

Welcome to our Churches

All Saints

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St Andrews

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St Johns

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Services in Our Churches on Pentecost Sunday, 19th May 2024

- Holy Communion at All Saints, 10am. Led by Mary Staunton.
- Morning Worship with JACK* at Johns at St Johns, 10am. Led by Clare Owen and Karen Cowgill. *Jesus and Cool Kids

Live Link- You will join a live video of the service at St Johns from 10am on YouTube.
<https://youtube.com/live/LhL39TJFveQ>

Midweek Services-

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

Collect

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,
ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children with the gift
of faith,
revive your Church with the breath of love,
and renew the face of the earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday's Readings

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

Next Sunday's Readings

Acts 10: 44 to end, John 15: 9 to 17

All Saints Café - 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 - Friday mornings 10am-1pmin the Link. Do join us for Tea/Coffee, friendly conversation, and delicious home-made cakes.

St Johns APCM- This year's APCM will be held today after the 10am service. Grab a coffee and we will start the meeting.

Talk by Mary Staunton

Well, what happened next I wonder? I find the hardest thing about finishing a really good book is not knowing what happened to the people afterwards. Sequels of course do not always live up to the first book or film and one is disappointed, but some authors get it right. Notably, I think, J K Rowling. If one read the Harry Potter books originally as they were published (as a family we did this) they were all very good stories. But as the series continued, one realised that something deeper and more important was going on. You had to stay with the books to the very end to find out what the deeper story was.

Thankfully, St. Luke was aware of the need for sequels. He knew there was a deeper and continuing story to the life of Jesus and a sequel was needed. We have it in the book of Acts. In some ways Luke gives the most extensive account of Jesus's life. He starts even before Jesus's birth, with the birth of John the Baptist and goes right on to the Ascension. However, Luke knew that the story didn't end there. It went on into the life of the infant Church. A Church that was an essential part of the story of Jesus. A Church that knew His continuing presence and work among them by His active, encouraging, leading Holy Spirit. We tend to see Pentecost as a beginning - the beginning of the life of the Church, but for the Jews it came right in the middle of their faith history. Unless we understand that I think we will miss something of what Peter is saying in this great speech from Acts 2. For it is addressed to Israelites. He says so quite specifically - several times. Men of Judea and all those who live in Jerusalem. The Jewish faith is based on a faith in the living God. They believed God was not distant from them but was active and involved in their lives. Their history told them so and they believed God had made promises which had not yet been fulfilled. They did know about the Holy Spirit. There is evidence for God as Spirit in the Old Testament. The Spirit was there at creation. God had been known to speak through the prophets by His Spirit and to empower individuals for specific tasks.

So, what we may ask, was happening at Pentecost? What did it mean to the Israelites that Peter was addressing, what does it mean to us now? Firstly, if the Jews were acquainted with God as Spirit what was so different on this occasion? Why did His coming cause so much comment? What is different here is the fulfilment of the promise given to Joel that the Spirit should be given to ALL people. We know from the preceding passages in Acts 1 that the disciples were in the regular practice of meeting to pray. We are not certain about numbers but on another occasion, we are told 120. One of the things that is significant is that this is a corporate event. And the same is true for us. The Spirit comes to us together, as God's people, and although we may experience Him as individuals, and sometimes we may need this, most commonly the gifts and empowering He gives is for service. Today, in this really quite individualistic age it is important that we remember this. Pentecost is about breaking down barriers. Joel's prophecy talks about the old and the young, men and women, slaves and free. All the social barriers of the age were being broken down by the coming of the Spirit. I wonder who we would

add to the list today? What are the great social divides we need the Spirit to break down. The rich and the poor? Global economist and sweat shop worker? Resident and immigrant? You may wish to add others. I wonder what barriers, consciously or unconsciously, we may put on the working of God's Spirit. Do we have some internal moderator what says you but not you? Or even you but not me? At what age do we think God stops working? Peter's God sends the Spirit on old men and women as well. young people. Think about how and in whom you expect God to be at work. Remember that the promise is for all and that includes me and each of you and all those called to follow Jesus. Everyone, Paul says in his letter to the Ephesians, who has believed in Jesus is marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit. The Spirit is our birth right, promised by God to all who believe in Jesus. The Spirit isn't an optional extra.

