ST. PETER'S
IN THE CITY, DERBY
life in all its fullness

19th July 2026
WELCOME TO ST. PETER'S! WE HOPE YOU ENJOY WORSHIPPING WITH US

Transitions and "Middling"

The Venerable Emma Sykes, the new Archdeacon of East Derbyshire, writes:
I have been reflecting recently on "transitions". This is not surprising as in the last few months I have encountered (and still encountering) a lot of changes. These range from being a Parish Priest to becoming an Archdeacon, moving house from Birmingham to East Derbyshire and entering a stage of life where our young adult children are leaving home.

In his book "Transitions: Making sense of life changes", William Booth points out that every transition has three stages, an ending, a neutral zone and a new beginning. Often we overlook the 'neutral zone' we try and rush through it or ignore it, but it is in the transition in and out of these stages and the disorientation that we feel where the growth in understanding and ability to respond well comes.

Emma Inneson's latest book "Middling" is all about this, learning to live within the tensions, especially in a polarised world and to not see the middle "as a place of accident, mediocrity or stagnation, but as a place of faithfulness, authenticity and hope." When Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, it only took three days before the complex reality of their new situation started to dawn on them. They had escaped Pharoah's oppression only to find the water they had to drink was bitter. Moses cries out to the Lord, the Lord intervenes, the water becomes sweet and they are led to Elim, a place that has an abundance of water (Exodus 15:27). A month and a half later, the Israelites are grumbling again, this time they are hungry, yearning for the 'fleshpots' in Egypt where they ate their fill. The Lord provides manna for them to gather each day. Challenge, hardship, grumbling, desperate cries, God intervenes, reminds them of the covenant he made with them, responds to their needs, and on the cycle goes. Their disorientating middle goes on… for forty years. Being a follower of Christ is to be in a permanent state of transition, in a permanent middle place.

As a community of believers, the church, the 'Ekklesia' we are called out to proclaim the gospel, a gospel of hope and yet, it is not easy or comfortable. It requires us to live in the now of a future hope that we do not yet see. Anyone who has made that step to follow Christ into the unknown will know it is both compelling and joyful but also disorientating and bewildering. It's a cross shaped place of tension. To navigate it well, we need the one who knew all about cross shapes, whose life, death, resurrection and ascension gives us not just a pattern to follow, but a deep prayerful relationship that gives wisdom and courage when the challenges arise.

With my prayers and love, Anita

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 21st July: NO Prayer Meeting

Please note that there will be no prayer meeting on Tuesday 21st July.

Wednesday 22nd July: Spiritually Curious

'Spiritually Curious' is a gathering for people wanting to explore faith in a crazy world. It meets at St. Peter's on Wednesdays from 10 – 11.30am. All welcome!

Sunday 26th July: Church Lunch

On 26th July we will enjoy lunch together after the service. Please let us know if you have any allergies or dietary requirements. All welcome!

St. Peter's Lending Library

We have a wonderful selection of books in our lending library (including some new ones)! Please do have a look before the service or over coffee and find yourself a good read as we all try to deepen our faith and understanding.

Eco Idea for July 2026 (from A Rocha UK)

It's Plastic Free July and this year we're thinking about laundry, a top source of microplastic pollution. Fibres from synthetic clothes (polyester, nylon, and acrylic for example) shed tiny fibres during washing and drying. These enter the sewage systems and are hard to filter out. Use a microfibre bag or ball to catch the fibres. Learn more about reducing plastic pollution in the laundry process at plasticfreejuly.org/get-involved/what-you-can-do/plastic-free-laundry/ and more about this year's campaign at plasticfreejuly.org.

Praying for the Persecuted Church: Cuba

Church leaders and Christian activists who speak out against Cuba's government risk arrest, smear campaigns, harassment, restrictions on movements, physical violence and imprisonment. Sermons are frequently monitored to ensure they align with Communist values. Churches and other Christian organisations will commonly face permit denials, fines, confiscation of property, demolition, closures and legal action. Despite the challenges, Christians in Cuba are standing firm in their faith. Otoniel*, a pastor in Cuba, shares, "We are walking in step with God's will. And even though it costs – it's worth it."

Christians in Cuba must align with the country's Communist agenda, and failure to do so can bring pressure and persecution. Church activities, especially those benefiting local communities, are often deemed a threat to state interests, and that brings scrutiny and surveillance. "You must always be careful about what you say and who you talk to," says Carolina*, a church leader. To curb the church's influence, the authorities routinely deny registration of new churches, forcing many to operate 'illegally', putting them at greater risk of persecution. Those who speak out against the government are especially exposed to pressure and persecution, regardless of denomination.

Evangelicals, Pentecostals and Baptists often face greater obstacles in getting their churches registered, and those involved in house churches are greatly at risk of surveillance.

Cuba has risen two places in the World Watch List, although the level of hostility against many Christians remains at a similar, heightened level. Indeed, government opposition has become more targeted and adaptive. Many believers are facing the added challenge of the country's growing humanitarian crisis, which is having a huge impact on Cubans across the country. "You can have the best liturgy prepared, but everything can come to a halt due to a sudden power outage," explains Carolina.

Please keep praying for our brothers and sisters in Cuba. Your prayers make an enormous difference to those following Jesus no matter the cost.

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.

Space to take notes from today's talk:

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#**

St. Peter's in the City Staff

Vicar: Revd. Anita Matthews anita@stpetersderby.org.uk

Curate: Revd. Sue Leather sue@stpetersderby.org.uk

Curate: Revd. Raju Abraham

Vicar's PA and Church Administrator:

Hilary Streek 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

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