



28th May 2023

WELCOME TO ST. PETER'S! WE
HOPE YOU ENJOY WORSHIPPING
WITH US TODAY

A Pentecost Reflection

Today we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. But how much do you know about Pentecost? I read a reflection this week from Christian Aid – let me share it here:

So very often we think of Pentecost as being the day the Holy Spirit came. The reality is that the Holy Spirit came on Pentecost.

Pentecost was actually the Jewish 'Spring Harvest'. A time to look forward and pray for God's provision for the rest of the year. It was a day to celebrate and to pray. A day to look forward to the rich harvest that God willing, was in store.

This explains why Acts chapter two tells us that 'there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven'. They were there for the festival and it was on that very day that God chose to send the Holy Spirit on the disciples.

The day that was set aside to celebrate the forthcoming harvest, was the day the harvest of souls for Gods kingdom began in earnest. God certainly knows how to time things. That very day about 3000 people were brought home. No wonder Jesus had earlier said to the disciples:

The Harvest is plentiful.... Pray the Lord of the Harvest to send workers in the harvest field.

On the day of Pentecost those workers were equipped by the Spirit, went out into the field and reaped an incredible harvest.

*Today – nothing has changed. The harvest is **still** plentiful, the labourers are **still** too few, and the **same Holy Spirit** is **still** ours! All we need to do is to allow the Holy Spirit to fill us, then to go out into the field and who knows what the result will be for the Kingdom of God.*

In Galatians chapter six, Paul says 'Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.'

Thank God that we can count on the indwelling Holy Spirit to keep us going.

With my prayers and love,

Anita

Dates for your Diary:

Monday June 5th: Welcome Space at St. Peter's

9.30 – 12.30 in the Function Room. We offer simple hot food each week, tea and coffee, and a space to chat. Please spread the word! (Please note we are closed on Bank Holidays).

Tuesday 6th June: Afternoon Tea

Afternoon Tea takes place on Tuesday 6th June. Sandwiches and cakes will be served in the church at 2.15pm, followed by a short service of Evening Prayer. All are very welcome – please call Margaret on 01332 239134 if you're planning to come for catering purposes. Hope to see you there!

Sunday 11th June: Church Lunch

On Sunday 11th June we will enjoy our monthly lunch together after the service. More details to follow but please put the date in your diary now!

Saturday 10th June: Friends of the Church in India Unity Lecture

The Derbyshire Churches – Church of North India Partnership is holding the St. Thomas Unity Lecture 2023 at St Peter's at 11am on 10th June (coffee from 10.30). The lecture is: 'Hindu Nationalism and Political oppression on religious minorities in India: An Ecumenical Response' by Revd Dr D Isaac Devadoss, Associate Professor of History of Christianity, Bishops College Kolkata. The lecture will conclude with a short 75th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service and simple lunch (tickets £6).

Saturday 17th June: Kintsugi Mental Health Day at St. Peter's

St. Peter's is hosting a Mental Health Friendly Church Training Day from 10am – 4pm on Saturday 17th June. Tickets are £12 including tea and coffee (bring your own lunch) and can be purchased via the Kintsugi Hope website (<https://kintsugihope.com>)

Praying for the Persecuted Church: Myanmar

The Buddhist-majority country has 4.4 million Christians, which is just eight per cent of the country's population. The persecution of Christians in Myanmar continues to worsen since the military took control in February 2021. Fighting has increased across the country and the Christian minority is bearing the brunt of these attacks. Churches have been attacked and destroyed. More Christians than ever have become internally displaced people or refugees, and are living in camps or churches without adequate food and healthcare.

The daily reality is that Christians do not enjoy the same rights and legal protection as the Buddhist majority. Christians are often victims of violent attacks conducted with impunity. Even in predominantly Christian states like Chin State and Kayah State, long-established churches have suffered attacks and Christian aid workers and pastors have been killed. Government forces attack Christian villages and churches, while Buddhist monasteries remain largely untouched. Converts to Christianity also face threats, ridicule and physical beatings from their Buddhist, Muslim or tribal families, and are shunned from community life. Communities that aim to stay 'Buddhist

only' make life for Christian families impossible by barring their access to community water resources. Na Ta La schools aim to convert Christian children to Buddhism, which is an effective way of stopping Christianity from spreading to the next generation. The boys at these schools are raised to become Buddhist monks.

Naomi* is a pastor's wife living in a small farming village in Myanmar. She knows what it's like to be an outsider because of her faith – when her family moved to the village, they were its first Christians. People in this community are devotees of both Buddhism and Animism – practising witchcraft and trying to summon spirits. “There are nine Buddhist monasteries and schools in this village. But people here also worship their forefathers, the demons, and deities,” says Naomi. “If they hate someone, they are not afraid to kill them, no remorse nor guilt. That's the way it is here.” But Naomi and her husband, Moses*, remain determined to share the love of Jesus. “We have the desire to share the gospel to the people here and we must be able to endure suffering and persecution,” she says.

Naomi persevered even after the tragedy of her son dying. It even led her to a new ministry. “Because of the death of my son, I felt compassion to the poor and the orphans,” she says. “I take them in to my home, feed them with the food I eat. I teach them God's word and songs. I take care of them as if they were my own.” Not all locals welcomed their ministry. Moses was violently attacked during a Bible study in a village café, and his motorbike was vandalised. A few days later, the same assailant harassed them again, throwing stones at them. This courageous couple continue to take big risks to serve the Lord. “When I think about how God takes care of me and His greatness, I am at peace, thankful and satisfied,” says Naomi. “The Lord protected me when I walked through the valley of the shadow of death. He gives me strength and encourages me. I am not angry at my persecutor.”

Prayer Meeting Don't forget our weekly prayer meeting every Tuesday at 11am via Zoom! Please do come along if you can. For more details, please contact Geoff.

Prayer Please 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.

Giving at St. Peter's

See below for the QR code to make payments via your smartphone. Hover the camera on your phone over the QR code. It creates a yellow hyperlink which if you tap on it will take you to St. Peter's Give a Little Campaign giving page.



Zoom Joining Details for the 10.45 Service of Morning Praise:

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#**
- You will be connected and able to hear everything that is happening.

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

(currently on Placement at Repton Benefice)

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

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, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between 9.30am and 1.30pm. Tel: 01332 360790