In addition, Peter's sermon shows us how the Spirit points away from Himself. He points to who Jesus is and to what God has done. Just as Jesus came to show us the Father the Spirit comes to show us Jesus. Peter's great Pentecost sermon is fundamentally Trinitarian. He is fitting together for his Jewish audience the God who acts, the God who promises, the God they have always known and the new things He has done in recent days. God has acted again in fulfilment of the prophecies. Which is why there is so much emphasis on them here. He has acted in the life and story of Jesus and now He has acted again in sending the Spirit. It all fits together.

There seem to be some questions that arise from this. Are we looking for God to fulfil His promises to us? If it has been a long time, as it was for the Jews, are we keeping faith? Are we prepared perhaps for Him to fulfil His promises in unexpected ways? Certainly for the Jews the life, death and the resurrection of Jesus were very unexpected. I wonder, are we able to ground our present experience of what God is doing today in what we already know of God. Can we see what He is doing now fits in His ongoing story, whether that is our personal story or the story of the Church? Are we prepared for His Spirit to enable us, gift us, set us free so that we might really become the people and the Church He is calling us to be? Are you prepared? am I? Praying "Come Holy Spirit" is often a dangerous prayer, for God will expect us to use His precious gift to serve Him. We are called, as God's people in this place, not just to believe Jesus lived died and rose for us but to actively be living His story as if we are part of it. Living out all Jesus called us to do by the power of the Spirit He has given us. Amen

Rev. Mary Staunton

CLERGY CONTACT NUMBERS

Revd Canon Peter Walley

Revd Mary Staunton

Revd Ian Godlington

Revd Paul Pritchard

Revd Alun Rowlands

Revd Clare Owen

NOTICES

Teas on the Vicarage Lawn - Our Mickleover Fete Sunday 26th May. For this event we would like help on Saturday 25th 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. If you can help in anyway, please email or text or call me. More details nearer the time. *Helen Walley*

Our Mickleover fair Sunday 26th May - 3pm-6:30pm. The Mickleover Churches together are running a tombola in aid of Padley, so we need suitable prizes donated by 19th May (please give these to Judi Witcomb or Mike Shooter) and plenty of volunteers on the day. We 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

All Saints Stitches – Craft Sale in the Church Centre during Our Mickleover Summer Fete Sunday 26th May 3-5pm. Cash only please. Raising funds for Breast Cancer UK.

Thank you - Judi Witcomb wishes to thank all who sponsored her for the Versus Arthritis knitting challenge in March. She raised nearly £300. Thank you also for those who accompanied her by knitting squares. A blanket has been made and will go to the Royal hospital for their appeal. Keep knitting blankets are always useful.

New Opera Company Derby- are presenting their Summer Concert '*Travels and Trysts*' on Friday June 14th at All Saints. The journey includes encounters with explorers, criminals, pilgrims, partygoers, dreamers and advice from Rossini on getting rid of an unwelcome guest. Plenty of drama and fun as always. Tickets £10, book in advance or at the door. The train gets in at 7.30 – please be on time for prompt departure! We shall be on board ourselves. Advance tickets from newoperacompany@hotmail.com or jannice@read55.plus.com Janice and Stephen

A New Walking Group – it has been some time since All Saints Ramblers stopped meeting around the time of Covid. We would like to form a new walking group. Please would you let the office know if you are interested. We would aim to have a walk for a couple of hours and include refreshments at a café or pub on route on a Saturday. Richard Welburn has offered to lead the first walk.

All Saints Giving in Grace – Today, as mentioned at the annual meeting and in the next couple of Sunday's there will be a leaflet entitled Think About Giving which is available to all. A stewardship campaign envisaged starting in August. Any queries please speak to the Treasurer, Brian Devenport.