



October 3rd 2021

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

Harvest

Today we celebrate harvest, as many generations before us have done at St. Peter's. In years gone by harvest may have felt more significant than it does to us today, as people lived in closer harmony with the natural cycle of the seasons, with daily life and work being reliant upon sun and rain, light and darkness. Now, and in the centre of Derby, we might question what harvest means when most of us have no real connections to the agricultural world. As we walk round the local supermarket – at any time of year – harvest seems to be a year-long, rather than a seasonal, event. The choice and abundance of food that marks our modern urban lifestyle in the Western world, not to mention the amount of food we throw away, removes us from the experiences of earlier faith communities who, for centuries, offered the first fruits of their harvests to their gods in gratitude for all they had received. Perhaps harvest is more important than ever, a vital reminder of our dependence upon the earth and its produce, and those who farm it.

At harvest we give thanks – and it is right and good to do so. As the mediaeval mystic, Meister Eckhart, once said, *'If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is 'thank you', it will be enough*. But real thanksgiving has to result in practical outcomes. One of these is the recognition that we, and our interests and needs, do not lie at the centre of the universe, but that we have responsibilities towards our planet and those we share it with, not least those who have little or no harvest – of any description – to celebrate. The gratitude we offer as we celebrate can't complacently thank God that we are well provided for, when we know that vast numbers of people around our world struggle to survive, suffering and dying each day because of hunger, thirst, injustice and inequality.

So today – and every day – we are called to thank God. Because living a life based on gratitude, rather than one which constantly complains that nothing is ever right, can make all the difference. But our gratitude needs to be more than just words. It needs to move our consciences, our actions and the choices we make, and take seriously the challenge to live more simply, more fairly, more sustainably and more harmoniously with both the creator and creation..

With my prayers and love,

Anita

Harvest Celebration!

We will be celebrating harvest during our service on Sunday. As usual we will be collecting items for the Derby City Mission food bank, which has been much in demand in the face of Covid. Please consider bringing a donation if you're able to support this vital work. See below for a list of what's needed. Thank you so much!

BASICS BANK SHOPPING LIST

We welcome the following items:

- Tins of meat e.g. stewing steak, meat in sauces
- Tins of cooked meat e.g. ham, corned beef
- Tins of fish e.g. tuna, sardines
- Tins of vegetables e.g. sweetcorn, carrots, peas, potatoes, kidney beans/pulses
- Tinned tomatoes
- Tins of dessert e.g. fruit, steamed puddings/ creamed rice
- Packet flavoured noodles e.g. super noodles
- Sauces e.g. Tomato/brown/mayo
- Rice (500g)
- Tea bags (bags of 40)
- Coffee (small jars)
- Cuppa Soups
- Jams/Honey/Peanut butter/Chocolate spread
- Biscuits/crackers/crisp breads
- Cereals e.g. Wheat biscuits, cornflakes, oats
- Toilet Rolls
- Washing up Liquid
- Bath/shower gel
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste/tooth brushes
- Wash Tablets (for Laundry)
- Size 3/4 nappies

PLEASE NOTE: NO FRESH PRODUCE

Farmers Harvest Thanksgiving: 17th October

All are welcome to this year's Farmers' Harvest Thanksgiving at **2.30pm on Sunday 17th October** in the main store ring at the Agricultural Business Centre, Bakewell, DE45 1AH. We welcome the Bishop of Derby, the Rt Rev'd Libby Lane as our guest speaker as well as Bel Canto and St Anne's Choir from Baslow to lift our worship, and Derbyshire Poet Philip Holland will creatively capture the farming year as we continue to thank God for His provision and care in these challenging times. There is free parking. The venue is well ventilated and whilst Covid safe measures will be in place we are asking people to also take personal responsibility for attending. For more information please contact Rev'd Alan Griggs on 07710 088972.

Praying for the Persecuted Church: China

China's growing Christian community currently stands at around 97.2 million – just under seven per cent of the country's total population. The church in China continues to see extraordinary growth, but in recent years has seen an increase in persecution.

The policy of 'sinicising' the church (to make Chinese) is implemented across the country as the Communist Party relies strongly on Chinese cultural identity to stay in power, and limits whatever could threaten its control on society. New restrictions on the internet, social media and non-governmental organisations – along with a revision of religious regulation in 2018 which was enhanced again last year – are strictly applied and seriously limit freedom. Churches are being monitored and closed, be they independent or affiliated to the state (e.g. Three-Self Patriotic Movement). On a more local level, converts from Islam or Buddhism whose new faith is discovered by family and the community are likely to face threats and physical harm.

Grace – whose name we've change to protect her identity – is a gentle sister in her late 40s. She is a Han Chinese Christian. Her story demonstrates that there is no sphere of life that the Chinese state will not seek to exert its control. She was once the deputy head nurse in a big urban hospital, rising through the ranks over a period of two decades. She is a fervent believer who shared the gospel with many colleagues in her hospital. Having previously been overlooked for promotion because of her faith, Grace was visited by the senior officials of her hospital. They interrogated her for a whole day and pressured her colleagues to provide information on her 'religious activities'. From then on, Grace's colleagues kept their distance, afraid they might get embroiled in this seemingly serious incident. After the investigation, Grace was demoted and given non-essential duties. Her new income was a fraction of what it had been.

Grace wrestled with the injustice for 12 months, repeatedly asking God why she had suffered in this way. Her professional career was in tatters, and her hard work over many years had come to nothing. She felt lonely and betrayed. "With God's grace, the frustration and grief gradually left me," she says. "I eventually found peace when I accepted what I had always believed: that only God's work has eternal value. Everything else is temporary. It will all pass away." Please pray for our Christian sisters and brothers in China.

Afternoon Tea at St. Peter's

Upcoming dates are Tuesday 12th October; Tuesday 9th November; and Tuesday 7th December. Tea will 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!

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

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Vicar's PA and Church Administrator: Hilary Streek office@stpetersderby.org.uk

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Revd Jo Honour jo@insideoutderby.org.uk

Building Manager: Melvyn Wood

Church Wardens:

Tim Benson, Liz Runcorn

Kitchen Supervisor: Gillian Wood

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