



**ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST
MICKLEOVER**

Devonshire Drive, Mickleover, DE3 9HD

Welcome to St. John's
Sunday 21st April 2024

Services in our Churches this Sunday:

10am at St. Johns – Morning Praise with JACK at Johns. Ingrid Munro will be speaking.

10am at All Saints – Holy Communion. John Foxon will be speaking.

YouTube link – This Sunday's service will be streamed from St Johns. <https://youtube.com/live/31CskeWgPJI>

Collect for this Sunday

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.

Readings this week

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

Readings Next Week

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

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.

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) ***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***

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 from 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 20th 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.

The Bible Comes Alive- at 12 Murray Road on Monday, 22 April, at 10 am. John 10, 11-18 – The Good Shepherd. All welcome. *Michael Huggett*

CTM Prayer Walk – Thursday 2nd 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*

Plant Sale – **18th 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 Deadline for orders is Friday 10th May. Payment on the day. Joy

A Message from Reverend Clare Owen

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Please accept my deep and heartfelt thanks for the prayers, love and support you have shown me at this difficult time. I know my Nan greatly appreciated your prayers during her illness, as did I. Also, your understanding for my need for time and space over the last few weeks. I would also like to send my thanks to all of you who attended my Nan's funeral yesterday, have sent cards and asked to have your best wishes sent to me. I am sorry that I was unable to personally thank all of you who were there yesterday. Thank you to everyone who made a very difficult day so much easier, and did so much to make it an incredibly special day for myself and my family. I look forward to seeing you all very soon. *Clare*

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."

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| <p><i>Vicar</i> - Rev'd Canon Peter Walley The Vicarage Etwall Road, Mickleover DE3 0DL Tel: 01332 513 793</p> | <p><i>Associate Ministers</i> Revd Alun Rowlands Tel: 01332 517 964 Revd Paul Pritchard Tel: 07722 837272 Revd Ian Goldington Tel: 01283 730832 Revd Mary Staunton Tel: 01332 510264 <i>Curate</i> Revd Clare Owen Tel: 01332 479875</p> |
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