



August 29th 2021

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

## **Canals and Reservoirs**

The ever-increasing pace of life in the twenty-first century is a frequent cause for concern. Life for many people in our culture is driven by the growing demands of work, the constant pressures of social media, and technology that seems to change faster than we can keep up with. (I surely can't be the *only* person who has just worked out how to use my mobile phone when everything is updated again and I'm back to square one?!).

It's true that the pace of life is overwhelming at times, and the lockdown experience has heightened awareness of that for many people. There are record numbers moving to live in the country or by the sea to embrace a slower way of life. Waiting lists for allotments have grown as others have discovered a desire to be more connected to the land, growing vegetables and joining in the process of waiting for the seed to sprout. But is our generation unique in feeling driven and frenetic at times?

History – and Christian history – would suggest not. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090 – 1153) has been described as being *“like a medieval rock star who never stopped touring Europe. He travelled with an entourage, drew enormous crowds, was wildly popular, and called the cream of society his friends.”* (MyCatholicLife). He founded 343 Cistercian monasteries throughout Europe, including the Abbey at Clairvaux in France, and was a prolific writer. Despite his activism – or perhaps because of it? - he wrote these words, which still speak to us today as they did in the twelfth century:

*“The man who is wise, therefore, will see his life as more like a reservoir than a canal. The canal simultaneously pours out what it receives; the reservoir retains the water till it is filled, then discharges the overflow without loss to itself ... Today there are many in the Church who act like canals, the reservoirs are far too rare ... You too must learn to await this fullness before pouring out your gifts, do not try to be more generous than God.”*

Perhaps we're not alone in facing the pressures of life and the demands of activity, in the Church as much as in wider society. As summer ends, September approaches and a new school year begins, his words are worth reflecting on. Are we like reservoirs, constantly being filled up by our relationship with God, and then allowing our love and service to others to overflow? Or are we more like canals, constantly giving out and failing to be replenished? Looking around the Church today, the reservoirs are still far too rare. May we “await fullness” in the coming months as we discover together what it means to worship, to love and to serve.

With my prayers and love, *Anita*

## **Afternoon Tea at St. Peter's**

It's been a long time since the Afternoon Tea at St. Peter's has been able to take place, but Margaret and her team hope to be up and running again from September onwards! Planned dates are Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September; Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October; Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November; and Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December. Tea is served in the church at 2.30pm, followed by a short service of Evening Prayer. All are welcome – hope to see you there!

## **Castleward Spencer Academy**

Please pray for the new Castleward Spencer Academy opening in September – the first school to be located within our parish! A number of people have expressed interest in being involved with the school, and we are already building good links. Watch this space!

## **Praying for the Persecuted Church: Sudan**

There are almost 2 million Christians in Sudan, from a population of 43.5 million people. That's approximately 4.5 per cent.

Though Sudan has taken significant steps towards religious freedom recently, including a commitment to end 30 years of Islamic law, Christians from a Muslim background still face extreme persecution from their families and communities. These believers no longer face the death penalty for leaving Islam, but may be attacked, ostracised or otherwise discriminated against if their faith is discovered. Church buildings are often attacked or even demolished, and Coptic and evangelical churches continue to face difficulty in getting permission to build places of worship.

Many converts still keep their faith secret, for the safety of them and their family. This includes Christian women and girls being forced to dress like Muslims, to avoid being harassed for 'indecent dressing'. Some converts even choose not to raise their children as Christians, wary of retribution from community leaders. This fear of exposure even means some Christians from a Muslim background have Islamic funerals in Muslim cemeteries.

Sudan's economy was already unstable before Covid-19 hit. Now, Christians from a Muslim background are particularly vulnerable – most don't have access to essential support from their family and community.

"People are suffering a lot and the economy is down," says a pastor, who must be kept anonymous for security reasons. "Prices of everything are going up and people are just struggling to survive. I am here on the ground and see how converts are suffering every day and every hour to find food and even a place to stay. Many have been unable to pay rent and are forced to find other accommodation."

Sudan has made great progress towards religious equality this year, but it will take much longer to change the stigma and opposition faced in everyday life by Christians who have left the faith of their families and ancestors.

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:anita@stpetersderby.org.uk)

**Curate: Revd. Nick Parish** [nick@stpetersderby.org.uk](mailto:nick@stpetersderby.org.uk)

**Vicar's PA and Church Administrator: Hilary Streek** [office@stpetersderby.org.uk](mailto:office@stpetersderby.org.uk)

**Inside Out Project Worker: Wayne Summers** [wayne@insideoutderby.org.uk](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:office@stpetersderby.org.uk)**