

ST PETER
—
DE BEAUVOIR TOWN

A SERVICE OF THE WORD

25 December 2020

CHRISTMAS DAY



Welcome to St Peter's...

St Peter's has been at the heart of De Beauvoir Town since 1841. The congregation today is a lively mix of people of all ages from all parts of the world.

An inclusive church in the liberal catholic tradition, faithful to the Anglican Communion, in the Diocese of London - whatever your experience of church, you are welcome here.

While our *Communion in Community* is restricted by the Covid-19 pandemic **Home Worship** is offered weekly online or by signing up for postal mailing.

St Peter's Church is open for **Private Prayer** on **Wednesdays 9-11am** and **Sundays 11am-12.45pm & 3-5pm**. *Please check the Christmas Programme for additional hours over the Christmas and New Year holidays.*

St Peter's Community Partnership has reopened the crypt for restricted community events and activities in line with government guidelines. Please contact the Parish Office with any enquiries.

For restricted funeral, wedding and baptism/christening enquiries, please contact the Vicar *-be aware when planning ceremonies that restrictions can suddenly change!*

With blessings

Julia Porter-Pryce

Vicar

Gathering *while music is played*

Greeting

We meet to celebrate the coming of Christ into the world.

The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us
and we beheld his glory.

Prayers of penitence

As we kneel with the shepherds before the newborn
Christ child,
we open our hearts in penitence and faith.

Silence is kept

Christ came in humility to share our lives:
forgive our pride.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Christ came with good news for all people:
forgive our silence.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Christ came in love to a world of suffering:
forgive our self-centredness.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw *us* to himself
and cleanse *us* from all *our* sins,
that we may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Collect

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God.
Amen.

Lighting the Christmas Candle

**Lord Jesus, Light of light,
you have come among us.
Help us who live by your light
to shine as lights in your world.
Glory to God in the highest.
Amen.**

Readings

Isaiah 52.7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.
Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Titus 2.11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

*Hymn to be played while words are read silently/ the
tune is hummed*

The holly and the ivy
when they are both full grown,
of all the trees that are in the wood
the holly bears the crown.

Refrain:

The rising of the sun
and the running of the deer,
the playing of the merry organ,
sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a blossom,
white as the lily flower,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
to be our sweet Saviour. [Refrain]

The holly bears a berry,
as red as any blood,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
to do poor sinners good. [Refrain]

The holly bears a prickle,
as sharp as any thorn,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
on Christmas day in the morn. [Refrain]

The holly bears a bark,
as bitter as any gall,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
for to redeem us all. [Refrain]

The holly and the ivy,
when they are both full grown,
of all the trees that are in the wood
The holly bears the crown. [Refrain]

The Gospel *all stand*

Luke 2.1-14

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was

with the angel a multitude of the heavenly
host, praising God and saying,
'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

Sermon to be posted online

Prayers for the church and for the world - *all sit or kneel*

Christ, for whom there was no room in the inn,
give courage to all who are homeless;
in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Christ, who fled into Egypt,
give comfort to all refugees;
in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Christ, who fasted in the desert,
give relief to all who are starving;
in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Christ, who hung in agony on the cross,
give strength to all who suffer;
in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Lord of the Church
hear our prayer,
and make us one in heart and mind
to serve you with joy for ever. Amen.

Uniting our prayers with the whole company of heaven,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Instrumental J.S. Bach *Violin sonata no. 3 in E major, Preludio and Loure*, Darius Thompson, Violin

Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks and praise for all God's gifts
Silence is kept

For birth and life and strength of body,
for safety and shelter and food,
we give you thanks:
we praise your holy name.

For sight and hearing and the beauty of nature,
for words and music and the power of thought,
we give you thanks:

we praise your holy name.

For work and leisure and the joy of achieving,
for conscience and will and depth of feeling,
we give you thanks:

we praise your holy name.

For grace and truth in Jesus Christ,
for the gifts of the Spirit and the hope of heaven,
we give you thanks:

we praise your holy name.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Peace

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth
peace
to all in whom he delights.

The peace of the Lord be always with us
and also with you.

Closing Prayers

God our Father,
whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our hearts

and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord.
Amen

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ-child
be ours this Christmas.
Amen.

Instrumental J.S. Bach *Violin sonata no. 3 in E major, Gavotte en Rondeau and Gigue*. Darius Thompson, Violin

SAVE THE MUSIC FUND

St Peter's *Save The Music Fund* has been set up to support professional musicians struggling to work.

We provide employment with live sessions in weekly Sunday services and recorded sessions for Home Worship and online events. We also offer space in church for rehearsals and recording.

To make a donation - click on **Donate to St Peter's** on Home page and select **Save the Music**

Please exit one row at a time

OPEN CHURCH

Wednesdays 9-11am
Sundays 3-5pm

Saturday 26 December 3-5pm
Thursday 31 December 3-5pm
Friday 1 January 3-5pm



www.stpeterdebeauvoir.org.uk

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