



July 25th 2021

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

Holidays and Holy Days

Many people hope to be going on holiday in the coming weeks (covid permitting!), and some of us have already enjoyed some time away in recent days.

Whether or not you're going away, you can still have a holiday in the true meaning of the word. The word holiday derived from the notion of "Holy Day", and gradually evolved to its current form. The word comes from the Old English word *hāligdæg* and originally referred only to special religious days. In modern use, it means any special day of rest or relaxation, as opposed to normal days away from work.

Rest – physical and spiritual - is important. In the Bible God offers His people tranquility, peace, rest. But they refuse. Isaiah 30:15 says “This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: “Only in returning to me and resting in me will you be saved. In quietness and confidence is your strength. But you would have none of it.” What a sad and disappointing choice to make.

And in Jeremiah 6:16 it says, “This is what the LORD says: “Stop at the crossroads and look around. Ask for the old, godly way, and walk in it. Travel its path, and you will find rest for your souls. But you reply, ‘No, that’s not the road we want!’” What a sad and disappointing choice to make.

Look at the elements God offers for our good! Repentance, rest, quietness, trust, ancient paths, good ways. Yet we can sometimes be like the people in these passages who refuse to accept his gifts. There are no demands here, just hints at God’s design for us to live out of wholeness. And there is no defensiveness here, no fear, no anger, but only God's invitation to grow and live, and people’s refusal.

So this summer, whether we go away or stay at home, may we take intentional time to return and rest in God, to stop at the crossroads and find rest for our souls. This is what God invites us to do – to pause and take stock, to reflect, and to enter into a deeper and spiritual rest.

Many years ago St Augustine of Hippo wrote: “Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee.” In the midst of the uncertainty we still live with, may we discover the truth of those words for ourselves as we seek rest and refreshment in God.

With my prayers and love,

Anita

Prayers for Rest

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself,
And our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you;
So lead us by your Spirit
that in this life we may live to your glory
and in the life to come enjoy you for ever;
through Jesus Christ our Lord
who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever. Amen.

God our Father,
we praise and thank you for the gifts of this past year,
the times filled with grace and blessings, opportunities and challenges.
And we offer you our pains and losses,
the times marked by anxiety and uncertainty, our grief and anger.
Watch over us in the weeks ahead, may we find rest and peace
and know the fulfilment of our summer hopes and dreams.
Guide us each day and help us look for what lies ahead
with a newly refreshed spirit and energy
to continue our journey with you in faith, hope and love. Amen

From Bishop Libby

Yesterday, we were told, was 'Freedom Day'. We no longer have the constraints of law to manage our behaviour and actions. We are asked to use our own discretion, making personal choices for the common good.

The Christian community, together as well as individually, has always known that true freedom means putting others first. St Paul wrote to the Christian community in Galatia: *'For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself". Live by the Spirit ... for the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.'*

My prayer is that we are beacons in our communities in these coming months of such love and service, displaying those fruits of the Spirit – with one another and in all the contexts we find ourselves.

For some, the relaxing of limitations and regulations is a delight and long-awaited, but for others it is a cause for anxiety and further concern. I hope you are able to enjoy life more fully, and I hope you do so in ways that give peace and joy to others, rather than bring greater risk and compound fear.

I'm looking forward to being with you more, in person, to hear your stories, share your concerns, listen to your hopes and pray together. May we discover together that the service of God, the author of peace and lover of concord, is perfect freedom (BCP Collect for Peace).

Return to Church

Following the changes to Covid restrictions from 19th July, we are planning to re-open the church for our regular 10.45am service from Sunday 1st August. This service will also be accessible via zoom, and will replace the 10.15am service and 11am Zoom service. We will finalise details next week – watch this space!

Praying for the Persecuted Church: Nigeria

Almost half of Nigerians are Christians – 95.4 million people from a population of 206.2 million – but most of these are in the south of the country. Northern Nigeria is largely Muslim, and it's in the north and the central region of Nigeria that most persecution of Christians happens.

More Christians are murdered for their faith in Nigeria than in any other country. Violent attacks by Boko Haram, Fulani militants, ISWAP (an affiliate of so-called Islamic State) and other Islamic extremist groups are common in the north and middle belt of the country, and are becoming more common further south.

In these attacks, Christians are often murdered or have their property and means of livelihood destroyed. Men and boys are particularly vulnerable to being killed, with the intention of lowering the birth rate of Christian communities and removing their sources of income. Perpetrators are seldom brought to justice. Christian women are often abducted and raped by these militant groups, and sometimes forced to marry Muslims.

Christians from a Muslim background face rejection by and pressure from their families. Muhammadu Buhari's presidency (2015 onwards) has seen a sharp increase in attempts to force Islamisation on the country, including appointing Muslims to key government positions.

Nigeria has risen several places on the World Watch List, and persecution has worsened in all areas of public and private life. Violence continues to be extreme, and Islamic extremist attacks have not abated during the Covid-19 pandemic. Many Christians who are staying at home to combat the spread of the virus have been vulnerable to attack. Please pray for our sisters and brothers in Nigeria. (from the Open Doors website)

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 Morning Prayer

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. 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: 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