



June 13th 2021

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

Innermost Being

You desire truth in the innermost being (Psalm 51:6)

This week we have enjoyed some glorious weather, a wonderful blessing after so much rain! Many people (and some of us at St. Peter's) have taken the opportunity to get away and enjoy some holiday, or go walking in the Peak District. But watching the news and the constantly changing red, green and amber travel lists we're reminded that, whilst things are moving in the right direction, we're not there yet. We're still living with a significant amount of uncertainty, something which many of us are weary of by now.

This week I read an article by Jason Swan Clark, pastor of a Vineyard church in South London. He writes about that sense of weariness which pervades life at the moment, and his own experience over the past year of trying to minister without being able to have face to face contact with other people (a challenge many of us have shared). But then he goes on to say this:

But what if it was an opportunity to be close to something I don't normally get to see. Like an extra low tide where the seabed of my life is revealed and can be explored. After all these months and trials it would be a shame to waste the opportunity to dwell with God here for all he might do with and in me, if I will let him.

And therein unearthed and excavated by all things COVID is the real nub of things. Beyond accepting the givenness of my circumstances, the location in space and time of where I am; beyond becoming someone who responds better to what befalls me, the realm of how I am; beyond those layers, is something further in and farther on. It is the realm of who I am before God. Who I am matters most to my heavenly Father.

It's tempting to rush back into familiar activity and busyness, and we yearn to get back to enjoying the pleasures of life – holidays, seeing friends and family, hobbies and interests, even meeting together as a church! But along with the joy that brings, let us not forget the opportunity that Covid has brought with it to see things we may miss seeing in the ordinary run of life – *the extra low tide where the seabed of life is revealed*. And may we be reminded that who we are in our innermost being, who we are before God, is what matters most.

With my prayers and love,

Anita

Praying for the Persecuted Church: Somalia

From a population of over 16 million, it's estimated that there are only a few hundred Christians in Somalia. It's very hard to know, given the secrecy they are forced into. It is impossible to publicly admit your Christian faith in Somalia, and 'church life' is non-existent. Islam is considered a crucial part of Somali identity, and if any Somali is suspected of having converted to Christianity, they are in great danger. Members of their family, clan or community will harass, intimidate or even kill them. Women may be raped and forcibly married. Christians are also in danger from al-Shabaab, a violent group that advocates Sharia (Islamic law) as the basis for regulating all aspects of life. Christians from a Muslim background are considered a 'high-value target' by al-Shabaab, who have often executed believers on the spot, when discovered. If a Christian man is killed or abducted, his whole family suffers, as the man will be the breadwinner. The remaining family are often left unprotected and seen as a stain on the community.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters from Somalia. Your prayers make an enormous difference to those following Jesus no matter the cost.

Lord, thank You that You are standing by Somali Christians – that however small they are in number, they are loved and cherished by the Almighty. Please encourage those who despair, and bring joy in the face of extraordinary hardship. We also ask that You would convict those who persecute Christians, as You did with the apostle Paul, and show them the truth of the gospel. Amen.

From Bishop Malcolm

A few weeks ago, Bishop Libby suggested that across Derbyshire during Christian Aid week we might consider giving a thank offering after our free vaccinations, to support communities in the developing world struggling under the weight of the pandemic. A target of £5,000 was set – and looking at the Christian Aid website I see this target has already been passed – which will be good news to some of the world's poorest people as they, with far less resources than we have, have to deal with this unprecedented crisis.

With all that in mind, I wonder if some readers might consider writing to their MPs to press home the call made by [Unicef](#) and the [Wellcome Trust](#) that the UK make supplies of unused vaccinations available to countries, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, where supplies of vaccinations have been minimal? It simply doesn't make sense to hold back from offering this support – as we know all too well the virus does not respect borders, and none of us are protected fully until all are protected. And surely, it would be wrong to withhold our help at such a time. If you do write to your MP, this doesn't need to be a long letter – a few sentences are enough to say why it matters.

'Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream....' Amos 5.24 May our gratitude to God lead us to live ever more generously, for the sake of his love.

27th June: Ordinations

A reminder that John Ferguson and Nick Parish (our new curate) will be ordained in Derby Cathedral at 12 noon on 27th June. Sadly Covid restrictions mean that numbers at the service will be very limited, and only a couple of people from St. Peter's will be able to attend. However, the service will be live streamed and we encourage as many people as possible to watch the service online and to support them in prayer! We will therefore not be holding an 11am Zoom service that day. The 10.15 simple service of communion will take place in church as usual, and there will be an informal Zoom coffee and chat catch up for those who would like to join in at 11am (also a chance to pray together for John and Nick) followed by a break before the Ordination service begins at 12 noon. Please make a note of the date in your diary – and please pray for John, Nick and all those being ordained in the coming weeks as they prepare.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

During the 11am Zoom Service on Sunday we will hold our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). This year it will be simpler than usual – there is less to report on due to the restricted activities during 2020, and our last APCM was only at the end of October! But it remains an important opportunity to give thanks for the life of St. Peter's and to elect Churchwardens and PCC members. Please do take the time to read the papers and reports accompanying this news sheet before the meeting.

St. Peter's Administrator

As restrictions continue to ease and group bookings are returning to St. Peter's we are looking for an Administrator to oversee bookings, invoicing, and manage the church office. Initially this will be a 12 hour post (rising to 20 hours as the workload increases) over 3 - 4 days, and we are looking for someone to start as soon as possible. If you would like to know more please contact Anita.

Prayer Meeting

A reminder of our weekly prayer meeting every Tuesday at 11am via Zoom. It's wonderful that a group are gathering each week to pray (and there is so much to pray for!) – please do come along if you can. For more details please contact Geoff.

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. Joining details below!

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: 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 Summers
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