



February 21<sup>st</sup> 2021

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

### **Lent: Space to Reflect...**

So, here we are again at the beginning of Lent! As I wrote in last week's news sheet, some of us may feel as if we've been living a kind of Lenten fast for the last 11 months, forced to give up many things that we enjoy and treasure. The temptation may be to overlook Lent this year, overwhelmed by the burden of lockdown.

But to do that misses the gift of Lent, the gift of making time to intentionally reflect and go deeper with God, a gift not only to ourselves but to the world around us. Below are two thoughts about the gift of Lent, for ourselves and our journey with God, and for those around us:

*Contrary to what many may think or feel a period of spiritual endeavour (during Lent, perhaps, or while taking part in a retreat) is a time of joy because it is a time for coming home, a period when we can come back to life. It should be a time when we shake off all that is worn and dead in us in order to become able to live, and to live with all the vastness, all the depth and all the intensity to which we are called. (Metropolitan Anthony Bloom, Meditations on a Theme)*

*Benedictine Abbot Christopher Jamieson (comments) that many of us choose a busy life while pretending it is forced on us....We choose to be busy because it facilitates our consumerist lifestyle that requires us to work harder and harder and to fulfil our consumerist ambitions. It distracts us from the deeper realities of life. When given space for stillness and silence, we prefer to rationalize our discomfort rather than face the sources of our restlessness. Communities who build in contemplation as a regular practice can begin to address these sources of restlessness. It is a gift we can offer non-Christians as they search for ways to de-stress and become less anxious in what has been described as "the general mayhem of modern life." (Encounters on the Edge: No 38, The Cost of Community)*

I hope that these thoughts will inspire us to take time this Lent to reflect and go deeper in our faith.

Servant Christ,  
help us to follow you into the place of quiet  
to intercede for the confused, the despairing, the anxiety-driven,  
to prepare ourselves for costly service with you;  
Servant Christ, help us to follow you. Amen.  
(India: Litany of the Disciples of Christ the Servant)

With my prayers and love, *Anita*

## **Resources for Lent**

i) Catching the Wave: Catching the Wave is a 40 day prayer guide encouraging us to pray. It can be used at any time. Some people like to use it in the run up to Easter (during Lent). Visit <https://thereishope.co.uk/40-days/> to sign up for a daily email to your inbox.

ii) LECTIO 365: LECTIO 365 is a daily devotional resource that helps you pray the Bible every day. Written by leaders from the 24-7 Prayer movement, this resource helps you engage with Scripture to inspire prayer and shape your life. Visit <https://www.24-7prayer.com/dailydevotional> to find out more.

iii) The Church of England's #LIVE LENT is also available to access via an app or email, and offers reflections and prayers based on the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book for 2021, *Living His Story* by Hannah Steele. Check out:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/livelent-2021-church-resources-gods-story-our-story>

## **Ash Wednesday**

Please join us on zoom at 6pm on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> for a short and simple (30 mins) service of Holy Communion to mark the beginning of Lent. Please have bread/crackers, wine/juice to hand!

## **Immigrant's Creed**

Here are the words of the Immigrant's Creed we used in the worship last Sunday:

I believe in Almighty God, who guided the people in exile and in exodus, the God of Joseph in Egypt and Daniel in Babylon, the God of foreigners and immigrants.

I believe in Jesus Christ, a displaced Galilean, who was born away from his people and his home, who fled his country with his parents when his life was in danger, and returning to his own country suffered the oppression of the tyrant Pontius Pilate, the servant of a foreign power, who then was persecuted, beaten, and finally tortured, accused and condemned to death unjustly. But on the third day, this scorned Jesus rose from the dead, not as a foreigner but to offer us citizenship in heaven.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the eternal immigrant from God's kingdom among us, who speaks all languages, lives in all countries, and reunites all races.

I believe that the church is the secure home for the foreigner and for all believers who constitute it, who speak the same language and have the same purpose. I believe that the communion of the saints begins when we accept the diversity of the saints.

I believe in the forgiveness of sin, which makes us all equal, and in reconciliation, which identifies us more than does race, language, or nationality.

I believe that in the resurrection God will unite us as one people in which all are distinct and all are alike at the same time.

Beyond this world, I believe in life eternal in which no one will be an immigrant but all will be citizens of God's kingdom, which will never end. Amen

### **From the new Bishop of Repton - designate**

What a strange time to move, and to start a new job! But Pam and I want to thank you all for your kind welcome!

I am enjoying getting to know people and places so much as is possible on zoom – but can't wait to get out around this beautiful diocese meeting people properly. Whilst I am inevitably feeling half-baked as a 'bishop designate', there is a sense that this time is also gift, a time for meeting people, learning about the diocese and discerning how I can best play my part.

The Diocese of Derby is new to me – but the varied landscape seems familiar. I have been fortunate to live in and enjoy living in urban Hackney, in rural parishes in Northumberland and in Buckinghamshire, and in former mining communities in county Durham. It is good to be here.

I'm not a great one for jigsaws, but we had dutifully started a 1500-piece puzzle – a gift – before we moved from York and managed to keep it nearly intact. In our new home, at the rate of no more than a dozen pieces a day, it is slowly coming together, and one day the picture will become clear.

As we emerge from the pandemic, we are going to have to pick up the pieces of our life in community, and see what picture emerges. Trying to make sense of it all I am encouraged by what St Paul says of Christ in Colossians, that 'He is before all things, and in him all things hold together'. And in 1 John 3.2 we read, 'Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.'

Looking ahead, I pray that as in Lent we try to refocus our lives and our life together, we will each behold the glory of Christ, and be transformed more and more to be like him. Malcolm

### **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:** 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

#### **St. Peter's in the City Staff:**

**Acting Vicar/Associate Priest: Revd. Anita Matthews**

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**Vicar's PA and Church Administrator**

Vacant

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**Inside Out Project Worker: Wayne Haycock**

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**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**

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**[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**