



January 10th 2020

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

Five Helps for the New Year

2021 is here, and I would usually begin my letter with the greeting “Happy New Year.” Of course, we all wish that for one another, but the fact that we find ourselves in lockdown again only 5 days into the new year takes the edge of it somewhat. Once again we find ourselves facing restrictions and frustrations, and that all important question as Christians – ‘how then shall we live?’

Michael Ramsey, who served as the 100th Archbishop of Canterbury (from 1961-1974), offered these ‘Five Helps for the New Year,’ primarily for the clergy. I share them with you, as I think there is wisdom in them for all of us as we start a new year and a new time of lockdown.

1. Thank God. Often and always. Thank Him carefully and wonderingly for your continuing privileges and for every experience of His goodness. Thankfulness is a soil in which pride does not easily grow.
2. Take care about confession of your sins. As time passes the habit of being critical about people and things grows more than each of us realize
3. Be ready to accept humiliations. They can hurt terribly but they can help to keep you humble. [Whether trivial or big, accept them, he says.] All these can be so many chances to be a little nearer to our Lord. There is nothing to fear, if you are near to the Lord and in His hands.
4. Do not worry about status. There is only one status that our Lord bids us be concerned with, and that is our proximity to Him. "If a man serve me, let him follow me, and where I am there also shall my servant be". (John 12:26) That is our status; to be near our Lord wherever He may ask us to go with him.
5. Use your sense of humour. Laugh at things, laugh at the absurdities of life, laugh at yourself. Through the year people will thank God for you. And let the reason for their thankfulness be not just that you were a person whom they liked or loved, but because you made God real to them.

Perhaps we might add in another vital one for this year – try, as best we can, to live in hope, not a false optimism, but the deeper unchanging hope that comes in Jesus Christ.

With my prayers and love, *Anita*

New Year, New Sermon Series!

As we begin 2021, we look forward to a new series of talks during the 11am Zoom service each week on the story of Joseph. If you're not familiar with it (or even if you are!) why not have a read of it in the coming week or so (it begins in Genesis 37). It's an extraordinary and rich story of hope and redemption in the midst of the challenges of life. Steve Silvester, the Vicar of St. Nick's Nottingham, has written on the story of Joseph – here is an introduction to whet your appetite!

As I write, two of the three best-selling books are autobiographies. Life-stories fascinate us, especially when they offer insights into someone's personal life in the context of significant, world events. The story of Joseph provides this dual perspective. His flaws and virtues, private struggles, complex emotional life and challenging family relationships are all explored. At the same time, his life intersects with momentous public events of international significance. The story is full of domestic tension, ups and down, failures and successes. No wonder it has inspired musicals, plays and films.

In these chapters Joseph travels from Canaan to Egypt, from prison to high office. But he also travels a bigger personal journey from naivety to maturity, from self-centredness to wisdom, from betrayal to reconciliation. But this is no straightforward biography. It is also the story of a nation. Like Joseph, Israel was often seen by the larger neighbouring powers as a pretentious upstart with ideas above its station. The challenge for Israel was to learn to live widely in the context of an alien culture so that it could fulfil its unique divine destiny.

This life story gives us hope. Our lives, too, can be journeys into personal growth and usefulness in the service of Good and society. We may not always be able to see God's hand outworking his purposes in us and around us, but these chapters offer wisdom for us to implement in our own lives. If we do so, we will be more at the disposal of God as he writes his big story.

A Lockdown Prayer

Loving God, at this time of crisis when so many are suffering,
we pray for our nation and our world.

Give our leaders wisdom, our Health Service strength, our people hope.

Lead us through these parched and difficult days

to the fresh springs of joy and comfort that we find in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Words of Hope for a New Year

How good is the God we adore,
Our faithful unchangeable Friend,
Whose love is as great as his power,
And knows neither measure nor end!

For Christ is the First and the Last
Whose Spirit shall guide us safe home.
We'll praise him for all that is past
And trust him for all that's to come. (J Hart)

Prayer ...

In this testing time, 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

10:15am Holy Communion: Despite being in lockdown, churches are allowed to remain open for socially distanced worship. Our 10.15 simple service of Holy Communion will therefore continue as usual, unless government guidance changes. 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.

11am Worship via Zoom: see below for joining details.

Joining Details for Zoom Worship

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 problems with accessing the service on Sunday, please call Anita

Space to take notes from today's talk...

St. Peter's in the City Staff:

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Vacant

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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