



June 27th 2021

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

Celebrating St. Peter

You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church (Matthew 16: 18)

At this time of year we celebrate Peter, the saint after whom our church building is named. In 'normal' times we might reflect in our worship on the life of Peter – and what a life he had!

Peter is a much loved and colourful character. Originally a fisherman, he was called by Jesus to leave his nets behind and follow Jesus. Always impetuous, he was the disciple who stepped out of the boat to walk on water towards Jesus. At Caesarea Philippi he recognised Jesus as the Messiah – “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” (Matthew 16:16). He becomes one of Jesus' closest disciples, the 'Rock' on which the church would be built. And in the book of Acts he becomes the leader of the early church, preaching powerfully on the day of Pentecost and seeing many people come to faith.

This year our celebration of St. Peter is rather different, as we encourage as many people as possible to join the live stream of the Ordination service as Nick Parish, our new curate, and John Ferguson, are ordained as deacons (see below for details). But despite being different, it seems a very appropriate way to celebrate as John and Nick take on a new role, which may feel daunting! Because alongside Peter's courage, his insightfulness, his impetuous faith, we also see a man who begins to sink under the waves, who mistakenly tries to make booths for Jesus, Moses and Elijah on the Mount of Transformation, and who denies Jesus at the very point it matters most, not once or even twice, but three times. Peter is an inspiring figure not just because of his faith, but because of his ordinariness, his humanity, and his imperfections.

So what can we learn from Peter and his life? Certainly about the need to keep going and hold on even when things go wrong. Certainly that even betrayal can be restored by love. And undoubtedly that God can use every one of us, however ordinary and unprepared we feel, whether (like Nick and John) we're called to ordained ministry in the church, or whether our calling is to something completely different.

As we give thanks for Peter and his witness, we pray for John and Nick, that they would know God's grace and strength as they start out on their new ministries. And we pray for one another, that we may all discover our calling as disciples of Jesus, and have the courage to answer the call: “follow me.”

With my prayers and love,

Anita

Sonnet for St. Peter – Malcolm Guite

Impulsive master of misunderstanding
You comfort me with all your big mistakes;
Jumping the ship before you make the landing,
Placing the bet before you know the stakes.
I love the way you step out without knowing,
The way you sometimes speak before you think,
The way your broken faith is always growing,
The way he holds you even when you sink.
Born to a world that always tried to shame you,
Your shaky ego vulnerable to shame,
I love the way that Jesus chose to name you,
Before you knew how to deserve that name.
And in the end your Saviour let you prove
That each denial is undone by love.

An extract from ‘God’s Dry Stone Wall’ – Dave Hopwood

So many stones,
small, large, smooth, jagged, new, old,
fitting into this craggy, jigsaw body,
different sizes, different shapes.

All vital, all part of a bigger picture,
not a construction designed to keep others out,
but a welcoming, generous temple,
a kind of place to call home,
a lighthouse, a divine landmark,
a place where all varieties of stone may fit together.

Standing on the kind of rock that many overlook:
the kind of rock that will stand forever.

Praying for the Persecuted Church: Pakistan

Only 1.9 per cent of people in Pakistan are Christians – just over 4 million from a population of 208.3 million.

Christians in Pakistan face extreme persecution in every area of their lives. Believers who have converted from Islam face the greatest levels of persecution, but all Christians are considered second-class citizens in this strongly Islamic country.

Christians, particularly Christian men, are given jobs perceived as low, dirty and dishonourable, and can be victims of bonded labour. There are some Christians among the middle classes, but they are still considered inferior to their Muslim counterparts and often face severe workplace discrimination.

Christian girls are at risk of abduction and rape, and are often forced to marry their attackers and coerced into converting to Islam.

Pakistan's notorious blasphemy laws are used to target Christians, and Islamic extremist groups vehemently 'defend' these laws, including attacking or killing those believed to have contravened them. Often these are used to target Christians after a dispute relating to work or tenancy, rather than genuine cases.

Christian churches do exist, but those that are active in outreach face severe persecution from society. Please keep praying for your brothers and sisters in Pakistan. Your prayers make an enormous difference to those following Jesus no matter the cost.

Father God, it looks almost impossible to follow you in Pakistan, but we know that with You all things are possible. Please draw close to men, women and children who are suffering extreme persecution for their faith, showing them Your love, steadfastness and power. Amen. (From the Open Doors website)

Brace Bridge Project, Kolkata

An update on the Brace Bridge Community Centre housing a school, health facilities and women's empowerment project (funded by the Lent Project two years ago) – the building is almost complete! See the pictures below. More information to come!



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 Coffee Catch Up: 11.15am, and Live Stream of Ordination Service: 12 noon

Please join us to catch up over coffee on Zoom at 11.15am this Sunday. We will have some space to connect and chat, before praying for John and Nick as they are ordained. We will finish by 11.45am to allow those who are able to join the live stream of the Ordination service via this link: [Ordination of Deacons SUNDAY 12.00 noon - YouTube](#) (Alternatively go to the Cathedral website, www.derbycathedral.org and click on Worship and Services to find the link there).

Zoom joining details as usual - see 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
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Inside Out Project Worker: Wayne Summers
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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

IN THE WEEK

The church office is currently open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday between 9.30am and 1.30pm. Telephone: 01332 360790, office@stpetersderby.org.uk