



April 18th 2021

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

Be Strong....Do Not Fear!

This week has seen the next stage in unlocking from Covid restrictions, and there is a tangible sense of excitement. Shops can open, pubs can serve outside, and many of us are looking forward to a much-needed haircut!

At the same time, opening up can cause mixed emotions as we adapt to a different 'normality' and begin to re-enter society after months of being apart from people. It has been good to open St. Peter's each Sunday for a short service at 10.15, and from next week we have a number of bookings returning to St. Peter's Centre. Once again, we are adapting to a new reality – one that is welcome, but still full of uncertainty.

As a PCC, we begin each meeting with a Bible reading, reflection and prayer. At our last meeting Bill read Haggai 2 v 1 – 9, a passage which speaks into the uncertain situation we find ourselves in. As a Church we are scattered in a strange virtual world, not sure how Covid will change us for the long term. At St. Peter's we are also in vacancy, wondering where God will lead us in the future. And in the Diocese there are changes afoot as a restructuring process is underway.

Why is Haggai so relevant? As Bill pointed out, the people of Israel were living in strange times, having returned eighteen years earlier from exile in Babylon. They were bruised by the experience of living in a strange country and their future was uncertain. Their attempts to rebuild the Temple were proving to be slow and wearying. But despite this, God offers words of hope and promise: *"Be strong all you people still left in the land. And now get to work, for I am with you, says the Lord of Heaven's armies. My Spirit remains among you, just as I promised when you came out of Egypt. So do not be afraid."* (verses 4 and 5).

In fact, in the passage the people are encouraged no less than three times to be strong and not to fear. And God's promise is for better things to come. *"The future glory of this Temple will be greater than its past glory, says the Lord of heaven's armies. And in this place I will bring peace"* (verse 9). The glory of the future will be greater than the past.

I encourage you to read Haggai 2: 1 – 9 as we continue to live in times of uncertainty and as we seek to discern the future that God has in store for us. May we trust that God's promises for us are greater than we can imagine – and may we be strong, and not fear!

With my prayers and love, *Anita*

Eastertide Prayers

Risen Lord Jesus,
Break through to the heart of us,
Beneath the layers of protection,
The habitual armour of our public selves.
Unlock the hidden gifts,
The possibilities and hopes,
The unasked questions of faith and life in us.
Help us to breathe deeply of your Holy Spirit,
To be set free to grow into our truest selves
And to share that freedom with all those we meet. Amen.

Risen Lord Jesus,
No tomb could hold you,
No door could shut you out.
Bless us with your presence,
Fill us with your Spirit,
Send us out
Into your rough and tumble world,
To live and love with you! Amen.

Lent Project – closing today!

In true St. Peter's tradition, our Lent Project has remained open for a couple of weeks after Easter – it closes today! This year we are supporting 3 causes – close to home, the Green Lane Contact Centre supporting parents and children living apart in meeting together; Derwentio 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.

Many thanks to all who have given. If you'd still like to make a donation, 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!

Derby Bible Week

Derby Bible Week takes place from tomorrow, 19th April until 22nd April. 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

From the Bell Tower: marking the death of HRH Prince Philip

Alan Rowe writes:

An event such as the death of the Duke of Edinburgh would normally be marked by all of the bells being rung half-muffled. Unfortunately the current restrictions only allow a single ringer to be in the tower, and so the 'Nine Tailors' were rung on Friday afternoon.

The tenor bell (the heaviest in the tower) rang nine times, in groups of three (indicating the death of a man), and then rang a further 99 times at five-second intervals, once for each year of the Duke's life.

A Date for your Diary!

If Lockdown easing continues as planned and further restrictions are lifted on 17th May, the Sisters from CHN invite you to a

'GOING, GOING, GONE,' OUTDOOR SALE

**On Saturday 22nd May 2021
2-4pm**

**Convent of the Holy Name
Morley Road, Oakwood
Derby DE21 4TB**

On offer –

- Furniture (tables, chairs, garden furniture etc.)
- Gardening equipment
- Bric-a-Brac
- Plants

There will be no charge for anything but any donations would be welcomed.

The sisters ask that visitors continue to maintain social distancing and wear a mask at all times. Please do put the date in your diary and come and support them!

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 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:

Acting Vicar/Associate Priest: Revd. Anita Matthews anita@stpetersderby.org.uk

Vicar's PA and Church Administrator
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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
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