



February 7th 2021

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

God in the Ordinary...

As I write, the Church around the world is celebrating Candlemas. Candlemas is the climax of the Christmas Story as Jesus, now 6 weeks old, is received by Simeon and Anna and blessed by God. Read Luke 2: 21 – 38 to find out more!

It's an amazing story. Two young parents starting out, old Simeon and Anna nearing their deaths, and the little tiny child: all of humanity is here. It's the first time that Jesus is truly recognised for who he really is. The shepherds came to visit Jesus, knowing something amazing had happened, but not really understanding what. The wise men had more of the picture – they recognised Jesus as a King, and glimpsed something of his significance for all people. But here, in the arms of Simeon, the radical truth of who he is is seen. A light for revelation to the gentiles. Salvation is for all people, not just the Jews. That was shocking; exciting; earth shattering all at once.

The thing that most strikes me whenever I read the story is how easy, on a practical level, it would have been for Simeon to totally miss seeing the child. The temple would have been buzzing with activity; with people buying and selling animals for sacrifice, with priests and prayer, with all the busyness of established religion. There would have been other young parents with babies bringing them to present to God. How easy it would have been for Simeon to miss the moment – to miss the encounter of Christ, ironically, in the noise and bustle of religion itself.

What does it say to us? One of the challenges the story poses is how that Temple Community was prepared to welcome this young family who came through their doors; who came in obedience to the law, and yet who carried with them the possibility of a profound encounter with God. On the outside, they looked like nothing special. They couldn't even afford to bring a lamb and a pigeon – Instead they bring two pigeons, the offering of the poor. Yet despite their outward appearance, Simeon sees beyond and recognises the one he has been waiting for.

So what's Simeon's secret? How does he see what others don't? The answer lies in verses 25 – 27. "He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him." Simeon doesn't have amazing magical powers. What he does have is the gift of the Holy Spirit and the expectancy which comes with waiting upon God. Are we open to see God at work in our midst or do we miss it? Are we so convinced by the way we do things and have always done things that we can't see God in any other ways? Are we waiting on God?

With my prayers and love, *Anita*

A Prayer for Candlemas

Christ, who brought light to the world;
shine your light in places of darkness...

Mary and Joseph brought doves to be sacrificed in the temple, the sacrifice that was demanded of those too poor to afford a lamb.

Christ, you knew poverty on earth and understand the pain and suffering that it brings. Shine your light in situations of poverty.

Simeon prophesied and told Mary in the temple: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

Christ, you knew conflict on earth and experienced the violence and the hurt that it brings. Shine your light in situations of conflict.

Simeon praised the Father as he met the Christ child, he prayed 'For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations.' Christ, you saw on earth how in need of salvation humanity were, and still is, and you wept. Shine your light in situations of spiritual darkness.

We thank you Father God, for the light and the salvation brought through Christ, and we join in the prayer of Simeon:

'Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel.'

Update from PCC

Worship: In the current lockdown churches are not forced to close but over 50% of E churches have closed. As a PCC, we took the decision to close physically until at least 28 Feb 2020, with Zoom services continuing. The PCC discussed the ongoing high levels of infection, and agreed (with sadness) to put in an application to remain closed for another month. We will continue to review the situation.

Lent: Ash Wednesday is 17th February. The PCC discussed options for the Lent Project. Two years ago we raised money for the Brace Bridge project in Kolkata, India, to build a community centre providing education, health and women's empowerment facilities. Building is about to begin (delayed due to covid) but costs have since risen, and the building will now cost around £1600 more. It was agreed to support Brace Bridge as part of the Lent project to raise the remaining costs.

Derventio Housing Trust and the Green Lane Contact Centre were discussed as possibilities for a second project. More information is being gathered.

WORTH: The PCC heard about WORTH (Women On The Road To Healing), a charity that provides aftercare and support to women recovering from domestic abuse. Domestic Abuse rates are highest in the county in Derby with Chesterfield (where WORTH is based) coming second. The possibility of partnering with WORTH

in the future to set up a support hub in Derby was discussed, and it was agreed to find out more information about what this would entail and to discuss in more depth at the next PCC meeting.

Inside Out: The sad news of the death of Peter Zimmermann, one of the key Inside Out Mentors, was shared, and gratitude for him was expressed. We are still waiting for the sale to complete on a 4-bedroom house. If the sale falls through, there will be a 3-bedroom house to buy. The delay is not a bad thing as it is difficult to support new people properly due to covid restrictions. One of the occupants of our existing 3-bedroom house has moved to his own place and has his children back. There is now only one person left in the house who is going into rehab because he is struggling. Unfortunately, we cannot place anyone else in the house until 15th Feb because of the risks. This means that Faith Hope Enterprises are making a loss of £1800 from the lack of rent, and it we agreed to give 50% of the deficit (ie. £900) from the Inside Out funds. There have been positive conversations with a potential sponsor for Inside Out for £5000 to £10000 as well as possible ongoing support.

Churchyard: We are getting quotes for security cameras to be fitted in the churchyard as the old cameras are not fit for purpose.

Derby City Economic Presentation: Bill shared a presentation about the current situation. i) Derby is the third worst affected city financially in the country with unemployment in young people significantly increased due to covid. ii) There is investment in the city but generally to high tech industries with fewer jobs available. iii) Derby received a government grant of £15million for city centre improvements in Dec 2020. iv) City centres are dying which is where most of the employment for young people is. There needs to be a huge regeneration of City Centres in the future. v) There is a lot of development due to happen in the parish in the next 2 years which is positive. The new Becketwell site should create jobs, housing and entertainment. vi) Castleward: We have a good link with the Methodists there. We may need to look at partnering with them so we do not double up on work/projects.

Vacancy: We have been told that by the Diocese to start the process of preparing a parish profile, but that they are unlikely to advertise the job before next year. The PCC agreed to begin the process of exploring i) strengths and Weaknesses as a church ii) Who are we? iii) What does St Peter's give to the city?/Justification for our existence. iv) What makes us unique as a church? Eg. Chaplaincy, Inside Out, Jubilee Project, our position in the city centre v) What kind of vicar do we want?

Finance: in December we had £5500 more going out than coming in but this was largely due to CLOJ. We are in a fairly healthy position but still spending more than our income. The PCC agreed to pay our parish share of £18,000 in full.

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. We will be sharing in Communion this Sunday – please have bread/crackers, wine/juice to hand!

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

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