



# Welcome to St. John's

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

MICKLEOVER

News Bulletin Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024

## Services in our Churches – Palm Sunday

**10am At St. Johns** – Palm Sunday Parish Communion, led by Ingrid Munro, with Alun Rowlands Speaking.

**10am At All Saints** – Morning Worship, streamed to Youtube, with Peter Walley and Clare Owen leading.

Youtube link: <https://youtube.com/live/RTHxnLmlvkM>



**Prayers during the week** – Prayers at 8am Tuesday mornings, meeting on Zoom with the usual log in.

**Wednesday Holy Communion** – Holy Communion at All Saints 9.30am

**All Saints Café Warm Space** – Join us Wednesdays 10am-12noon for friendly chat and refreshments.

**St John's Rest Stop Café Warm Space** – On Friday mornings 10am- 1pm in the Link. Do join us for Tea/Coffee, friendly conversation, and delicious home-made cakes. Please join us after cafe to share a light lunch and then we will be providing a lent course called The Prayers of Jesus. Further information from Judi Witcomb on 07531495891.

**Mickleover Singers Easter Concert – Viva la Musica** - Saturday 23rd March, 7.30pm at St. Johns Church. The concert will be a celebration of music from around the world. £8 on the door, (Cash only) including light refreshments in the interval.

**St Andrews Services in March** - There will be a Holy Communion on Easter Sunday at 11am (in place of evening prayer on Palm Sunday). The two month services notice sheet has been corrected.

**Easter Crafting** – at the All Saints Wednesday coffee morning starts on 13th March. Then on 20th and 27th March. The session is free and all are welcome.

**Easter Lilies** – The Easter Lily list is now in the link. If you wish to remember your family or friends with an Easter Lily, please sign up. Thank you. *Eunice Upton*

**Padley** – Demand for our emergency food parcels and hot meals has increased dramatically since the 'Cost of Living Crisis' began. Now we need your help more than ever to support those at risk of homelessness and poverty in Derby and Derbyshire. We especially need donations of: *Tinned soup, Tinned meat, Tinned fruit, custard, Cereal and UHT milk*. There is a full list of items in the link with details for where to take your donations.

**Electoral Roll Revision** – The Electoral Roll for St John's is being revised. If you are not already a member and you would like to join, are over 16 or will be 16 during the next year, please complete an application form to be found in the link at Church and hand it to a member of the Clergy, a Church Warden or Andrew Templer (Tel: 01332 515293 or email [andrew@templerfamily.co.uk](mailto:andrew@templerfamily.co.uk)) **Please also complete, at the same time, a Church GDPR Consent form to give us expressed permission as to how we can use your contact data. Thank you Andrew Templer**

**CTM Prayer Walk** – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 10-15am Meeting on Ladybank Rd opposite Mickleover Manor, to go down the path to New House Farm Estate. We will walk for about an hour, praying God's blessing upon the people and businesses in this area, and listening to God's Holy Spirit as we go. If you plan to join us please let me know by email [ray\\_lee16@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ray_lee16@yahoo.co.uk), or phone 239645 (answerphone screened). Thanks *Ray Lee*

**Good Friday walk of witness** – (starting at 11am – finishing roughly 12noon). This year's walk of witness will start at Our Lady of Lourdes car park and then take a route that finishes at All Saints for coffee/tea – Hot cross buns. We are looking for any donations of hot cross buns. If you can provide any, please contact Peter on 07725740407 or e-mail – [peterwalley@btinternet.com](mailto:peterwalley@btinternet.com) to arrange.

## Collect fo Palm Sunday

True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah:  
grant us the faith to know you and love you,  
that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross,  
which is the path of glory. **Amen.**

## Readings this week

Psalms 118: 1,2, 19-end, Mark 11: 1 – 11

## Readings Next Week

Acts 10: 34 – 43, Mark 16: 1- 18

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**Suggested Bible readings for Holy Week: – Palm Sunday:** Mark 11: 1 to 11, **Monday:** Mark 11: 12 to 33, **Tuesday:** Mark 12: 1 to 17, **Wednesday:** Mark 12: 41 to Mark 13: 35; **Maundy Thursday:** Mark 14: 1 to 51: **Good Friday:** Mark 14: 53 to Mark 15: 41. **Holy Saturday:** Mark 15: 42 to 47, Easter Sunday: Mark 16.

