



April 11th 2021

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

Easter: An Intimate Event

That may seem like a strange title for an Easter letter – isn't Easter about a death-defying, earth-shattering event which changed the face of human history forever, and which invites us to enter into God's promise of resurrection and new life for all creation?

Yes, it is! But re-reading Henri Nouwen's book, "The Road to Daybreak", I'm reminded too of the deeply personal relevance of Easter to each and every one of us. Let me share a little from the book, the entry for Sunday March 30th:

After the Gospel we spoke together about the resurrection. Liz, who works with many anguished people, said "We have to keep rolling away the large stones that prevent people from coming out of their graves." Elizabeth, who lives with four handicapped people in a L'Arche foyer, said "After the resurrection Jesus had breakfast again with his friends and showed them the importance of the small, ordinary things of life." Sue, who is wondering if she might be called to go to Honduras and work with the L'Arche community there, said "It is such a comfort to know that Jesus' wounds remain visible in his risen body. Our wounds are not taken away, but become sources of hope to others."

Which of those reflections resonates with you? For me, all of them speak powerfully of the meaning of resurrection in our daily lives. As Henri Nouwen continues:

As everyone spoke, I felt very close to the Easter event. It was not a spectacular event forcing people to believe. Rather, it was an event for the friends of Jesus. For those who had known him, listened to him and believed in him...Mary of Magdala heard her name. John and Peter saw the empty grave. Jesus' friends felt their hearts burn in encounters that find expression in the remarkable words, "He is risen." All had remained the same, while all had changed.

What does the resurrection mean for each one of us, and for us as a community? How have we changed by the resurrection? How will we be changed? And how can we participate in the new life of Easter, which is not just for us, but for all people?

I invite you to take some time in the Easter week to reflect on those questions as, like the first disciples, we encounter the risen Christ.

With my prayers and love,

Anita

XV Easter Dawn – a Sonnet by Malcolm Guite

He blesses every love which weeps and grieves
And now he blesses hers who stood and wept
And would not be consoled, or leave her love's
Last touching place, but watched as low light crept
Up from the east. A sound behind her stirs
A scatter of bright birdsong through the air.
She turns, but cannot focus through her tears,
Or recognise the Gardener standing there.
She hardly hears his gentle question 'Why,
Why are you weeping?', or sees the play of light
That brightens as she chokes out her reply
'They took my love away, my day is night'
And then she hears her name, she hears Love say
The Word that turns her night, and ours, to Day.

Lent Project – still open!

In true St. Peter's tradition, our Lent Project remains open for donations for a couple of weeks after Easter – we will close it on 18th April. This year we are supporting 3 causes – close to home, the Green Lane Contact Centre supporting parents and children living apart in meeting together; Derventio Housing Trust, helping formerly homeless people with the practical support they need in moving into their first home; and the Community Centre/School at Brace Bridge, Kolkata, India.

Please do give generously to these very important projects. You can post a cheque to St. Peter's in the City Derby, St. Peter's Street, Derby DE1 1SN (payable to St. Peter's Derby, please write 'Lent Project' on the back.) Or you can make a BACS transfer to the Church account – please email office@stpetersderby.org.uk for details. Thank you!

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Holy Week and Easter services, and particular thanks to our team of worship leaders, musicians and technical team. It has been wonderful to walk through Holy Week together (the blessing of Zoom!) and we hope to be able to do something similar in the future.

Derby Bible Week

Derby Bible Week takes place this year from 19th to 22nd April, where Rupert Bentley-Taylor will be speaking from 1 Kings 18&19 on the subject of 'Faith in the darkest times' The meetings will be premiered each evening at 7:30pm, but they will also be available afterwards for those not able to view at the time.

The YouTube link is: youtube.derbybibleweek.org.uk

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.

Myanmar – Call to prayer from the Church Mission Society

On 8 November 2020, the people of Myanmar voted in an election, and they overwhelmingly voted, in spite of its flaws, for the party led by Aung San Suu Kyi – the National League for Democracy. The international community did not pay enough attention to the Myanmar army's unsubstantiated claims of electoral fraud which became louder and louder until the coup of 1 February.

In Myanmar, a country which was already greatly impoverished, the pandemic has brought many people and communities to their knees. Just as the number of coronavirus cases was finally going down and it looked like the country was going to lift its restrictions, the people's world was turned upside down, again. Aung San Suu Kyi – the elected leader – and other government officials were suddenly detained. In less than a week, the people who opposed the coup were organising peaceful protests, banging pots and pans at 8pm every night. Aung San Suu Kyi also called on the people to resist by refusing to work.

It did not take long for the army to start using violence against the democracy activists, first with water cannons and now with daily random acts of killing, torture, violence and destruction. Anyone can be a target at any time, including children.

However, decades of hardship, injustice and deprivation have made the people resilient, creative and resourceful. In Myanmar, people turn water into wine every single day. For the first time, people from different ethnic and religious backgrounds are presenting a united front, with the rallying cry: "You messed with the wrong generation." But the inescapable question is, how many people will die in the process?

- Please pray for the military to change their minds. Pray that low-ranking military and police officers would find the courage to disobey and refuse to kill their own people. Pray that all responsible for atrocities will be brought to justice.
- Pray that members of the government and all of those arrested for demonstrating peacefully will be released.
- Pray for protection from the virus that is still circulating in the country, perhaps increasingly as a result of gatherings and demonstrations.
- Pray for the families who are angry and who are grieving.
- Pray for villagers who have lost their homes as a result of new military campaigns in the rural and jungle areas. Pray for people who must live in hiding because of their involvement in the democracy movement.

Sunday Service 10.15am: simple service of Holy Communion

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>. Alternatively please call the Church Office (01332 360790) and leave a message - 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.

Zoom Service 11am

Please join us for our worship on Zoom at 11am this Sunday, when we will be returning to our series on Joseph for the final few weeks.

Joining Details

On a Computer, Laptop, Smart Phone or Tablet: 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 difficulty connecting please call Anita.

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: Janet MacIntyre, 07828 280455. Please note that copies of the Safeguarding Policy are available in the Church Office or at www.derby.anglican.org/safeguarding

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