



# Welcome to St. John's

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

MICKLEOVER

News Bulletin Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024

## Services in our Churches

**10am At St. Johns** – Morning Praise – Streamed to Youtube. Led by Alun Rowlands who is also speaking.

**10am At All Saints** – Holy Communion, Led by Ian Godlington who is also speaking .

Youtube link: <https://youtube.com/live/xT3wkQhk0iU>

**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**

**Internet Café** – next meets 10am to 12noon on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Rebekah Tunncliffe** We are pleased to announce that Rebekah is going full time from the beginning of April. she will work her usual hours at All Saints on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and also work on Monday and Friday at St Johns. Her contact details for St Johns will be announced very soon. *Peter, Ray and Richard*

**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 be helping to raise funds for DerbyFood4Thought. Tea, coffee and light refreshments will be available in the interval.

**Songs of Praise - 7<sup>th</sup> April** – This is from St. Beuno's in North Wales, where Margaret and I used to go on Retreat. You will see why we loved it – the house, the grounds, the scenery, the chapel and the prayer-guides, whose one desire was that we should know God's love for us. Do watch. *Michael Huggett*

**The Bible Comes Alive** on Monday, 8 April at 10am at 12 Murray Road. Luke 1,26-38 – The message of Gabriel to Mary. All welcome. *Michael Huggett*

## Collect for Second Sunday of Easter

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 praise of God the Father. **Amen.**

## Readings this week

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

## Readings Next Week

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

<i>Vicar</i> Rev'd Canon Peter Walley The Vicarage Etwall Road, Mickleover DE3 0DL Tel: 01332 513 793 <i>Curate</i> Rev'd Clare Owen Tel: 01332 479 875	<i>Associate Ministers</i> Revd Alun Rowlands Tel: 01332 517 964 Revd Paul Pritchard Tel: 07722 837272 Revd Ian Godlington Tel: 01283 730832 Revd Mary Staunton Tel: 01332 510264
--	---

## Talk by Alun Rowlands 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024

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!

### At All Saints next W/E

**Who Let The Dads Out?** - Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April, 8.15am in the Church Centre.

**Breakfast Church** - Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April, 8am in the Church Centre