



October 10<sup>th</sup> 2021

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

## **Good Grief**

As we slowly emerge from Covid pandemic many people are feeling exhausted by the return to daily life – in part because we have had little space as a community to grieve and lament the various losses we have experienced. Some people are dealing with the raw grief of losing a loved one to Covid; others have been unable to mourn those who have died from other causes due to the restrictions on travelling and attending funerals.

We hope at St. Peter's to offer some space for people for reflect on those losses in November. Plans are currently being finalized, but we plan to hold a memorial event at St Peter's on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November, accessible to people of all faiths and none. We also hope to hold an event for families on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September – more details to follow soon.

Around that weekend (from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November until Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November) we will be hosting an exhibition exploring grief and hope at St. Peter's entitled Good Grief:

*Jacqui Parkinson, also known as Jacqui Frost, is a textile artist who lives in Devon, England. In 2007 she lost her first husband, Rev. Rob Frost to cancer. In the midst of her isolating grief, she felt the urge to do something both artistically and physically. She took up running and during those long runs had the time to start processing ideas to link her grief experience into art.*

*She initially used vintage handkerchiefs, stitching words and ideas onto it like a canvas. The colours were mostly blacks, greys, and reds and when finished the handkerchiefs were stretched and then fastened to metal frames and exhibited in Exeter Cathedral in Devon. It has since travelled around many cathedrals in the UK.*

We will be sharing more about our plans as they come together, but we hope that many people will be involved in supporting this venture. We will be looking for volunteers to help staff the exhibition over the two weeks; people prepared to be on hand to listen and to pray with visitors when appropriate; a team to serve tea and coffee; bakers to make cakes to welcome those who come; and of course, we hope that everyone will pray for the exhibition and the events and those who attend.

St. Paul said: "Weep with those who weep." (Romans 12:15). We hope to do that, and also to offer something of God's love and hope to those who mourn.

With my prayers and love, *Anita*

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

Upcoming dates are Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October; Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November; and Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> 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!

## **Inside Out Funding**

Please join us in thanking God for a generous grant of £10,000 awarded to the Inside Out Community by the Jerusalem Trust. This will enable us to grow our Inside Out staff team, and we are delighted that Revd Jo Honour is now working alongside Wayne for two days a week.

## **Farmers Harvest Thanksgiving: 17<sup>th</sup> October**

All are welcome to this year's Farmers' Harvest Thanksgiving at **2.30pm on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 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: Myanmar**

Nearly 4.4 million of Myanmar's 54.8 million population are Christian. The majority religion is Buddhism. Buddhist nationalism is especially strong in Myanmar and drives much of the persecution of Christians.

Converts to the Christian faith face persecution from their families and communities for leaving, or 'betraying', the system of belief they grew up in. Communities who aim to stay 'Buddhist only' make life for Christian families impossible by not allowing them to use community resources such as water. Non-traditional church groups experience opposition too, especially those located in rural areas and/or are known for evangelistic activity.

Myanmar is also the scene of the longest civil war in the world, which began in 1948. It affects, among others, the predominantly Christian states of Kachin, Karen and Shan. Believers are vulnerable to persecution by insurgent groups and the army. The Covid-19 pandemic has brought added challenges, since many Christians are deliberately overlooked in the distribution of government aid.

Moses – whose name we've changed to protect his identity – was working as a caretaker at a church building when he decided to give his life to Jesus. Moses later trained as a missionary and he, with his wife and four children, moved to a village known for its religious festivals and animist worship. It was a place of opportunity – and opposition.

The family encountered hostility from mediums and neighbours. Moses' motorbike was damaged three times by a villager, and both he and his son have been beaten up. These kind of attacks against Christians are not unusual in Myanmar.

“The village sorcerers would come to destroy, to kill our mission and ministry and those who are living here. But they are truly afraid of the ministry that we are doing here because we are bringing the gospel here. I don't have any discouragement about what I'm going through, because I remember the Lord Jesus Christ and how He suffered for me,” says Moses, who now pastors a little church. “If He suffered that much for me, then what am I suffering is nothing.”

On 1 February 2021, the military seized power of Myanmar, claiming Aung San Suu Kyi's National League of Democracy (NLD) landslide election victory in November 2020 was fraudulent. The coup threatens to undo the promising steps made towards democratic rule made in the past decade.

The political upheaval has magnified the vulnerabilities of Christians in Myanmar, and there is deep concern that the military's renewed hold on the country could exacerbate these further. Already churches have been caught in the crossfire between the military, ethnic armed groups, and citizens resisting the military coup, having been subjected to attacks, raids and occupation by the military. The coup has also aggravated the spread of Covid-19, whilst a scarcity of commodities and soaring inflation are adding to peoples' struggles.

Decades of military in rule, between 1962 and 2011, witnessed systemic persecution against Christians by the army. This has persisted in the years since, notably in the Christian majority states of Chin, Kachin and Shan. Now the military is back in power — and with extremist monks often enjoying the support of the army — Buddhism's place in Myanmar could strengthen, which could result in worsening persecution against Christians.

Please keep praying for your brothers and sisters in Myanmar. Your gifts and prayers make an enormous difference to those following Jesus no matter the cost.  
(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 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](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 Workers:**

**Wayne Summers** [wayne@insideoutderby.org.uk](mailto:wayne@insideoutderby.org.uk)

**Revd Jo Honour** [jo@insideoutderby.org.uk](mailto: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](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)**