



**ALL SAINTS CHURCH,  
MICKLEOVER**

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

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024

**SERVICES IN OUR CHURCHES THIS SUNDAY**

- Breakfast Church at All Saints, 8am. Led by Zoe Bowles and Clare Owen
- Morning Worship at All Saints, 10am. Clare Owen will be speaking.
- Holy Communion at St Johns, 10am. Helen Walley will be speaking.

**LIVE LINK**- You will join a live video of the service at All Saints from 10am on YouTube. <https://youtube.com/live/Idg0fy6ciGY>

**MIDWEEK SERVICES**

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

**Collect**

Risen, ascended Lord.  
as we rejoice at your triumph,  
fill your Church on earth with power and  
compassion, that all who are estranged by sin  
may find forgiveness and know your peace,  
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

**Hymns**

Immortal invisible  
Breathe on me breath of God  
O Church arise  
Bless the Lord O My Soul

**Sunday's Readings**

Acts 1: 15-17, 21-end, John 17: 6-19

**Next Sunday's Readings**

Acts 2: 1-21, John 15: 26,27, 16: 4-15

**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-12pm in the Link. Do join us for Tea/Coffee, friendly conversation, and delicious home-made cakes.

**APCM**- This year's APCM will be held today following the 10am service. Papers are available at the back of Church. please grab a coffee and we will start the meeting at approximately 11.30am. Many thanks.

## Talk by Helen Walley

I often listen to the radio on long car journeys, especially when driving alone, and last weekend the song **Time to say goodbye** came on the radio. It took my mind to the many times that Peter and I have had to say goodbye and move on in our life together leaving behind people we had spent time with, prayed with, prayed for, laughed with, cried with, people who had valued us, prayed for and supported us, people who had spent time getting to know us and had invited us into their lives. It is never easy to say goodbye and move on. I have been really helped by a little book entitled 'Praying our goodbyes' by Joyce Rupp in which she helps the reader understand the importance of preparing for and making good endings. Maybe she was inspired by Jesus and the way he prayed as he prepared to say goodbye.

In today's gospel we have the privilege of eaves dropping into a prayer, that Jesus was praying to his Father for his disciples. He knows that soon he will no longer be with them. I get the sense that he is wanting to make a good ending. What Jesus prays in this portion of John grows out of the fact that he is going away. Because Jesus disciples had accepted His words and followed Him Jesus was concerned for their welfare. He knew there were hard times ahead, beginning with his arrest a short time later. So he does what he knows is the best thing to do, he entrusts his disciples to his heavenly Father who he has always known and loved. In their hearing, he tells the Father what they will need. At the heart of his prayer is his love for his disciples and beyond them those who will follow after. There are three things I would like to draw out:

**Firstly**, because they have believed in Jesus, **they are children of God**. 'They are yours' says Jesus. God, who is heavenly Father to Jesus is equally a heavenly Father to them and to you and me. You have no doubt heard this many times but it doesn't harm to hear it again. You and I, through faith in Jesus, have been adopted as children of God. That is why when Jesus gave us his prayer he knew we could confidently pray 'Our Father....' He asked us to pray Thy or Your Kingdom come. In theological terms we have moved from the Kingdom of this world, into the Kingdom of God. His Kingdom has come in our lives. Through Jesus death, because he shed his blood, we have been made 'holy', which in simple terms means being 'set apart'. Now, we take on the characteristics of our heavenly parent, instead of our motivations being selfish or rebellious we have the choice for live for God by walking in his ways – loving Him and loving our 'neighbour' as ourselves.

**Secondly**, because Jesus is going to leave disciples, he realizes that they are vulnerable. Jesus is very much aware they are at risk. The world that has set itself up in opposition to God and therefore to Jesus, will be just as keen to rid the earth of the new-born church and it wasn't long of course before Stephen became the first Martyr. So **Jesus prays for their protection** (twice in this prayer – which shows how uppermost in Jesus' mind this is). We too need to pray for protection; Although the ultimate power of the devil was defeated, you and I are in a spiritual battle. The Devil who tempted Judas

Iscariot to betray Jesus will try and convince us that nothing has changed, we are still the people we were before. 'God doesn't really love you, he doesn't care.' So we need reminding time and again, of the truth that Jesus gave us. Jesus prayed that his disciples would be sanctified by the truth, for it is the truth that sets each one of us free to live a life that is pleasing to God and that really does make a difference.

