

December 6th 2020

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

Watching and Waiting

"What I say to you, I say to all: Keep awake!" Mark 13.37



This week an artistic friend of mine sent me this picture with the following reflection. Let me share an amended version of it with you: *From the bottom of the painting, the faces stretch up into the distance becoming smaller and smaller. They resemble each other, yet no two are exactly the same. Their creator, Evelyn Williams (1929-2012), seems to be emphasising their common humanity and the uniqueness of each precious life. But who are they? What are they doing?*

The only answer Williams offers through the title of her work is that they are People Waiting. That's us this Advent: a community in waiting. That's us every Advent but this year the waiting has a strange new resonance. Our need for liberation has been underlined by lockdown; our demands for racial, social and climate justice have become more and more urgent as the year has gone on; our longing for a Saviour has been sharpened by the collective fear and grief of 2020.

Who are these people? Why they're us, of course. There we are looking up for inspiration, a word, a steer - anxious and unsure of our ability to navigate our way through the twists and turns of this extraordinary year. And there too are those we've encountered locally or seen further afield on our screens, bewildered by change and loss, their vulnerability etched starkly across the page. So here we all are this Advent, humanity at large, huddled together for comfort, longing for deliverance.

Obedient to the cry to 'keep awake', our eyes are wide open and we are scanning the skies for a sign. And the sign will come. Into our desperate need for God will be born God's very self...

With my prayers and love, *Anita*

An Advent Thought...

“If you are so weary with the struggle of living that you have no strength even to want God, yet are still dissatisfied that you don’t, you are already keeping Advent in your life.” (Maria Boulding)

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 3 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 Janet (07828 280455), and she will ask those on the prayer chain to pray for you.

Sunday 10.15am: simple service of Holy Communion

We're pleased to announce that we can open for corporate worship again from this Sunday, 6th December. 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

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 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**