



April 25th 2021

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

### **Invitation to Imagination!**

As we continue to enjoy the gradual easing of lockdown, and look forward to the next steps towards freedom, our thoughts are turning towards when we are able to return to church (and sing!). Of course, there is still much that remains uncertain, and any plans we make will be tentative. But in this season of waiting (and in this season of vacancy for St. Peter's) we have an opportunity to ask the question – do we want the future to look the same as the past?

At a recent training day for Chaplaincy, Jonny Baker, a former colleague of mine at CMS, shared these words about inculturation – which means adapting the way Church teachings are presented to those beyond the culture of the church so that they are more accessible.

*Our lack of inculturation has fostered both the alienation of some Christians and an over ready willingness of others to live in two different cultures, one of their religion and the other of their everyday life. Other Christians again have left our churches because of this cultural insensitivity. Similarly non Christians have found the foreignness of the church a great barrier to faith.*

*True inculturation implies a willingness in worship to listen to culture.... it has to make contact with the deep feelings of people. It can only be achieved through an openness to innovation and experimentation, an encouragement of local creativity, and a readiness to reflect critically at every stage of the process, a process which in principle is never ending.*

Of course, this doesn't mean changing Christian truths and teaching or doing away with the Gospel. It doesn't mean abandoning all our tradition and hymns and everything we do as a community. But it does mean being prepared to look at the way we do things in church, and to ask whether God might be leading us into some new ways of being church after our experiences of the last year. What have we learned? What do we value? What are our hopes? And how might we become a more welcoming and accessible place, making contact with the deep feelings of people?

Isaiah 43:19 says: *Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new. It's bursting out! Don't you see it?* (The Message).

May we be alert in these coming months, so that we're open to what God might want us to see.

With my prayers and love, *Anita*

## **Prayer**

O God, You who are always doing a new thing,  
we confess that we sometimes close windows  
against the fresh air of new ideas,  
against the noise of other people's worries,  
against the winds of change.

God of every place and time,  
we confess that we often draw the curtains  
against people who are different,  
against world news or community concerns.

Forgive us our insulation in our locked homes,  
our shuttered churches,  
the security systems on our hearts.

Open up our lives,  
and let your Spirit blow through. Amen. (<http://revgalprayerpals.blogspot.ca/>)

## **Brace Bridge Project**

The Community Centre at Brace Bridge, Kolkata, which we supported through our Lent Project in 2019 and again this year (building was held up by Covid, and costs have risen significantly in the meanwhile) is nearing completion! See below for latest pictures. It is hope that the building will be completed by the end of April, and there will be an inaugural service to follow – we hope to have virtual access to the service for those who would like to be a part of it! More details to follow soon – watch this space!



## **From Bishop Malcolm, the new Bishop of Repton**

On Sunday evening, Derby Cathedral hosted a double installation – of Nicky Fenton as Residentiary Canon, and of me as Suffragan Bishop of Repton. I thank you for your prayers. It is good to be here!

As I said in the service yesterday, installations can either be essentially functional – like a new boiler or washing machine - or creative, and engaging, like an art installation. I spoke about visiting a local art installation, the ‘Walking Together’ mining memorial at Derbyshire County Council’s Markham Vale Business Park, commemorating miners who tragically lost their lives in three major disasters at Markham Colliery. Walking among the life-size steel figures of miners walking to work you can’t help but engage with their proud and tragic history – but when I visited, the sculptures also made me ask, what of the present and the future of that place? And where will we fit in? How do we unlock a brighter future when the present is overshadowed by the past? A true art installation is engaging, provocative, it releases creativity.

The pandemic has taken many of us to the end of our tether, and it is perhaps only now, as the restrictions on our lives are gradually lifted, that we begin to realise both what has been lost, and what has been learned. The readings yesterday were a reminder to me that God the Holy Spirit is with us and in us, whoever and wherever we are. In Numbers 11, we see God has a disturbing tendency to act outside the tabernacle. God likes to send the Spirit to people wherever they are, and do a new thing, pouring the Spirit on everyone, not just the usual suspects.

It is when we all catch the breath of the Spirit and get caught up in what God is doing that new life really breaks out like a long awaited social, economic and spiritual springtime - ‘good news for the poor, release for the captives, sight for the blind, and freedom for the oppressed’. (Luke 4)

All the more reason, in this season, to be thinking how we in our churches, at this time, may both pray in and live out, ‘your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven’.

May God in his love refresh us all with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the sure hope that in Christ ‘all shall be well, all manner of things shall be well’. +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 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](mailto:anita@stpetersderby.org.uk)

**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**  
**Follow us on Twitter: @stpetersderby; [www.stpetersderby.org.uk](http://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](http://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](mailto:office@stpetersderby.org.uk) will be monitored**