



4th June 2023

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

Being Church

It was good to celebrate Pentecost last Sunday as we heard how the Holy Spirit fell upon the apostles. In the coming weeks as we continue with our series on the Acts of the Apostles we will hear more about the first community of believers as they become the first expression of church, worshipping and witnessing together in Jerusalem and to the ends of the earth.

A few weeks ago there was a conference called "Inhabit" in Seattle exploring what it means to be church in our contemporary world. Along with the Pentecost call to preach the gospel in the power of the Spirit, participants reflected on what they understood to be key characteristics of being church. Here are a few of them:

Everyone belongs – a sense of every individual being of value

A visible diversity

A centring focus on place, being the church in the neighbourhood

A conviction that the gospel is for the land and the created world as well as for people

A big imagination focused on creating better neighbourhoods for people

A full Easter theology – death, lament, liminality, absence, resurrection, hope

Lament for the brokenness of the world

Desire for reconciliation of all that divides in society

Importance of connection

Of course, this is not an exhaustive list! I wonder what we would add to it? Which of these characteristics do we see in our life and worship at St. Peter's? Which might challenge us as we seek to be the people God calls us to be? And how might we develop some of these characteristics in our community at St. Peter's?

With my prayers and love,

Anita

Dates for your Diary:

Sunday 4th June: Half Marathon

Please be aware that there is a half marathon on Sunday and some roads will be closed. Please see the links in the accompanying email for details.

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. We have decided to have a buffet style meal again, and to invite those who are able to bring something savoury or sweet (ideally cold) to share. Please don't worry if you're unable to bring anything – everyone is welcome and we hope to see you all!

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: Maldives

There are estimated to be a very small number of Christians in the Maldives. The vast majority of people living there are Muslim. The government of the Maldives likes to boast that the country is 100% Sunni Muslim, so any deviation is taken seriously. No religious minorities are recognised by the state, and every citizen is considered Muslim – so Christian converts have to follow Jesus in the greatest secrecy. If discovered, they are very likely to be reported to Muslim leaders or the authorities, and can be stripped of their citizenship or even given the death penalty.

Everybody must wear Islamic dress and observe the Ramadan fast, or face being arrested by authorities and harassed by their community. Girls or women suspected of being Christians can face threats, domestic violence or being pressured into a Muslim marriage. Sexual abuse of women and children is on the rise in the Maldives, with domestic violence generally 'acceptable' in society's eyes, especially as a punishment. The threat of abuse is an effective tool of persecution against believers.

Even foreign Christians working in the islands' tourist sector are closely watched by the authorities – they can only meet up for worship or weddings in a private place (such as their country's embassy) and must not express or discuss their faith with local citizens. If they do, they may be fined, deported or even imprisoned for a number of years. There are elements of violent Islamic extremism in the Maldives, including fighters returning from places like Syria, who pose a danger to suspected Christian believers, and the country is struggling to cope with the size of this challenge.

The Maldives is made up of very close-knit communities, making it very difficult to talk to or meet up with anybody secretly. Christian faith must be kept so private that two members of the same family could be believers without the other ever knowing. Mutual encouragement and fellowship are a huge challenge, and many Christians – and members of other religious minorities – will attempt to leave and start a new life abroad. It is very difficult for the church to grow, develop and train leaders. Please keep praying for our brothers and sisters in the Maldives.

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 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#**
- 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