



January 17th 2021

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

The Gift of Community

This week I read a short essay on Community by the former Chief Rabbi, Johnathan Sacks. He tells the story of a man who discovered community in a new way through a challenging life event:

The other day a man I knew was attacked and beaten up in the street. He was coming home from synagogue when a group of youths set upon him, knocked him down and started kicking him. I heard about it a few days later and phoned him up, expecting to find him in a state of shock. To my amazement he said, 'The police have just come round to take the details. I told them what happened, but I had to add something. I know this is going to sound strange, but I'd like to thank my attackers. They showed me the friends I didn't know I had.'

Was that strange? Maybe not. The news of his attack got around, and he was soon surrounded by well-wishers, making phone calls, dropping in food, and assuring him of their prayers. As Jonathan Sacks continues, *He found himself surrounded by a network of concern. It should not have surprised him. He had done this many times for other people when they were going through a crisis of their own, but it was the first time he had been on the receiving end and he suddenly realized how strong were the bonds of support that surrounded him. That is what community is.*

As we face our own challenging life event in the face of lockdown, what does it show us? Certainly community has taken on a new significance for us all. The importance of having – and offering – strong bonds of support has come to the fore in recent months, and it has been heartening to see how people in the community at St. Peter's have supported and reached out to one another. Thank you for that care and concern, and as we go into the difficult weeks ahead please continue to connect with one another, and to offer a listening space for one another.

But may we also be challenged again to go beyond the bounds of our community to our neighbours, to those who are on the edges and who may be overlooked in these difficult times. Because doing that speaks volumes about God's deep care for people. To end with some words again from Jonathan Sacks. *Faith lives in communities. They are the human face of the Divine reality that tells us we are not alone.*

With my prayers and love,

Anita

Prayer from Bishop Anthony Poggio

We thank you, God, that you always hear our prayer.

We come to you to ask that you meet each one of us at our different needs.

We ask you to feed the hungry and shelter the poor.

Stand by the widows, orphans and the vulnerable.

Challenge us to love our neighbours more and strengthen us in our faith.

We ask that you bring peace to those who are hurting and serenity to those who are scared, cover them in your glory and protect them.

Let harmony flourish among us, Lord.

May your faithfulness shield and guide us throughout our days.

In your name, Amen.

From Bishop Libby

January can be tough. The cold, dark days after the expectations and disappointments of Christmas, and the return to routine which may be burdensome or lonely can feel hard in a normal year: and this is not a normal year. In the midst of another lockdown, we are all struggling.

The season of Epiphany, the time between the festival that remembers the coming of the Magi to visit the infant Jesus and the festival that remembers Mary and Joseph taking Jesus to the Temple for dedication, seems right for us just now. It is an honest season, with stories that recognise pain and struggle; a season that moves our attention from the cradle to the cross; a season that gives space for exploring what the story of Christmas means in the everyday. The season of Epiphany is the time to discover whether the Kingdom of God, made flesh in the Christ child, is good news for all.

I want to thank you for the ways you have adapted and responded, once again, to changed circumstances. I am very grateful for the collaborative work to sustain worship and witness across the diocese, while prioritising public health.

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.

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 allowed to stay open during the current lockdown, the PCC has made the decision to pause our 10.15am service to reduce social contact and the possibility of transmission of the new and highly contagious Covid strain. We continue to monitor the situation, and we will reopen when we feel it is safe to do so. Watch this space for more details. In the meanwhile, everyone is welcome to join us for our Zoom worship (see below).

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=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 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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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

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