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

Pausing to rest: 2

Last week I wrote about Psalm 23, with its wonderful promise that God makes us lie down in green pastures and beside still waters. This week I'd like to remind you of some words from Psalm 46: 10, **"***Be still and know that I am God."* The English translation "be still" doesn't do justice to the Hebrew word which has several meanings. Stop striving. Put down your weapons. And – I love this one – Sink. Sink – allow yourself to let go completely – and know that I am God.

What might these words mean for us? We don't find ourselves in a war zone as the people of Jerusalem did, although when we look at the media it may feel like it. One way of praying with this Psalm is to bring to mind the conflicts in our world and to speak these words of faith and trust over them. In a world of anxiety and fear we are called to rest and be still and trust that, even though it feels like the world is falling apart around us, God is with us and will rescue us at the break of day.

But this psalm speaks into our own life experiences too. Perhaps we feel that things are falling apart for us or for those we love. Anxiety, illness, grief, loss, pressures at work, lack of work – all those things can lead us to feel that we're out of control and fearful. And in the midst of all that God speaks to us and says: "*Be still and know that I am God."* Put down your weapons – stop fighting and know that I am God. Stop striving and know that I am God. Sink – and know that I am God.

Because the rest which God calls us to isn't the rest of the self-help books, or newspaper supplements, or TV shows, most of which encourage us to focus more on ourselves and what we need to do. It's a deeper rest grounded in God and the promises of God. It's a rest which invites us to cease our constant striving. It's a rest which reminds us of our true security in God – as St Augustine said many centuries ago, "*God, you made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you"* We need to learn that truth.

I'd like to finish with a simple prayer exercise from a book by Sam and Sara Hargreaves, "The Rest is Worship." I invite you to be still, to stop striving, to put down your weapons, to sink into God's rest as you read these words.

Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I Am.
Be still and know.
Be still.
Be.

With my prayers and love, Anita

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 6th September: Church Lunch

On 6th September we will enjoy lunch together after the service. Please let us know if you have any allergies or dietary requirements. All welcome!

Tuesday 8th September: 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 9th September: 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!

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 August 2026 (from A Rocha UK)

Taking flights helps us to see more of the wonderful world that God has made. But flying is one of the most polluting ways to travel and contributes to climate breakdown, droughts and flooding. If you have taken any flights this year, consider making a climate contribution through Climate Stewards to compensate for your emissions. Climate Stewards is a Christian charity that uses money from climate contributions to fund carbon saving projects in the global south, helping our neighbours to thrive in a changing world. climatestewards.org/carbon-calculators/

Praying for the Persecuted Church: Niger

The lives of believers in Niger are threatened by jihadist groups – like so-called Islamic State and Al-Qaeda. Communities are attacked and church buildings destroyed by extremist groups, and many have lost their lives because of such violence. Converts from Islam must worship in secret for fear of abduction, being targeted by militants. Women are vulnerable to sexual abuse, including rape. Many families often do not report such instances for fear of the repercussions on the victim's marriage prospects, leading to silencing and cycles of injustice.

The coup in 2023 has created a ripple effect of ever-increasing instability in Niger, a country whose fragility is already a present issue. This insecurity has emboldened Islamist militants. Many operate without governmental restraint in lots of regions of Niger. The country borders Mali and Burkina Faso, granting extremist groups easier movement and acquisition of territory, thus strengthening their power. Rural areas pose the greatest dangers for communities because of their exposure to extremist attacks.

Converts from Islam are, by far, the most likely to face persecution because of their perceived betrayal of their Muslim origins and national tradition. Due to the threat of attacks, church leaders are sometimes forced to flee their home for a safer environment, leaving communities without leadership and weakened.

Please continue praying for believers in Niger. Your prayers make a huge difference for those experiencing persecution in Jesus's name.

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:

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