



**ALL SAINTS CHURCH,
MICKLEOVER**

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A warm welcome to All Saints

Sunday 7th April 2024

SERVICES IN OUR CHURCHES THIS SUNDAY

- Holy Communion at All Saints, 10am. Ian Godlington will be speaking.
- Morning Worship at St Johns, 10am. Alun Rowlands 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/xT3wkQhk0iU?feature=share>

MIDWEEK SERVICES

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

Collect

Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked, no entrance
barred: open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and
peace, to the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

Hymns

Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus
In Christ Alone
Praise My Soul the King of Heaven
To God be the Glory

Sunday's Readings

Acts 4: 32-35, John 20: 19-end

Next Sunday's Readings

Acts 3: 12-19, Luke 24: 36b-48

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.

WHO LET THE DADS OUT?- Saturday 13th April, 8.15am in the Church Centre.

BREAKFAST CHURCH- Sunday 14th April, 8am in the Church Centre

Talk by Alun Rowlands

I love the Gospel reading set for this Sunday, John 20 v 19-end. It contains my favourite Disciple Thomas as he seems very human with his doubts yet great faith. Thomas elicits a most wonderful statement from the risen Jesus - ***'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'*** Well, I'm one of the many billions of people since then who believe so thank you Thomas for drawing that blessing from my Lord and Saviour.

That's me as an individual, but what does it mean to be a member of a Christian church? It could be that the Acts 4 reading set for this Sunday could be seen to describe a perfect Christian Church. Was it really true that the believers were completely one in heart and mind? Did they really share everything in common ownership and did they sell lands or houses and bring the proceeds to lay at the apostles feet to be distributed to each as had need? As with all Scripture though we need to read around it for a fuller picture. When we do, we discover that in later chapters of Acts, there was disagreement, strife and conflict. Then Paul's letters were arguably confronting issues of disagreement in growing churches. It's unfortunately true that complete unity and harmony in Christian circles are rare and unusual.

So, what are we to make of this Acts reading today? Does it mean you have to sign over the deeds of your properties to the Church? Well, no, but there are key messages in here and it is all underpinned by the timeless Easter message – ***'On the third day he rose again from the dead.'*** Differences of opinion are inevitable among humans but spiritual unity is essential – loyalty, commitment, and love for God and Jesus, the Word. The Christians in the reading felt that they were able to share what they had to eliminate poverty among themselves. They wouldn't let a brother or sister suffer when others had plenty. If we consider all the multitude of church denominations, the schisms and theological hair-splitting we wrestle with, the fact is we currently have something like 2.4 billion Christian believers around 2000 years after the resurrection, and that first cry, ***'On the third day he rose again from the dead.'*** In addition, Acts 4:33 tells us the key to it all. ***'With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.'*** The resurrection created a community of faith among disparate people who had never before been part of such a community. The core conviction that Jesus lives and that he is the

resurrected Lord of Life united them and persists all the way to this present day. Our unity is, and never will be perfect. We have a hard time sharing all things in common. And yet amazingly the Church in all its forms is still here. Let's be clear though, none of this is an excuse for the arguments we too often have in our congregations or for the other signs of disunity that mar the church today. Of course, it would be great if more people came to believe and joined us or another branch of the worshipping Church. And wouldn't it be fantastic if more people considered their giving of time, talents and money to charitable causes, including the Church, to eliminate poverty once and for all. But I repeat it's the Spiritual unity of belief in the inescapable fact that Christ rose from the dead to defeat sin and death once and for all that binds all those who profess faith in God our common Father. So, do we have to combine all our worldly possessions under one roof to be good Christians as the reading may suggest? Well, no, but make no mistake, being generous as a Christian should be a given! I offer three key principles for us to consider:

1. Their giving was voluntary.
2. It didn't involve all possessions, only what was needed.
3. It was not a membership requirement to belong.

The truth was though that because of this generosity and the spiritual unity observed by outsiders, people were attracted to them and came to join them. To this day when God's people testify together in harmony and unity to the miraculous fact about Jesus, that - ***'On the third day he rose again from the dead'*** - it's wonderful and amazing what can happen in God's world in a most dramatic way.

Alleluia. Christ is risen!

NOTICES

SAVE YOUR EASTER CARDS- If you normally throw away your Easter cards each year, please save them for the All Saints Stickers to re-use for their crafts and card sales.

EASTER TRAIL- until 14th April, starting at St Johns Church, follow the clues to 10 locations around Mickleover, learning the Easter story on route. Prize at the end!

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, from www.dcmvchoir.co.uk

DERVENTIO CHOIR- Saturday 20th 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.

NEW OPERA COMPANY SUMMER CONCERT- Friday 14th 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

ALL SAINTS LADIES MEAL OUT I have booked a table at the Great Northern, Mickleover for Wednesday 1st May, 7pm. This is for any ladies associated with our church who would like to join for food and to share time together. If you would like to join us please send a message (by 17th April) stating your food order...the menu can be found on the Great Northern website. I will also require a £5 non-refundable deposit to book your place (with you paying the balance for your meal on the evening). Please get in touch in confidence if you would like to join us but are finding finances a little tight. *Christine Ward*.

OUR LOVE PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY- to Clare Owen, following the death of her nan Eunice Owen on 28th March. The funeral will be at All Saints, date will be announced in due course. If you would like to send a card to Clare, please drop it off to the office and we will pass it on to her.

OUR MICKLEOVER PANTRY- Thank you to everyone who donated food. Mickleover Pantry were able to support over 150 local people with free food during March thanks to your help. This included more than 70 children, most of whom got an Easter Egg. 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.