. Illness; unemployment; separation from loved ones; unmet hopes and expectations; events that have divided our homes, families, communities and country; loneliness and isolation; the death of friends or family members; war in our world; fear for our future – these have shaped our lives and the lives of those around us since March, and it would be surprising if we didn't feel somewhat weary.

In the midst of weariness, what does the season of Advent mean for us? Certainly this year will be different. Whilst we hope to re-open the church for simple worship services from 6th December, we are unable to gather as a community and sing carols as usual. Although we may be able to connect with small numbers of people over the Christmas period much of the busyness we usually experience in the run up to Christmas has been taken away. And yet, are those things what Advent is really about? Walter Brueggemann, in his book 'Celebrating Abundance' writes: *Advent is not the kind of "preparation" that involves shopping and parties and cards. Such illusions of abundance disguise the true cravings of our weary souls. Advent is preparation for the demands of newness that will break the tired patterns of fear in our lives.*

How do we find this "newness that will break the tired pattern of fear?" Perhaps we can turn to the words of John the Baptist, who proclaimed the promise of newness on its way: *I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire,*" Luke 3:15–16. Or the words of the angel to Mary in Luke 1: 35, "*The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.*" The message is clear – God is bringing newness by the Holy Spirit. And like the hearers of John the Baptist, like Mary, we are called to wait and to trust in God's promise of newness.

There are many things we will not be able to do this Advent. But as we wait, let us do the things we can, trusting that God will act in us, through us, beyond us, more than we imagined, because newness is on its way among us.

Living God, visit us in this season with your Holy Spirit. May you act in us, through us, beyond us, more than we imagine, because newness is on its way among us.

With my prayers and love, *Anita*

PCC Update

Worship: The 10:15 service is on hold until 2nd December. It is likely that Derby will be put into a high risk tier but re-opening is still likely.

City Centre Churches and Covid: Anita reported on a meeting with Peter Robinson (The Dean of Derby), Simon Cartwright (the Area Dean), Phil Mann (the vicar of St Werburghs), and Paul Brookhouse who oversees the food bank. The Nightshelter is not possible this year so alternatives are being explored. A City Council report has been published on the expected impact of Covid19 in the coming months and highlighting the issue of the challenges experienced by the 18-25 age group.

Christmas Services: The Carol Service will be held via zoom on 20th December with sharing of mince pies, wine etc at the end of the service. Subject to restrictions a short 10:15 Carol service will be held in church beforehand (singing will not be allowed other than by a small worship group.) It is not practical to have a midnight communion service this year. A short 10:15 service in church and an 11:00 Zoom service will take place on Christmas Day. After discussion, it was agreed there will be no service on 27th December.

Christmas Lunch On Jesus: – referrals are being received. A Christmas card is being designed and paper vouchers will be included with £20 for single people, £30 for couples and £40 for families. The Gift Cards will be held by Intu Sainsbury's for issue on submission of a voucher to avoid inappropriate use. About £9,000 is available to cover the costs. Bishop Libby will attend the distribution of cards for which volunteers are needed and will take place on 12/13th December.

Legacy: June Jeffery Percival has left significant legacy to St. Peter's (amount to be confirmed) She attended Sunday School and met her husband at St. Peter's.

Curate: Anita reported that a Curate will start work at St. Peter's next June, after his ordination. The paperwork is with the Diocese – more details soon!

Inside Out: The purchase of the 4-bedroom house has been delayed because of Covid19 but should take place in December. Prayer was requested for addicts who were finding life difficult under lockdown. Activities such as quizzes are taking place.

Churchyard: In the light of ongoing issues in the churchyard we are looking at installing additional CCTV cameras. The City Council have been asked to prune the vegetation.