**Thirdly, he prays that they might have Joy.** Knowing what's coming does that seem a seem a strange thing to pray? It will only be afterwards that the disciples get the deeper meaning behind the events of the next weeks. Jesus' joy I believe is about what God is going to accomplish through His own sacrifice on the cross. The Devil will be defeated. The way to heaven will be opened. When Jesus cried 'It is finished' he knew that the immense struggle which he underwent had achieved all that he and his Father had planned. Although sorrow and anguish were to be the main emotions leading up and including the cross, joy would come after the resurrection, when the disciples saw Him again. This would be the start of the new age of the Holy Spirit, the age where the ancient promises of God would be fulfilled. When they can pray 'Come Holy Spirit' and trust that God will come and transform them and the world around them. Not like some political manifestos or referendum promises which were not worth the paper they were written on. No, this was about the deepest struggle that ever took place, to defeat the power that sin and death had over humankind.

Thy Kingdom come is an initiative that encourages us to enter into the joy of praying for others. Some of Jesus parting words recorded at the end of Matthew's gospel just before he ascended back to the Father were 'Go into the world and makes disciples.' Sometimes called the great Commission this simply means come alongside others and share with them the reality of following Jesus, walk with them in the life of faith. Our Archbishops Justin and Stephen have said this to us this year. 'Christians have often been distracted from fulfilling the Great Commission by focusing on things about which we disagree with one another. We hope that this year's Thy Kingdom Come will bind us together in the truth of the Good News of Jesus and the task of taking that news to the whole world.'

And that happens by starting with the world known to you and me. Those who are connected to us in any way. Maybe you or I know someone we would love to see come to faith, maybe someone in trouble who we would like to share the love of Jesus with. It is suggested that we try and concentrate on five people and pray for them regularly. Maybe you can't think of five at present, but let's use the prayers of 'Thy Kingdom Come' 'Protect them from the evil one' and 'Come Holy Spirit' and other prayers as we are led, to pray for them in faith, hope and joy.

Remember that Jesus knew that the best place to bring those for whom he had concern was into the hands of His loving heavenly Father, the trustworthy one who promises never to leave us and to whom we will never have to say goodbye.

*Helen Walley*

## NOTICES

**PLANT SALE-** at St Johns Saturday 18th May, 10am-1pm. Although advanced orders are now closed, there will be plenty of plants to buy on the day.

**TEAS ON THE VICARAGE LAWN-** Our Mickleover Fete **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May**. Yes, we are doing it again, to bless our community. For this event we would like: **Help on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May** to **set up** tables, chairs, tents etc, **Bakers** to provide lovely cakes – tray bakes, cupcakes, large cakes etc, **Helpers on the day** to help serve. We will be covering 2 hours from 3-5pm. (hope to have enough help to do 2 shifts of 1 hour) Always great fun! Please could you email me or text or call me if you can help in anyway. More details nearer the time. *Helen Walley*

**OUR MICKLEOVER SPRING FAIR-** Sunday 26th May 3pm-6:30pm. The Mickleover Churches Together are running a tombola in aid of Padley, **we need suitable prizes donated by 19<sup>th</sup> May (please give these to Mike Shooter) and plenty of volunteers on the day**. We will need a number of helpers for at least half an hour or more before the start for setting up the stall, and then helping staff the stall during the fair, particularly during the first hour or two. We'll also need help to dismantle and put things away after. Please speak to Mike Shooter for details.

**THY KINGDOM COME-** is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for friends and family to come to know Jesus. It started in 2016 as an invitation from our Archbishops to the Church of England and has grown internationally and ecumenically. This year we invite you to be a part of this from Ascension to Pentecost (9<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> May). In each church you will find **Novena study guides** for the 10-day period, also a **Prayer Journal**, a great way to note prayers and the answers that come. Please do take one or both of these for your own use. Each day we will be meeting to **pray for our community in All Saints church at 8am** and all are welcome. From 8<sup>th</sup> May the Vicarage home group will be setting up **Prayer stations in All Saints church** for use in the 10 days so do come and make use of them either with your home group or when you are in the church on Wednesday or Sunday. (We are hoping to open the church on other mornings too. Please contact Peter if you can help to steward) or, you can use the posters in the graveyard to pray outdoors. Please do join with us. *Helen*

**CONFIRMATION-** We are in the process of arranging a Confirmation service with Bishop Malcolm in the summer or early autumn. If anyone hasn't been confirmed but would like to find out more, please speak to Peter or one of the clergy team.

**PAUSE, PONDER & PRAY-** The displays in the Churchyard have been updated for Thy Kingdom Come. There is a map of the layout in the office window and printouts are at the back of church.