



September 5th 2021

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

Put Out into Deep Water

September is upon us, and a new school year begins – please pray for teachers and students as they return to the classroom, and especially for the new school opening in our parish, Castleward Spencer Academy. Even for those of us not closely connected with education, there's a sense of a new beginning as the summer draws to a close and 'normality' returns to everyday life. So, having spent August looking at heroes of the faith, we are beginning a new four week series of talks on the book of Acts entitled 'Put out into Deep Water.'

Those words may sound familiar to you, and they come from Luke chapter 5. Jesus is in a boat with the fishermen and in verse 4 he says to Simon: "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon responds: "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so I will, I will let down the nets." And what happens? They catch so many fish that their nets begin to break, and they call on their friends from the other boat to come and help them – before they know where they are both of the boats are full of fish and beginning to sink! And Simon Peter falls to his knees before Jesus saying, "Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man." All who are there are amazed by what they see. And Jesus tells the disciples: "Do not be afraid: from now on you will be catching people."

What an incredible story! And yet we may be tempted at times to respond like Simon: "Master, we have worked all night long and caught nothing." Seeing church growth can be slow and painstaking work, and often it can feel as if our efforts result in very little. The pandemic has felt like a very long night of working and waiting, and like the disciples we may be feeling somewhat weary as we respond to the call of Jesus to put out into the deep. So I hope this series will inspire us as we reflect on the early Christians in the book of Acts and the way they lived out Jesus' call in the contexts in which they found themselves. And I pray it would help us to think together as a community about the possibilities of our context, and how God might be leading us into new things – putting out into deep water and letting down the nets for a catch.

A couple of weeks ago David preached on the life and witness of William Carey, and his famous words: "Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God." Are we prepared to do that as we look to a new school year? Bishop Steven Croft writes: "Renewal in mission is not really about business as usual. It is not about a bit more of the same. The renewal in mission we need is about deep waters, about adventure and risk and joining in the new thing God is doing."

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 14th September; Tuesday 12th October; Tuesday 9th November; and Tuesday 7th December. Tea will be served in the church at 2.15pm, followed by a short service of Evening Prayer. All are welcome – please call Margaret on 01332 239134 if you're planning to come so we can cater for the right number of people. Hope to see you there!

QR codes

Rob has kindly created QR codes for the Church podcasts and website (see below). Please use them and pass them on to other smartphone users!



Support for Afghan Refugees

For the last two weeks our screens have been showing harrowing scenes from a country halfway around the world, where a nation is in turmoil and many people are fearful about the future and struggling to know what to do next. What we are seeing in Afghanistan is an unfolding humanitarian crisis, with people leaving through evacuation flights as well as attempting to cross borders into neighbouring countries. Please hold the situation and people of Afghanistan in your prayers

Around seventy people in family groups have now arrived in Derby and are in temporary hotel accommodation which will be their home until they can be resettled in different parts of the UK. These are families who have arrived through the Government's ARAP scheme, having worked for the British Government in Kabul or as interpreters in Helmand.

Already refugee support organisations in Derby, churches and the national "Welcome Churches" are working together to ensure people are welcomed and helped.

How can churches help?

- Upbeat Communities (one of the refugee charities in Derby) have launched a Just Giving page. By receiving financial donations they are able to be flexible in providing immediate support and make plans for support in the coming weeks. For details go to <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/UpbeatCommunitiesAfghanAppeal>
- A list of urgently needed items will be published as soon as possible. DRS (Derbyshire Refugee Solidarity) are always happy to receive donations for their work with refugees including those from Afghanistan. For further information go to www.derbyshirerefugeesolidarity.org or Facebook <http://m.facebook.com>
- Meanwhile we are invited to contact our MP to ensure the Government commits to its promise to resettle more Afghan refugees along with those currently here in the UK who are not part of the resettlement scheme and some of whom may be being held in detention centres

A Prayer for Afghanistan (Christian Aid)

O God of mercy and peace, we hold before you the peoples of Afghanistan.
Be living bread to those who are hungry each day

Be healing and wholeness to those who have no access to health care
amid the ravages of the pandemic.
Be their true home to all who have been displaced

Be open arms of loving acceptance to those who fear because of their
gender, ethnicity, religious or political views

Be peace to those engaged in armed conflict and those who live within its shadow.

Turn our hearts and minds to your gentle ways of just and gentle peace,
Open our eyes to see you in all acts of compassionate care
Strengthen our hearts to step out in solidarity with your suffering people
and hold us all in your unfailing love.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who emptied himself of all but love in order to
bring life in all its fullness. Amen

This prayer was written by Ramani Leathard, Christian Aid's Head of Region for
South East Asia and Afghanistan. For more points for prayer go to
www.christianaid.org.uk and click on Prayer for Afghanistan
(Maureen Priddin, Derby Cathedral and Derby City of Sanctuary network)

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 of Holy Communion:

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