Vacancy Process: Tim Benson and Sung-Hee Lee met with Archdeacon Christopher Cunliffe, Mike Duff (CPAS) and Simon Cartwright (Area Dean). A number of factors will affect the appointment, including Diocesan finance; Diocesan re-structuring; Diocesan Parish vacancies (15-20%); limited resources (people) at St Peter's; management of Chaplaincy from St. Peter's; working with the City Council; potential links between St. Peter's and the Cathedral/St. Werburgh's; high deprivation levels in the Parish; new housing developments in the Parish changing the demographic; extended periods of housing developments; transit population in some areas of the Parish and the impact of Covid19. The Diocesan restructuring means that the vacancy will not be advertised until March and realistically is unlikely to be filled for 18 months to 2 years. A working group will be set up to evaluate where we are as a church. Prayer will be vital!

Safeguarding: Janet MacIntyre was co-opted onto PCC to fill the vacancy for Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Finance: Tim reported that expenditure was £2,700 more than income during October. Rental income is down and general giving by £1,000/month through loss of service collections. It is expected that giving will reduce next year by £9,000 including Gift Aid

because of people moving away. Over the last 5 years rental income has significantly contributed to increased cash in the current account from £32,000 to £92,000. The 2019 rental income was £28,000 but this year is likely to be half that amount. Legacies, a City Council Covid support grant and furlough support has eased financial challenges this year. Income has allowed us to support many activities e.g. Inside/Out.

The 2021 budget was agreed. The Parish Share is estimated at £19,000 . Total budget income is estimated at £54,000 with £4,000 investment income. Total budget expenditure is estimated at £57,760 (budget items £6,260 + running costs £51,500. It was considered likely that there would be a budget deficit next year. At present the overall financial position is healthy but general giving is a cause for concern – there is a need for prayer and consideration of how to build the church community.

Advent Hope

As we emerge from the second lockdown and enter Advent, we look for the coming of Christ and of his kingdom, and the hope that gives us. Between 30 November 2020 and 24 December 2020, Bishop Libby invites you to join her each week for an hour of prayer and reflection together based upon seasonal Bible passages and collects.

Advent Hope is open to all and will be held on Monday morning from 8am - 9am and repeated on Thursday evening from 8pm - 9pm. Please email halina.johnson@bishopofderby.org for the access link.

Christmas Lunch on Jesus 2020, Derby and Calcutta

Referrals are coming in thick and fast for this year's CLOJ project! Please consider sponsoring a Christmas meal for a family in Calcutta and Derby for £30 or give whatever you can afford. You can make cheques payable to St Peter's Derby (please write 'Christmas Lunch on Jesus' on the back) and send to: Christmas Lunch on Jesus, c/o St Peter's In the City, St Peter's Street, Derby, DE1 1SN or visit: www.stpetersderby.org.uk to donate online (and please encourage others to!)

We need help to hand deliver the cards around Derby over the weekend of 12 and 13 December. Cards will be need to be collected on Sat 12 December between 9am and 12noon from St Peters in the City Church. Please do let us know if you would like to volunteer by emailing: clojproject@gmail.com

Carol Service (Via Zoom): 11am 20th December

It's hard to believe – but it's only 4 weeks to Christmas! In these strange times, we are unable to hold our Carol Service in the usual way, but it's more important than ever this year to celebrate the good news of Jesus' birth. Please do invite friends, families and neighbours to join us as we give thanks for Jesus, the light of 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 Bren (07967 183601), and she will ask those on the prayer chain to pray for you.

Sunday Worship

During this period of lockdown we are unable to hold services in church, so the 10.15 Communion Service is cancelled until further notice. We hope to re-open on 6th December subject to government guidance. We continue to meet virtually over zoom at 11am – please join us! Access details are below:

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

St. Peter's in the City Staff:

Acting Vicar/Associate Priest: Revd. Anita Matthews

anita@stpetersderby.org.uk

Vicar's PA and Church Administrator

Vacant

office@stpetersderby.org.uk

Inside Out Project Worker: Wayne Haycock

wayne@insideoutderby.org.uk

Building Manager: Melvyn Wood

Kitchen Supervisor: Gillian Wood

Church Wardens: Tim Benson, Liz Runcorn

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