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**5th October 2025**

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

**WITH US**

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**Practicing the Gospel**

October 4th is the feast day of St Francis of Assisi, and we were delighted to welcome Third Order Franciscans from around the East Midlands to St. Peter’s to renew their vows. There are many miraculous stories told about him. But his true significance lies in something much deeper. Richard Rohr writes:

*For Francis, Jesus became someone to actually imitate, not just to worship. Since Jesus himself was humble and poor, Francis made the pure and simple imitation of Jesus his life’s agenda. In fact, he often did it in an almost absurdly literal way. He was a fundamentalist—not about doctrinal Scriptures—but about lifestyle Scriptures: take nothing for your journey; eat what is set before you; work for your wages; wear no shoes. This is revolutionary thinking for most Christians, although it is the very “marrow of the gospel,” to use Francis’ words. He knew that* *humans live themselves into new ways of thinking more than think themselves into new ways of living.*

*The early Franciscan friars and the Poor Clares (women who followed Clare of Assisi) wanted to be gospel practitioners. Both Francis and Clare offered their Rules as a “form of life,” to use their own words. They saw correct practice as a necessary parallel to correct teaching and not an optional add-on or a possible implication. History has shown that a rather large percentage of Christians never get to the practical implications of their beliefs! “Why aren’t you doing what you say you believe?” the prophet invariably asks.*

*At the heart of Franciscan teaching is the practice of paying attention to different things (nature, people on the margins, humility, mission) instead of shoring up the home base. His early followers tried to live the gospel “simply and without gloss,” as Francis told them. Author Jon Sweeney describes how Franciscan preaching took place in everyday circumstances:*

*“Francis … was a person of action and movement. Spiritual practice was paramount. He made preaching mandatory for all who joined him in his way of life, but preaching was not always done from behind a pulpit. The earliest Franciscan sermons were more like open-air discussions, encouragements, inspirations—usually while the preacher or another friar were on the road walking, beside the road begging, in hospitals caring for the ill and accompanying the dying, repairing crumbling churches, acting as intermediaries between people in trouble and people in power, and touching with tenderness the creatures and creation around them.”*

The Church gives thanks this week for the life and witness of Francis. As we do so, may we also be challenged to ask ourselves – how are we practising the gospel in our everyday lives?

With my prayers and love, Anita

**Dates for your Diary:**

**TODAY Sunday 5th October: Baptism of Leanna, Lamar,**

**Farough, Jermaine and Olu**

A warm welcome to the family and friends of all those being baptised today!

**Monday 6th October: 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!

**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 October 2025 (from A Rocha UK)**

Provide food and shelter for wildlife, now and in preparation for next year. Clean all your bird feeders to avoid the spread of disease to winter migrants and put up a nest box well in advance of breeding season. A nest box could also prove a cosy spot for small birds to spend the night on particularly cold winter evenings ahead.

**Praying for the Persecuted Church: Turkmenistan**

Christian leaders are the most closely observed – they’re targeted to control Christian activities and spread fear among their congregations. Even the country’s historical Russian Orthodox and Armenian Apostolic churches can find their Sunday services being monitored. Printing or importing Christian materials, holding unofficial meetings, or even downloading Christian songs can result in a fine or a worse punishment.

Women who choose to become Christians are considered to have challenged the accepted social order and are particularly vulnerable to persecution – unsurprisingly, many choose to keep their faith secret.

Turkmenistan is a former soviet state, and it’s still ruled by an authoritarian government that heavily monitors the population – especially religious groups.

Most people in Turkmenistan are Muslims, which means that anyone who chooses to convert to Christianity does so at great risk to their safety. The Turkmen authorities violate the rights of all Christians but monitors church leaders especially heavily.

Turkmenistan remains at number 29 on the World Watch List, with a slight increase in persecution score. Please pray for our sisters and brothers in Turkmenistan.

**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.

Qr code

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**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**](mailto:office@stpetersderby.org.uk)

**St. Peter’s in the City Staff**

**Priest-in-Charge:** **Revd. Anita Matthews** [anita@stpetersderby.org.uk](mailto:anita@stpetersderby.org.uk)

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

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

**Helen Spencer** [office@stpetersderby.org.uk](mailto: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***