



**ALL SAINTS CHURCH,  
MICKLEOVER**

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***A warm welcome to All Saints***

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024

**SERVICES IN OUR CHURCHES THIS SUNDAY**

- Morning Worship at All Saints, 10am. John Foxon will be speaking.
- Holy Communion at St Johns, 10am. Ingrid Munro will be speaking.

**LIVE LINK**- You will join a live video of the service at St Johns from 10am on YouTube.  
<https://youtube.com/live/31CskeWgPJI>

**MIDWEEK SERVICES**

- Tuesday: Online Prayers, 8am. Meeting on Zoom, usual login
- Wednesdays: Holy Communion, 9.30am

**Collect**

Risen Christ,  
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:  
teach us to hear your voice  
and to follow your command,  
that all your people may be gathered into  
one flock, to the glory of God the Father.

**Amen.**

**Hymns**

For The Healing of The Nations  
Heaven Shall Not Wait  
The King of Love My Shepherd Is  
Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup  
We Have a Gospel to Proclaim

**Sunday's Readings**

Acts 4: 5-12, John 10: 11-18

**Next Sunday's Readings**

Acts 8: 26-end, John 15: 1-8

**ALL SAINTS CAFÉ WARM SPACE**- Join us for friendly chat, coffee, tea, cake and biscuits every Wednesday in the Centre 10am-12noon. Everyone welcome!

**ST JOHN'S REST STOP CAFÉ WARM SPACE** - Friday mornings 10am-1pm in the Link. Do join us for Tea/Coffee, friendly conversation, and delicious home-made cakes.

**NEWS & VIEWS**- if you have anything you would like to include in the June magazine, please give them to James Bowles or the office by Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May. Thanks

## Talk by John Foxon

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is known in the church calendar as Good Shepherd Sunday and the Gospel reading for the day is John 10: "I am the Good Shepherd". Can you imagine a method actor preparing to deliver the words of John 10 looking for their inspiration?

I am the Good Shepherd. I **am** the Good Shepherd. I am the **Good** Shepherd. I am the Good **Shepherd**.

Where is the emphasis?

Firstly, we should note that in John's Gospel Jesus frequently says **I am**:

- I am the Bread of Life (John 6:35)
- I am the Light of the World (John 8:12)
- I am the Door (John 10:9)
- I am the Good Shepherd (John 10:11,14)
- I am the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)
- I am the Way and the Truth and the Life (John 14:6)
- I am the Vine (John 15:1,5)

Jesus is doing more than providing us with metaphors and analogies, whenever Jesus says **I am** there is deep meaning. It is connected to the passage in Exodus 3:14 in which God gives his name as *Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh*, translated from the Hebrew most basically as "I am that I am" or "I shall be what I am". **I am** is the personal name of God, revealed directly to Moses. In these sayings Jesus is claiming his place as the Son of God.

Beyond proclaiming his divinity Jesus is letting us know what that means for us. Jesus isn't saying that he is like any shepherd he is affirming that he is **The Good Shepherd**, there is no one who fulfils pastoral care as he does. His audience would also take that as being he had a higher authority than all the other shepherds of the Old Testament including David from whose line Joseph was descended.

Western shepherds always go behind the sheep and drive them where they are supposed to go, but Middle Eastern shepherds lead their sheep, and the sheep faithfully follow the shepherd and his voice everywhere. He finds them green pasture and fresh water. The Middle Eastern sheep face far greater dangers from more fearsome predators. It would be necessary to stay with the sheep at night and keep them in the fold. The shepherd would lay across the gateway of the sheepfold more to keep predators out than to prevent the sheep going their own way. The shepherd's light and

fire would give comfort to his she but also ward off the predators. All this we can expect from a good shepherd who in biblical times would be a young boy. However Jesus goes beyond this, he takes ownership of the sheep (us) and extends his love to us. Our Good shepherd will give up his life for us voluntarily and, in the power of God, will take it up again. Jesus will do this, not only for us, but for all the sheep that are not yet here in the fold.

Following Jesus leads us to the better Way but allowing ourselves to be driven by other demand can pull us away from the Way. There is a story of a bus load of pilgrims on Holy Land tour who were being given a talk on Middle Eastern shepherding when they came across a man driving a flock of sheep before him. The tour leader of course was shocked, and he jumped off the bus to question the shepherd, "I was taught that shepherds in the Middle East lead their sheep and the sheep follow because they love and trust their shepherd. Was I wrong?" The man responded, "No you are not wrong. Shepherds here do lead their sheep. But I am not a shepherd. I am driving the sheep because I am the village butcher!"

There is sometimes an expectation that as Christians we should always be confident and know exactly the direction our life should take. However, in the real world this is not always the case. When it's dark and the predators are out there, we may not have the strength to fight on our own, but we should know that there is One who can lead us, who can lay down in the gateway to protect us from predators and who has the power of God to die for our sins and rise for our salvation.

Jesus, the Good shepherd, our protector, and the source of abundant life is calling each of us by name. He is calling us to green pastures, still waters and right pathways. He is calling each of us all the time. Know his voice, listen for his call. As one Sunday School pupil once paraphrased the 23rd Psalm, "The Lord is my shepherd, and he is all I ever want."

## NOTICES

**DERBYSHIRE COMMUNITY MALE VOICE CHOIR-** Annual Concert on Saturday 20th April 7pm in aid of Treetops Hospice at St. John's Church, Devonshire Drive, Mickleover DE3 9HD. Join us for a fantastic night of singing music and fun, with special guests: The Wildflower Community Choir. Tickets £10 include Tea/coffee and Cake.

**DERVENTIO CHOIR-** Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm at All Saints Church. An evening of music by the composer John Rutter. £10 at the door, including light refreshments. Raising Funds for Derby Food 4 Thought.

**OUR LOVE PRAYERS & SYMPATHY-** to the family and friends of Gerald Markwell. Gerry was a regular member of the Wednesday 9.15am service. The funeral will be at Markeaton Crematorium, Round Chapel on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 11.30am.

**ALL SAINTS LADIES MEAL OUT-** at the Great Northern, Mickleover 1<sup>st</sup> May, 7pm. This is for any ladies associated with our church who would like to join for food and to share time together. *Christine Ward.*

**CTM PRAYER WALK-** Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 10.15am. Meeting at All Saints Car park (road end as it is polling day). 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, or phone or text to 07766927539 Thanks Ray Lee

**APCM-** This year's APCM will be held on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May following the 10am service.

**NEW OPERA COMPANY SUMMER CONCERT-** Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm at All Saints Church. 'Travels and Trysts' concert supporting Derby Food 4 Thought. Tickets £10, refreshments included. Book in advance on 01332 557096 or 01332 882637 or buy tickets at the door. newoperacompany@hotmail.com

**OUR MICKLEOVER PANTRY-** Mickleover Pantry were able to support over 150 local people with free food during March thanks to your help. If anyone would like to donate to the Pantry, they are in need of: tinned custard, tinned fruit, pot noodles, microwave rice and tinned meat.

**"THE BIBLE COMES ALIVE"**- at 12 Murray Road on Monday, 22 April, at 10 am. John 10, 11-18 – The Good Shepherd. All welcome.

**ELECTORAL ROLL-** the Electoral Roll has undergone its annual revision; you can find it at the back of Church to checking your details.