



August 1st 2021

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

Heroes of the Faith

This week the news is full of Olympiad heroes! Tom Dean, Duncan Scott, Georgia Taylor-Brown Tom Pidcock, Tom Daley, and Adam Peaty – to name but a few. Months and years of relentless training and determination have paid off, and Team GB has enjoyed its strongest ever start to an Olympics with 13 medals in the first four days of the competition.

But of course being a hero isn't just about winning. There are many athletes who missed out on a medal who have displayed equal amounts of resilience and determination, and those who have achieved a personal best. Others are having to cope with the reality of their human limitations. Oliver Cook from the men's coxless four acknowledged that he forgot the steering at the end of the race; and the American gymnast Simone Biles has pulled out of the competition due to concerns about her mental health. Does that make them less heroic? I don't think so!

The Bible is full of so-called heroes, and we read extraordinary stories of courage and faith. But the characters in the Bible are not plaster saints. They are people with strengths and weaknesses, often from unremarkable backgrounds. At times they fail spectacularly; at times they are despondent and disappointed. Jacob was a deceiver; Aaron created a giant idol; David tried to hide his adultery by committing murder; Elijah gave up on life and lay down under a bush. But it's those flaws which enable us to identify with them as human beings rather than people on a pedestal, and which remind us that God can – and will! – use anyone to serve the Kingdom.

Of course, the story of remarkable people of faith doesn't end with the book of Revelation! There are many Christians over the centuries, and many Christians today, whose lives have borne extraordinary testimony to the grace of God. Some are well known, others are scarcely recognized. But they all play a significant part in the tapestry of the Christian story.

During August we often take a break from our ongoing preaching programme to experience something different. This year we will be looking at 'Heroes of the Faith' over the next five Sundays. Some will be well known and others less so - watch this space to find out who! We hope that hearing something of Christians over the years who have lived faithfully, served courageously, and wrestled with their own challenges and humanity will inspire us and encourage us as we follow Jesus in our day and context.

With my prayers and love,

Anita

Sunday Worship: 10.45am (please note the change of time!)

Bishop Libby wrote in our newsletter last week: 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.'*

Those words are worth repeating as we prepare to join together again in worship on Sunday at 10.45am, recognizing that whilst some will be excited at returning to something closer to 'normal' worship, others may be apprehensive. We want to be sensitive to and supportive of different feelings and needs so that all who want to come to church feel safe to do so. The PCC met on Monday and discussed how we might best do that, and have come up with the following plan:

- Entry to the church will be via the Tower door (next to Sally Montague hairdresser and opposite the Greek Café and Eddowes Waldron on St. Peter's Churchyard).
- There will be a sanitizing station on entry, and we ask everyone to sanitise their hands before going into and leaving the main church building. There is also a QR code for Track and Trace, and we ask those with the smartphone app to scan that. There will also be a sheet that we ask everyone to sign so we know who has attended in the event of a Covid case being identified.
- To enable everyone to feel safer, we strongly encourage everyone who is able to wear a mask (including when we sing – but we still look forward to singing again!) The exception will be the service leaders and worship group when they are leading worship or preaching as projecting a voice behind a mask is not easy!
- The chairs in the church will be set up in such a way that those who would prefer to sit alone are able to do so. Please don't join someone from outside your household without checking that they're ok for you to sit with them – and please don't be offended if some people would prefer to sit alone.
- Our worship on Sunday is a service of Holy Communion. Please remain in your seats for communion which will be brought to you. For now we will only be bringing bread rather than passing the wine around.
- At the end of the service we will not be serving refreshments, and we will encourage people not to stay in the church building for long after the service has finished. Of course, you are welcome to chat to people outside, or to go for coffee somewhere in the city centre.
- And finally, recognizing that not everyone will be comfortable with or able to return to church, we will stream our services as usual via Zoom (usual joining details – see below). If you are on zoom please have bread/crackers, wine/juice to hand!

Of course we will continue to assess the situation, and we will look again at how we do things in a month's time. In the meanwhile, thank you for your patience as we try to keep everyone safe – and we look forward to being together in person as well as virtually!

Transform Derby Car Valeting: spread the word!

We are delighted to let you know that our brand new social enterprise has started. Derby Urban Church (previously Ozzy Road Baptist Church) has been working hard during the lockdown on our vision to create a social enterprise to help people coming out of homelessness or addiction, to get skills that will lead to a sense of achievement and potentially paid employment, as well as helping them to make a connection to church. Working in partnership with Green Pastures homeless hostel we have just trained up 8 people in car valeting led by Steve Clark who is a professional car valet and part of our church.

We are now ready to take bookings and are looking for our very first 24 cars to valet - please call **07954 488212** or email transformderbycarvalet@gmail.com to make a booking.

If you want to know more please check out our promotion video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgtvuyvkWdk&t=31s>

We are also on Facebook: Transform Derby Car Valeting Academy where you can see lots of videos of happy people whose cars have been valeted! You can also message us from Facebook.

Praying for the Persecuted Church: India

Though there are around the same number of Christians in India as there are people in the UK, with 67.4 million Christians, it's still less than five per cent of the population of India, which is almost 1.4 billion people.

Christians in India are struck down not once but twice. As well as the devastating pandemic, believers face ongoing persecution. Hindu extremists believe that all Indians should be Hindus, and that the country should be rid of Christianity and Islam. They use extensive violence to achieve this goal, particularly targeting Christians from a Hindu background. Christians are accused of following a 'foreign faith' and even blamed for bad luck in their communities. These believers are often physically attacked and sometimes killed, as well as being under constant pressure from their family and community to return to Hinduism. If they do not 'reconvert', they may be boycotted by their community, with a devastating effect on their ability to earn income. Many believers are isolated and don't know any other Christians.

Christians are persecuted in all areas of public and private life, and anti-conversion laws (currently in nine states, with more considering adoption) are abused to harass and intimidate Christians. Persecution in India has increased significantly over the past five years, and has now remained relatively unchanged for the past year. The Covid-19 pandemic has offered a new weapon for persecutors, though, and Christians are often deliberately overlooked when official Covid-19 food and aid is distributed. This has left many desperate for food, particularly since many Christians are from the Dalit caste and thus very poor, and have lost their sources of income this year. Please pray for our sisters and brothers in India. (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.

Zoom Joining Details for the 10.45am Service:

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

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