Holy Week Services			
<b>28<sup>th</sup> March</b> <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	Holy Communion (stripping of the altar)	7.30pm	All Saints
	Holy Communion (stripping of the altar)	7.30pm	St Johns
<b>29<sup>th</sup> March</b> <i>Good Friday</i>	Reflection	10am	All Saints
	Meditation	10am	St Johns
	March of Witness	11am	Our Lady of Lourdes Car Park
<b>31<sup>st</sup> March</b> <i>Easter Sunday</i>	Sunrise Service	6am	St Johns
	Holy Communion	10am	All Saints
	Holy Communion	10am	St Johns
	Holy Communion	11am	St Andrews Radbourne

Holy Week is the one week in the calendar when we can walk with Jesus and his disciples at the same pace as the events that happened. Read the passage once, slowly, allow the events to sink in, maybe imagine yourself in the crowd or as one of the disciples – what are you feeling? What strikes you? Then come back to the passage later in the day and re-read it. What else do you notice? Write it down maybe in a journal. What is God saying to you? What is God saying to our churches or our communities? Every blessing, *Peter*

### Palm Sunday Talk by Alun Rowlands

Palm Sunday starts Holy Week when the story of Jesus' ministry on earth reaches its wonderful climax. We remember the last supper on Maundy Thursday, his death on the cross on our Good Friday, and his rising to life again on Easter Sunday. Jesus' triumphant procession into Jerusalem is documented in the set gospel for today from Mark but I've been thinking about some of the supporting characters of Holy Week without whom the story probably wouldn't have worked. These distinct groups or individuals impacted the narrative with their differing agendas and are worth a look on their own. Why? Because today, there are also many differing distinct groups or individuals whose differing agendas also impact the current narrative of being a Christian, a follower of Christ, in our modern world.

To start with then, let's look at the Jewish officials who opposed Jesus. These religious people were threatened by him and the destabilising effect on good order and their privileged lives. Their stance was they stood up for God against imposters and false prophets. They were not going to be deceived by this Jesus, who didn't in any way fit their stereotypes. The only way to please God was by religious purity and the constricting rules that went with it. Any challenge to this was dangerous and to be resisted in any way possible. Jesus' triumphant procession into their Jerusalem headquarters as it were, must have been the final straw but it provided them with a golden opportunity to be rid of him. Maybe things were beginning to go their way, especially when they persuaded the people to shout for the release of Barabbas and the crucifixion of Jesus. ***We might want to think and pray about the worldwide Christian church today, its many differences, its leaders, and how its squabbles appear to the many non-believers.***

Then Pilate, who represented the Roman authorities, was doing his best to uphold the mighty empire he represented. He held unlimited power over these people, and he had all the means at his disposal to crush rebellion and get his way. Jesus travelling on a donkey into Jerusalem could have been seen as a revolutionary act couldn't it? ***We might want to think and pray about the abuse of power around the world today, those being persecuted for their faith, those exploiting people and resources with force and the lack of equality and fairness for all.***

One key individual in the story is of course Judas. The one who eventually sells out Jesus to the authorities. I imagine they didn't really need him except to say that one of his own followers handed him over. ***We might want to think and pray about our own actions, our own place on this earth and how we go about loving our neighbour as ourselves.***

And what about another central character, Peter? He who denied Jesus three times before the cock crowed. We know that Peter could be considered as Jesus' best friend who had been with him at all the most exciting points of his three year ministry. Peter tried to persuade Jesus that his ministry is really to throw out the Romans and proclaim this Kingdom of God he is always talking about. He even tried to talk Jesus out of his seemingly strange ideas of going to his death. But later on, we know how God used him to build the church we belong to today. But there is no getting away from the truth that Peter betrayed and deserted Jesus in his hour of need. ***We might want to think and pray about what we can do to ensure others hear about Jesus and how we love the Lord our God. Perhaps we can work on our own prayer and study life to learn more about what Jesus requires of us to grow his kingdom in this place.***

Holy week is about what Jesus has done for us by taking our sins with us to the cross and guaranteeing true forgiveness to those who strive to truly repent in their hearts and minds. And today I have been describing and encouraging you to also think about the people material to the story, each one of which is a short story in its own right but connected through the overarching Holy week story. But the main story which began at creation and will not finish until Jesus returns to judge all our own personal stories is the one that really matters. It's all about the wonderful, amazing, miraculous story of God's faithful love for us and all he has made. May God bless you all. Alun