



August 22nd 2021

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

Finding Purpose

It has been good to focus during the last few weeks on heroes of the faith. So far we have heard a little of the lives and faith of James Hudson Taylor, Elizabeth Fry and Amy Carmichael, with two more weeks to go before we return in September to our sermon series on Mark's gospel! One of the things that has struck me as we have reflected on these 'heroes' is their powerful sense of purpose, and their determination and sacrifice in living their purpose out. Hudson Taylor dedicated his life to reaching the people of China; Elizabeth Fry's passion for improving conditions in prisons still has a legacy today; Amy Carmichael recognized the atrocity of child trafficking and worked tirelessly to bring freedom and hope to victims. And there are many more heroes of the faith over the centuries who have demonstrated similar strength of purpose and courage, responding to the particular call and passion God placed upon their lives.

Finding our own purpose and calling isn't always easy. There are so many needs, so many pressing demands on our time and resources, and at times it can feel bewildering and overwhelming. Yet God continues to invite ordinary people like you and me to respond sacrificially to his call. I've been reflecting this week on Jesus' words in Matthew 13: *"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it."* All of the heroes we have learned about in these last weeks were prepared to give up so much in response to discovering the true treasure of the kingdom, the pearl of great price.

Coming out of Covid we might ask the question – what is God's purpose for us? What is God's purpose for each of us as individuals, and for us as a church? Do we believe that God has a purpose for us, as he did for Hudson Taylor, for Elizabeth Fry, and for Amy Carmichael? And what are we prepared to give up to fulfil it? It's easy to think that we can't make a difference because of our circumstances or age. It's tempting to feel overwhelmed as a community by the things we can't do rather than the things we can. But, as an unknown author said, "It is never too late to be what you might have been,"

Opposite my desk in the clergy office is a copy of our original Mission Action Plan, pinned on the noticeboard. On it is a picture of a heart drawn by one of the congregation with the words: "Father God, Break our heart with the things that break yours." What a prayer to pray as we seek to find God's purpose for us.

With my prayers and love, *Anita*

The Shell – Amy Carmichael

Margaret shared this poem by Amy Carmichael in her talk on Sunday – worth a read (and a prayer!)

Upon the sandy shore an empty shell,
Beyond the shell infinity of sea;
O Saviour, I am like that empty shell;
Thou art the Sea to me.

A sweeping wave rides up the shore, and, lo,
Each dim recess the coiled shell within
Is searched, is filled, is filled to overflow
By water crystalline.

Not to the shell is any glory then:
All glory give we to the glorious sea.
And not to me is any glory when
Thou overflowest me.

Sweep over me, Thy shell, as low I lie,
I yield me to the purposes of Thy will;
Sweep up, O conquering waves, and purify.
And with Thy fulness fill.

Praying for Haiti, Afghanistan and Ethiopia

On Sunday during our worship we will pray for Haiti, Ethiopia and Afghanistan. Of course there are so many places that need prayer, but the situation in these countries is currently dire. Christian Aid has requested prayer for all three places:

Pray for Afghanistan - Last week the Taliban had control of 12 major cities and many thought it would take 30-90 days for the capital to fall. Tragically, over the weekend Kabul has been taken, with many people fearing for their lives. Our team on the ground have gone into hibernation mode for their safety, and we have heard that programmes with women and girls must be suspended. Please pray for the people of Afghanistan, for our partners and staff as they endure this brutal upheaval.

Pray for Ethiopia - As fighting in Tigray has forced 1.9 million people to flee their homes, our partner is on the ground, but facing unprecedented challenges. We are working in a conflict zone with no internet; banks are shut and road access is limited. Coupled with persistent drought, floods, Covid and locust infestations, this is the most complex humanitarian situation we have seen. We hope to scale up in the coming weeks to reach more of the most vulnerable with food and other essentials. The need is huge. I pray, as a nation, that we can get out of the situation we are in. — Yitna Tekaligne - Country Manager Ethiopia.

Pray for Haiti - On Saturday 14 August, a 7.2-magnitude earthquake struck Haiti at Les Cayes, 75 miles west of the capital of Port-au-Prince. This tremor was even more powerful than the 2010 earthquake, and the scale of the devastation will likely be worse when Storm Grace makes landfall on the island.

To date the earthquake has claimed almost 2000 lives, injured 10,000 people and destroyed countless homes. Families are seeking safety wherever they can with nothing but the clothes on their backs. Please pray for this crisis situation. Thank you.

The Disabling Church: Diocesan Open Meeting

Inclusivity in our churches is a key area for reflection and development. Our experiences of being unable to physically join together in worship during the pandemic may have been painful, but they have highlighted a reality which we have overlooked for too long – that many are regularly excluded from engaging in worship in what we might have called ‘normal’ times.

Here’s an opportunity to get involved in doing something about it, alongside others in the Diocese. It would be great if a few of us from St. Peter’s were able to attend this meeting and to bring back questions and reflections to share with the rest of us as we engage with the challenging and vital question of how to make the life and worship of our church accessible and welcoming to all. If you’re interested in being a part of this please speak to Anita or Nick. Thank you!

The Disabling Church...
And what to do about it!

A Report...
A Conversation...
Leading to Action...

Shaping the future for d/Deaf,
Disabled and Neurodiverse people
and those who journey with them
across the Diocese of Derby.

With Bishop Malcolm Macnaughton
Meeting on Zoom
Friday 10th September
2pm - 4pm

For zoom details, a copy of the report
and an accessibility pack,
please contact Tim Rourke
07853 167061 - tim.rourke@derby.anglican.org

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](https://twitter.com/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