

**28th September 2025**

**WELCOME TO ST. PETER’S! WE HOPE YOU ENJOY WORSHIPPING**

**WITH US**

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**Archdeacon Matthew writes:**

“Media reports link the recent increase in national flag displays to concerns about UK migration levels. I understand that migration is a genuine concern for many, including Christians, and I don’t wish to dismiss these anxieties. For Christians seeking to follow Jesus, reflecting His holiness and partnering in extending God’s Kingdom on earth, the migration debate often overlooks a crucial question: human dignity.

Applying our Christian faith to current issues, injustices, and inequalities is central to following Jesus. Our faith traditions inspire us to act with consideration for others, especially the vulnerable, poor, and marginalised. Jeremiah wrote, ‘Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls’ (Jeremiah 6:16). Our faith in Jesus, the Good News of the Gospel, and the biblical vision of God’s Kingdom penetrating our daily lives offers an antidote to the indignity some groups face in our society. I’m making not a political argument but a theological one: while there are legitimate concerns about migration our faith calls us to think and act in ways that uphold the dignity of others.

Our faith’s approach to speaking of migrants with dignity begins in Genesis, where we learn that all creation is made in God’s image (Genesis 1:27). Migrants possess inherent worth and dignity not because of our political ideologies or personal opinions, but because they are made in God’s image. The Bible clearly connects our innate dignity and worth with justice. Proverbs 31:8-9 instructs us, ‘Open your mouth for those with no voice, for the cause of all the dispossessed. Open your mouth, judge righteously, and defend the cause of the poor and needy.’ Ultimately, we. find our dignity in Jesus. The Apostle Paul reminds us in Galatians 3:28 that social and cultural differences do not separate us from our unity in Christ and our common dignity in Him.

Those concerned about migration levels worry about preserving what they see as solid foundations in society. The suggestion is that high migration levels threaten our British way of life. Pope Benedict suggested that society’s solid foundations depend on affirming human dignity: *A society lacks solid foundations when, on the one hand, it asserts values such as the dignity of the person, justice and peace, but then, on the other hand, radically acts to the contrary by allowing or tolerating a variety of ways in which human life is devalued and violated, especially where it is weak or marginalised.*

Across our churches, chaplaincies and fresh expressions in the Diocese of Derby, our vocation must be to promote the innate dignity and self-worth of all people made in God’s image. This doesn’t mean ignoring genuine concerns about migration, but it does mean that how we articulate those concerns matters.”

With my prayers and love, Anita

**Dates for your Diary:**

**Monday 29th September: Welcome Space**

Welcome Space meets each Monday from 9.30 – 12.30 in the Function Room. We offer simple hot food each week, tea and coffee, and a space to chat. All welcome!

**Thursday 2nd October: Funeral of Yvonne Barber**

The funeral of Yvonne Barber (widow of Ian Barber) will take place in the Round Chapel at Markeaton Crematorium on Thursday 2 October at 10 30 am. Pamela Hamilton, formerly Deaconness at St Peter's, is hoping to attend. Ian and Yvonne worshipped at St Peter's some years ago.

**Tuesday 7th October: Afternoon Tea**

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!

**Wednesday 8th October: Ruth Lisgo Concert**

All are invited to a free concert in church by Ruth Lisgo from 12 – 1.30pm. Highly recommended by those who have attended in the past!

**Sunday 12th October: Church Lunch**

On 12th October we will enjoy lunch together after the service. Please let us know if you have any allergies or dietary requirements. All welcome!

**Saturday 18th October: 10am – 3pm Vocations Exploration Day**

Join us at our Vocations Exploration Day on Saturday 18th October 2025 at St Helen's Church Hall, Darley Dale, Matlock. Vocation is about who God has called you to be and what God has called you to do. The vocation of every Christian is to serve God through faithful discipleship in everyday life. For some, this is related to a specific ministry. Our Vocations Exploration Day is an opportunity to explore leadership in the Church of England either as a lay or ordained minister. We will help you explore your gifts and how you might use them, and look at what the next steps might be for you. ​

**News from Sue: Additional Role and Licensing**

Many congratulations to Sue, who has taken up a new part-time role alongside her curacy at St. Peter’s as a University Chaplain in Sheffield. Sue will usually work in Sheffield on Tuesdays and Wednesdays (although the days will sometimes vary depending on demands). The Diocese of Sheffield writes:

*We are pleased to announce the appointment of the Revd Sue Leather as Anglican Chaplain to the University of Sheffield. Sue will continue as Assistant Curate at St Peter’s in the City, Derby, serving part-time in this new role within the Christian Chaplaincy based at the Belief, No Belief, Religious (BNBR) Life Centre. The Licensing will take place during an Ecumenical Service and will be led by Bishop Leah Vasey-Saunders, Bishop of Doncaster, on 5th November 2025 at the University. Contact Sue for further details.* Please pray for Sue as she begins this new role.

 **Eco Idea for September 2025 (from A Rocha UK)**

Reduce, Re-use, and Recycle your Clothes. September always feels like new beginnings – even when we are long past school-age! This month, take a look in your wardrobe. Are there clothes you don’t wear any more? If they are in good condition, consider taking them to a charity shop. If they need repairing, find a tutorial online to help you fix holes and tears. If they are really past it… some fabrics make great cleaning cloths (t-shirts for instance), others can be turned into patchwork, or Oxfam can take scrap material for recycling. And what to do with the space you’ve created? Look around your local charity shops and find some new-to-you pre-loved outfits.

**Praying for the Persecuted Church: Niger**

The presence of radical groups has led to frequent attacks and kidnappings, significantly limiting the freedom and safety of Christians. It’s also led to a rise in attacks on Christian property, such as churches, schools and healthcare centres.

Pressure also comes from the authorities, and this is likely to increase in the near future. The legal process for registering a church is arduous and protracted, and legal roadblocks have been used to prevent Christians from gathering.

The situation for Christians worsened after the July 2023 coup, when General Abdourahamane Tiani, head of the presidential guard unit, declared himself Niger’s new leader. Believers who live in areas outside the main cities are most vulnerable to persecution.  Niger’s government is still in turmoil after a military coup in 2023, leading to widespread insecurity and lawlessness. Please pray for our sisters and brothers in Niger.

**Old Phones/Computers**

We have been asked if anyone has any old (working) phones or computers which can be donated to a charity to send to Ghana. Please speak to Anita if so. Thank you!

**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 Lesley (07808 070958), and she will ask those on the prayer chain to pray.

**Giving at St. Peter’s**

You can give to St. Peter’s with cash (please put money in the Alms Box by the door next to the font), via our card machine, or use the QR code below to pay via your smartphone. Hover the camera on your phone over the QR code and tap on the yellow hyperlink to reach 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,
5. press: **73837#**

**The church office is currently open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday between 9.30am and 1.30pm. Tel: 01332 360790**

**: 01332 360790,** **office@stpetersderby.org.uk**

**St. Peter’s in the City Staff**

**Priest-in-Charge:** **Revd. Anita Matthews** anita@stpetersderby.org.uk

**Curate:** **Revd. Sue Leather**

**Vicar’s PA and Church Administrator (temporary cover):**

**Helen Spencer** office@stpetersderby.org.uk

 **Church Wardens: Tim Benson, Liz Runcorn**

**We are a community of faith, hope and love in the heart of the city**

**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***