



July 4th 2021

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

Rejoicing and Weeping

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep (Romans 12: 15)

That verse from Romans sums up a central part of being a community for me – being there for one another, and with one another, in times of joy and in times of pain and sadness. We certainly have great cause for celebration at the moment! Last Sunday we rejoiced with Nick and John as they were ordained as deacons in Derby Cathedral (see below for some photos!). But that's not the only reason to celebrate as a community. Last week Sung-Hee and Jan were married in Slovakia. And Fraser has completed his medical training and will graduate as a doctor next week! We send them all our love and congratulations, and prayers for God's blessing in a new season of life.

Alongside our rejoicing, our prayer chain is a witness to the challenges that many in our community continue to face, from illness, loss and grief experienced by our gathered community and those whom we love, to the injustices faced by our wider community throughout the world – friends in Ethiopia, India, Pakistan and many other places which are dear to our family at St. Peter's. So as we rejoice with those who rejoice, we also weep with those who weep, and stand with them in prayer and in solidarity – an essential part of what it means to be God's people together.

The last 15 months have been a time of both loss and gratitude as we have been unable to meet physically, but have been blessed by being able to remain connected as a community through Zoom, Whats app and phone calls. As we wait for the announcement on 19th July about the next stage of easing restrictions, we hope that we will soon be able to be return to church for worship at 10.45am (which we intend to stream via Zoom so that all can access it). It would help us to have some idea of how you feel about returning to worship in person so we can begin to make plans. So here are some questions!

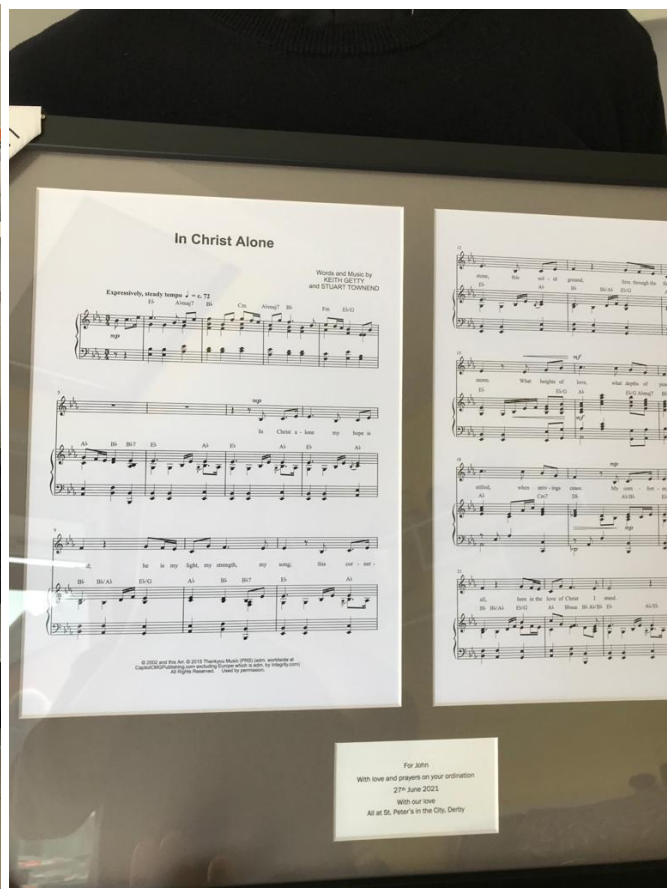
- Do you hope to return to church as soon as social distancing restrictions are eased?
- Would you return to church if social distancing restrictions are eased but restrictions on congregational singing remain?
- Do you have any other comments or suggestions to share? We'd be really grateful if you could let us know your thoughts – please email Hilary, office@stpetersderby.org.uk. Thank you!

With my prayers and love,

Anita

Photos from the Ordinations

It was a joy to see Nick and John ordained last Sunday by + Libby – see below for a few pictures (including the delayed present from St. Peter's for John, a framed copy of the music "In Christ Alone.") Please continue to pray for John as he settles in at St. Barnabas, and for Nick as he becomes a part of our community here at St. Peter's.



The Church on Oakwood Part-time Administrator

The Church on Oakwood is looking for an enthusiastic and self-motivated person with good administrative skills and experience to provide support to the Minister and work with other staff and volunteers to ensure the smooth running of the Church Office. The salary offered is £9.50 per hour, for 10 hours per week, the hours being flexible and agreed at time of appointment. Occasional evening working is required, with time off in lieu offered.

Further information and application forms are available by emailing The Church on Oakwood at thechurchonoakwood@hotmail.com Applications must be received by the end of: **9th July 2021**. Interviews will take place in mid July.

Praying for the Persecuted Church: Eritrea

Almost half of Eritreans are Christians – 2.6 million from a population of 5.4 million – but Christians who aren't from state-approved denominations face extreme persecution.

Christians from non-traditional denominations face the harshest persecution in Eritrea, both from the government and from the Eritrean Orthodox Church (EOC). The EOC, the Catholic church and the Lutheran church are the only Christian denominations recognised by the government, and the EOC is particularly tightly controlled by those in power.

Government security forces monitor phone calls, scrutinise activity and conduct countless raids which target Christians, seize Christian materials and damage house churches. Christians can be arrested and imprisoned without trial. Many Christians are held in inhumane prisons because of their faith, and their loved ones often do not know where they are or even if they are still alive. There had been hope that a peace agreement with Ethiopia would improve human rights in Eritrea, but there has been little indication of this – and unrest at the Ethiopia/Eritrea border in autumn 2020 has threatened any stability there is. In June 2020, the UN reported that there was no meaningful progress to address human rights violations in Eritrea.

Unlike many countries, women in Eritrea are subjected to obligatory military service. Christian women who are conscripts are particularly vulnerable to gender-based violence, while detained or imprisoned female Christians often experience violence from prison guards. In rural areas of Eritrea, abduction and forced marriage are still prevalent. If a Muslim abducts a Christian woman, she will be forcibly converted.

Please keep praying for your brothers and sisters in Eritrea. Your prayers make an enormous difference to those following Jesus no matter the cost. (Open Doors)

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 Service of Holy Communion

Please join us for our worship on Zoom at 11am this Sunday, and please have bread/crackers, wine/juice to hand. 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=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

Curate: Revd. Nick Parish nick@stpetersderby.org.uk

Vicar's PA and Church Administrator: Hilary Streek 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 Officer: 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

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