



May 23rd 2021

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

Encountering the Spirit...

Today is Pentecost, when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the transformation of the first fearful disciples into the first apostles of the gospel, as they waited for the gift they had been promised. It's a gift that God promises to us, too! But how much of that power do we access? Are spiritual encounters something we see all around us? Or do we assume they're for the select few 'super spiritual' people?

I read an article from the Church Times this week, "Close Encounters of a Spirit-filled kind," written by John Inge in 2019. It talks about the work of Alister Hardy, who was convinced that experiences of the divine were much more common than is generally supposed. Inge writes: *Having retired from a lifetime as a scientist (latterly as Professor of Zoology at Oxford University), he was determined to test this hypothesis, and, in 1969, at the age of 73, he set up a Religious Experience Unit. Throughout his life, Hardy had harboured an interest in religious experiences, and as far back as 1925 had started collecting press cuttings that referred to them.*

It is likely that this interest stemmed from boyhood encounters of his own while out walking. At the age of 88, he wrote of something that he had never spoken of before (quoted in David Hay's Religious Experience Today: Studying the facts, Mowbray, 1990): "Just occasionally when I was sure no one could see me, I became so overcome with the glory of the natural scene that for a moment or two I fell on my knees in prayer — not praying for anything but thanking God, who felt very real to me, for the glories of his kingdom and allowing me to feel them. It was always by the running waterside that I did this, perhaps in front of a great foam of Meadow Sweet or a mass of Purple Loosestrife."

Hardy's unit collected many thousands of responses in answer to the question: "Have you ever been aware of, or influenced by, a presence or power, whether you call it God or not, which is different from your everyday self?" The number of people who answered the question in the affirmative was surprisingly high. In a national survey, David Hay and Ann Morisy (who furthered Hardy's work) found that more than one third of all adults in Britain said that they had had an experience of this kind. In a subsequent survey, this proportion increased to more than half, and, if one includes those claiming some sort of premonition, to an astonishing two-thirds.

Most of those encounters happen outside the church...and sadly, we often fail to offer a space where people can explore them and try to make sense of them. As we celebrate the coming of the Spirit, may we be more open to see it and talk about it — in our own lives, and in the lives of those around us.

With my prayers and love, *Anita*

Sonnet for Pentecost – Malcolm Guite

Today we feel the wind beneath our wings
Today the hidden fountain flows and plays
Today the church draws breath at last and sings
As every flame becomes a Tongue of praise.
This is the feast of fire, air, and water
Poured out and breathed and kindled into earth.
The earth herself awakens to her maker
And is translated out of death to birth.
The right words come today in their right order
And every word spells freedom and release
Today the gospel crosses every border
All tongues are loosened by the Prince of Peace
Today the lost are found in His translation.
Whose mother-tongue is Love, in every nation.

A Pentecost Prayer

Spirit of truth
whom the world can never grasp, touch our hearts
With the shock of your coming:
fill us with desire
for your disturbing peace;
and fire us with longing
to speak your uncontainable word through Jesus Christ, Amen.
(Janet Morley *All Desires Known*. Expanded edition. London SPCK, 1992)

Annual Parochial Church Meeting: 13th June

It's hard to believe that it's the time of year again when we hold our hold our APCM!
This year it will take place during the 11am Zoom service on 13th June. As usual, we will incorporate the meeting into our worship - a time when we look back with gratitude for all that has happened over the past year and look forward with faith and expectancy for all that is to come. What could be more fitting than to express that within the context of praising and thanking God!

One of the things that happens in the APCM is the important task of electing churchwardens and PCC members. As usual, notices announcing the meeting, along with election forms for churchwardens and PCC members are available in church, and will be taken down before the meeting. But this year, as not many people are coming into the church building, they are also available by email – please email Anita if you would like one.

For those who may not be sure of the processes, PCC members serve a 3 year term, and are nominated by those on the electoral (membership) roll. Churchwardens serve a 1 year term, but can be elected to serve another term, and are elected by those on the electoral roll as well as by anyone living in the parish.

This year we have 3 vacancies on the PCC. All nominations must be proposed and seconded (but don't forget to discuss this with the person concerned before the forms are filled in!) If you would like to know more about what being on the PCC involves, please have a chat to Anita or to any member of the PCC.

Electoral Roll

Prior to the Annual Parochial Church meeting the electoral roll is revised. If you have been baptized and been a regular attender at St. Peter's for more than 6 months, you are eligible for membership of the electoral roll. Once again, forms are available in church or can be emailed to you – please contact Anita. All forms must be returned by 28th May. Please note – you don't need to fill out a form if you're already on the electoral roll (if you're not sure, please contact Anita!).

Final Reminder: Convent Open Day on 22nd May

We have previously advertised the Going Going Gone Outdoor Sale at the Convent of the Holy Name (Convent of the Holy Name, Morley Road, Oakwood, Derby DE21 4TB) from 2 – 4pm on Saturday 22nd May 2021. There will be furniture (tables, chairs, garden furniture etc.), gardening equipment, bric-a-brac, and 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.

It will now be preceded by an informal Service of Thanksgiving and Farewell (with Bishop Libby) from 1.30 to 1.55pm. *And it will be a chance to say farewell and thank you to all the Sisters, and especially to our own very dear Sister Barbara! Please come if you possibly can (and pray for good weather!!!)*

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.

Thanks from Kolkata

Our friends in Kolkata send thanks for our prayers and ongoing support – the situation remains critical, and the State of West Bengal has now gone into lockdown. Please continue to pray for all who are working to bring relief and to roll out the vaccination programme, and especially the staff of Cathedral Relief Service in Kolkata and the churches throughout the Diocese. Thank 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 of Holy Communion: 11am

Please join us for our worship on Zoom at 11am this Sunday. As it is Pentecost, we will share in communion together. Please have bread/crackers, wine/juice to hand. Joining details below!

On a Computer, Laptop, Smart Phone or Tablet: Click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/450891605?pwd=czNCTTJuaUJpQ3VIOVlnUm1zS0tKQT09>

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: 0330 088 5830; 0131 460 1196; 0203 481 5237; 0203 481 5240; 0203 901 7895; 0208 080 6591; 0208 080 6592
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
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; 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