



**ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST**

**MICKLEOVER**

Devonshire Drive, Mickleover, Derby, DE3 9HD

01332 513363

## Welcome to St. John's Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024

### Services in our Churches this Sunday:

**10am at St. Johns** – Holy Communion. Alun Rowlands will be speaking.

**8am at All Saints** – Breakfast Church.

**10am at All Saints** – Morning Worship. Mary Staunton will be speaking.

11am at St Andrews, Radbourne – Holy Communion. Led by Peter Walley.

YouTube link – This Sunday's service will be streamed at All Saints. [https://youtube.com/live/Hw\\_7e14d-CU](https://youtube.com/live/Hw_7e14d-CU)

### Collect for this Sunday

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples  
with boldness and fresh hope:  
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life  
and fill us with your peace  
to the glory of God the Father. Amen

### Readings this week

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

### Readings Next Week

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

### Mid-week Services:

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

**Wednesday Holy Communion** - Said Holy Communion at All Saints at 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- 12noon in the Link. Do join us for Tea/Coffee, friendly conversation, and delicious home-made cakes. Brunch follows on from 12-15pm to approx. 1pm, bring your lunch, and eat together with others with a faith talk during our time together.

**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***

**Eunice Owen RIP** – Our love and prayers to Clare Owen and her family, following the death of her nan, Eunice. The funeral will be at All Saints on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 12noon, followed by comital at Markeaton Round Chapel at 1pm.

**Derbyshire Community Male Voice Choir** - Annual Concert on **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> 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 from [www.dcmvchoir.co.uk](http://www.dcmvchoir.co.uk) include Tea / coffee and Cake.

**Derventio Choir** - An evening of music by John Rutter'. Come and hear some well-loved songs together with a new collection of well-known folk melodies - 'The Sprig of Thyme' - arranged by John Rutter. **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm**. At All Saints Church, Etwall Rd Mickleover. Tickets (at the door) £10. This event will help to raise funds for DerbyFood4Thought. Tea, coffee and light refreshments will be available in the interval.

**Plant Sale – 18<sup>th</sup> May, 10am-1pm**. Advance Order forms for plants are available in the Link or by contacting Joy on 515293 or via [events-stjohns@mickleoveranglicans.org.uk](mailto:events-stjohns@mickleoveranglicans.org.uk) Deadline for orders is Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May. Payment on the day. Joy

**Flower List** – This year's flower list is now in the Link, if you wish to choose a week. This year's Easter flowers cost £51.40. There will be £35 going into the flower fund. Thank you.

## Talk by Alun Rowlands 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Our Gospel reading today brings us an account from Luke on Jesus' appearance to the disciples. Last week we heard John's account of Jesus' two appearances to the disciples in the locked room. The first one being when Thomas wasn't there and said he wouldn't believe Jesus had risen from the dead unless he could see the marks in Jesus' hands and put his fingers in his side. The second is when Jesus challenged Thomas to do exactly that. So, is Luke's account the same occasion or completely different? Well, there is a basic resemblance, but does it really matter? I've said before that differences in the Gospels are a strength rather than a weakness as they help us to bring out the slightly differing perspectives of the writers. So, in each account, Jesus appeared to the disciples, they were afraid and couldn't believe what was before their eyes. Jesus had to convince them that he really was raised from the dead, and that it was up to them to continue his mission in the world.

There is a clear major difference, but we need to look at the connecting story in this chapter of Luke that leads up to today's reading. It's a story told only by Luke and it's the one about the encounter between Jesus and two of his followers on the road to Emmaus. Cleopas and an unnamed companion have left Jerusalem and are returning to Emmaus feeling thoroughly dispirited about Jesus' death on the cross. We're told they couldn't believe what they'd heard about the women discovering the empty tomb, their encounter with angels and Jesus' resurrection. They encountered a stranger on the road and shared their conversation with him. They couldn't believe the stranger hadn't heard what everyone was talking about, the happenings in Jerusalem and the follow on of the supposed empty tomb. But, as this stranger observes, they are foolish and "slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!" (Luke 24:25). Jesus went on to explain to them and put things into context with the Scriptures and eventually in the breaking of the bread they suddenly recognised him. The two disciples hurriedly returned to Jerusalem to excitedly tell their companions what happened to them.

In a similar fashion to the encounter on the Emmaus Road, the Disciples in that locked room do not understand what is happening. They did appear to connect Jesus with their crucified leader, but they thought he was a ghost. They were filled with confusion and doubt. Jesus then showed them his body with all the wounds of the cross. Just as John suggested Thomas demanded in his account. Jesus ate with the disciples just as he had in Emmaus and again, he put everything into context with the Scriptures to show that everything they had seen and learned from his teaching before his crucifixion led them to that very moment. Most importantly Jesus directly told the disciples that they were to carry on the work and be his witnesses. It is in Luke's Book of Acts, where he paints the picture of what it looked like when the disciples fulfilled their calling as witnesses. For example, today's first reading describes Peter's proclamation of what God has done and is doing in Jesus Christ on the back of the miraculous healing of the beggar at the gate of the Temple and the disciples arrest over it.

I said last week how Thomas in the John account is my favourite disciple due to his example of doubting leading to deeper faith and truth. But surely, like him, we all come with our doubts, confusions, fears, and misunderstandings. Hopefully, through our worship and prayer life, we also encounter the risen Christ. In our listening to and personal reading of the scriptures and listening to the preached word we too are offered explanation as we hear the good news of what God has done for each one of us and is still doing. The Holy Spirit is the enabling force from Jesus which can open our hearts and minds, setting our hearts afire. Finally, we should realise the exhortation from Christ to his disciples that day to go out into the world to be his witnesses to the happenings of Easter is for us as well. I said last week the key message is '**on the third day he rose again from the dead.**' Lets' make no mistake, it's our calling to spread this message. And perhaps we can personally connect to John's account of the encounter with the risen Jesus, and loudly respond just like Thomas did - '**My Lord and my God!**'

God bless. Alun

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