



January 24th 2021

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

## **Losing Our Way**

One of the joys of January for me is reading books I was given at Christmas (and I was fortunate to receive several really good books!). One of the books is a series of short essays by the former Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, "Celebrating Life." Last week I shared his reflection on community; this week I'd like to share some insights from another of his essays which struck me as highly relevant, "Losing our Way."

*"Thank God," says the sage, stroking his beard and looking up from his volume of the Talmud, "things are good." Then he pauses, thinks a while and adds, "But tell me one thing, Master of the Universe...if things are so good, how come they're so bad?"*

That's a question which may resonate with many of us as we look at the world around us. On the one hand, we have so much, far more than we could ever have imagined in years gone by. In the West we are blessed with freedom, affluence, and a huge diversity of choice. Supermarket shelves are bursting with a bewildering range of products; we can travel almost almost anywhere in the world, soon even into space (at a cost!); and global communication is accessible to us at the touch of a button. Things are good...but then, why are they so bad?

One response to that question is that alongside the huge advances we have made, there has been a corresponding rise in depression, suicide, drug and alcohol abuse, violence and crime to name a few. But that response, whilst undoubtedly true, doesn't offer an explanation for why that's so. Back to Jonathan Sacks again:

*Why, if things are so good, are they so bad? The shortest, simplest answer, is that we have lost our way. We have focused on the how but not on the why. In achieving material abundance we have begun to lose our moral and spiritual bearings. In achieving technical mastery we have lost sight of the question – to what end?*

Thought-provoking stuff, particularly in light of Covid19, when we are being forced to look again at our world, how we do things, and why we do things. And the good news is that there is hope, however fragile – hope of finding our way again, of finding new ways, of rediscovering the why as well as the how, of reclaiming our spiritual bearings. As we continue to live through the challenge of lockdown, may we take time to pray for our world, our community, our church, that the God of all hope will make all things new.

With my prayers and love, *Anita*

## **Prayer Meeting – from Geoff**

In our series on the parables before Christmas, I spoke on the parable of the friend at midnight. The lesson I drew from this was the need for persistence in prayer.

As Christians we believe prayer changes things. We have begun a New Year and we anticipate returning soon to worship at St. Peter's with all the challenges this will bring. Prayer is essential for those responsible in the appointment of our new vicar. In the meantime let us seek the Lord to guide us in developing the life of St. Peter's. Our nation and government face major decisions in the future of our economy, our businesses and individuals struggling financially. We need to pray for this those in authority as we begin anew chapter following Brexit and Covid 19.

A couple of days ago I received a letter from Bible Society telling me about martyred brothers Jonas and Joseph, who were part of Bible Society team sharing the Bible in Africa. Jonas lived in the Cameroon and Joseph lived in Nigeria. Both were brutally murdered by Islamic extremists Boko Haram. They have left families behind bereft of a father. We need to pray for our wider world.

So please join me on Zoom for a 45 minute weekly prayer meeting. Can you please call the Church Office saying which days and times are most suitable. I will choose a date and time which the majority decide. The number is 01332 360790. I look forward to hearing from you. Remember, "prayer changes things". God bless you all, Geoff

## **From the Grandchamp Community in Switzerland**

Pray and work that God may reign.

Throughout your day

Let the Word of God breathe life into work and rest.

Maintain inner silence in all things so as to dwell in Christ.

Be filled with the spirit of the Beatitudes,

joy, simplicity, mercy. (*shared for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*)

## **Time to be Slow, by John O' Donohue**

This is the time to be slow,

Lie low to the wall

Until the bitter weather passes.

Try, as best you can, not to let

The wire brush of doubt

Scrape from your heart

All sense of yourself

And your hesitant light.

If you remain generous,

Time will come good;

And you will find your feet

Again on fresh pastures of promise,

Where the air will be kind

And blushed with beginning. (*From "To Bless the Space Between Us"*)



"This storm is making me tired," said the boy  
"Storms get tired too," said the horse, "so hold on."

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## **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=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:**

**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**  
**[www.stpetersderby.org.uk](http://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](mailto:office@stpetersderby.org.uk) will be monitored**