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**27th October 2024**

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

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**The Angel of Love…and Christmas!**

As I wrote in last week’s news sheet, St Peter’s has been invited to host the “Angel of Love” sculpture as part of the Derby Season of Light. The Angel will be in St. Peter’s from today until the end of December. We are planning to open the church from 10am – 3pm during half-term week (next week) and on most Saturdays from the end of October until Christmas (it will also be open on Monday to Thursday mornings from 10am – 12 noon). We would be very grateful for people to be around in the church welcoming people to St Peter’s – thank you to those who have already offered to help. If you’d like to help but haven’t signed up yet there’s still time! There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church today – please do sign up to help if you can.

We hope and pray that hosting the Angel sculpture at St. Peter’s will encourage many people to come into the building, perhaps for the first time. And – dare I say the word! – Christmas gives us the opportunity to invite people to join us for our services and events. Please pray that we may build some good connections with people who visit the Angel sculpture as part of the Sculpture trail.

And, in case you were wondering, here’s a sneak peek at our Christmas plans!

Tuesday 3rd December: 2.15pm Christmas Afternoon Tea

Tuesday 10th December 11am Keep Fit Carol Service

Sunday 15th December: Church Lunch (with a Christmas theme!)

Tuesday 17th December (tbc): 5pm Carols on Castleward

Friday 20th and Saturday 21st December: Christmas Lunch on Jesus

Sunday 22nd December 10.45am Carol Service

Tuesday 24th December 11.15pm Midnight Communion

Wednesday 25th December: 10am Holy Communion for Christmas Day

Sunday 29th December: 10.45am Music and Readings for Christmas

Publicity will follow shortly, but please do put the dates in your diary now!

With my prayers and love, Anita

**Dates for your Diary:**

**Monday 28th October Welcome Space**

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!

**Sunday 3rd November: Church Lunch**

Please join us after the service on 3rd November as we enjoy lunch together. Please let us know if you have any dietary requirements or allergies. All very welcome!

**Tuesday 5th November: 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 13th November: Ruth Lisgo Concert**

All at invited to a free concert in church by Ruth Lisgo at 12.30pm on Wednesday

13th November. Highly recommended by those who have attended in the past!

**Sunday 24th November: Licensing of Anita as Priest-in-Charge**

Bishop Malcolm, the Bishop of Repton, will license Anita as Priest-in-Charge of St. Peter’s at 2pm on Sunday 24th November. There will be **no 10.45am** service that day. Please do join us for the service at 2pm, followed by refreshments.

 **Eco Idea for October 2024 (from A Rocha UK)**

Finding out your carbon footprint can encourage changes to your lifestyle that will benefit the planet and our neighbours in the global south. Why not investigate your carbon footprint with Climate Stewards? Go to [footprintr.me](https://footprintr.me/?s=c78bbb75834072d3f164f596aa51b11a)

**Baptism and Confirmation**

Are you interested in being baptised or confirmed? If you’d like to know more please speak to Nick, Sue or Anita. Thank you!

**Advent Groups**

Advent is rapidly approaching and we hope to run some small study groups. Please sign the list at the back of church if you’d like to attend or host a group. Thank you.

**Praying for the Persecuted Church: Colombia**

There are more than 49 million Christians in Colombia - most of the country’s population of 51.7 million – but believers still face significant persecution for their faith.

Church leaders are harassed, extorted and murdered – despite recently elected President Gustavo Petro pledging a plan for ‘total peace’. Christians who speak publicly about corruption and violence face attacks. Church leaders who oppose criminal activities can also can be targeted. Believers who work with youth or champion human and environmental rights risk violence from armed groups. Any action that opposes illegal activities is enough to lead to violent attacks or immense pressure.

In some indigenous communities, there is significant opposition toward anyone who has converted to follow Jesus. Believers face threats, imprisonment, physical abuse, and lose access to basic needs like water, electricity, education, sanitation and even the loss of land. This hostility can leave Christians ostracised from their community and increasingly vulnerable to the violence engulfing many rural areas in Colombia. There is growing intolerance towards Christian views in the public sphere, especially about issues concerning life, family, marriage and religious liberty. Christians can be accused of hate speech and intolerance, which can promote self-censorship.

Persecution began early in Thiago’s\* life. Because of his Christian faith, he and his family were oppressed by authorities. Thiago and his brother had to leave their school when local authorities decided to withdraw government aid, because the family did not participate in indigenous rituals. One day, Thiago’s mother told him that the indigenous authorities went to his aunt’s school and kidnapped her and his cousins, taking them away in a truck. His aunt managed to call a friend in the police and they were rescued. Thiago’s mother sent him to the Open Doors Children’s Centre – so he could have a safe education. Sadly, there wasn’t space for Thiago’s twin brother Mateo\* to go too.

Soon after Thiago arrived at the Children’s Centre, Mateo was kidnapped by guerrillas. They released him, but threatened they’d come back. They returned and Mateo was taken again. After nearly a month, Thiago’s mother heard that Mateo’s body had been found. A tutor at the Children’s Centre drove Thiago back home for the funeral. Although his heart was comforted by seeing his mother, it did not last. One of Thiago’s uncles, who was guarding the coffin at the burial, had overheard some young guerillas. “They were talking about the need for another person [to join their group],” says Thiago. “When my uncle was listening, he realised that that person was me.” The tutor took him back to the Centre, where he received emotional and spiritual support. Over time, his heart began to heal, to the point where he can let go of his anger and hatred. “I would like to tell them that I forgive them in spite of all the evil they did, because maybe they didn’t know or hadn’t thought about what they were doing, and that I don’t hold grudges,” he says. Please pray for our sisters and brothers in Colombia.

**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**

You can give to St. Peter’s 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 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.

**The church office is currently open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 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**

**Acting Vicar/Associate Priest:** **Revd. Anita Matthews** [anita@stpetersderby.org.uk](mailto:anita@stpetersderby.org.uk)

**Curates: Revd. Nick Parish** [nick@stpetersderby.org.uk](mailto:nick@stpetersderby.org.uk)

**Revd. Sue Leather**

**Vicar’s PA and Church Administrator: Hilary Streek** [office@stpetersderby.org.uk](mailto:office@stpetersderby.org.uk)

**Inside Out Project Worker:**

**Edmund Thompson** [edmund@insideoutderby.org.uk](mailto:edmund@insideoutderby.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***