



## ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST MICKLEOVER News Bulletin Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March

(Don't forget to put your clocks forward one-hour!)

Welcome to St John's news. Unfortunately in common with the national Church we have had to close the church for now in order that people heed the "Stay at Home" message from our government. If the situation changes we will let you know. Our Facebook Page and our Website [www.stjohnsmickleover.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsmickleover.org.uk) will carry the most up to date information, and we will aim to circulate this news bulletin on a weekly basis.

**Sunday broadcast on Derby Community Radio** – As Peter did last week, Alun will be broadcasting on Derby Community Radio at 10am and 7pm this Sunday. You can hear him on [www.radioforderby.co.uk](http://www.radioforderby.co.uk). Look for 'Listen live' (top right-hand corner) and click on that. If you use Facebook, search for Derby Community Radio and if you see the red DCR logo, I understand that the 'listen live link' will be there too. You can also ask your smart speaker 'Alexa, play radio for derby'.

**Prayer Walk** – The prayer walk on Thurs. 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 10.15am is now cancelled, as a result of the "stay at home" instruction. However you could set aside this time to pray at home, and if you do go out for exercise, lift up the homes and community to God as you walk. Thanks *Ray Lee*

**Give a Tent for Lent.** This year we are supporting the Shelterbox appeal aiming to raise £385 for a tent to provide a home for a family who have lost theirs. For more details about how to support this please contact me, 510809 Thank you. *Geraldine*

**Regular giving** - Even in these difficult times the church still needs our financial support. Standing Orders will, I hope, continue as normal. If you normally give using a blue envelope please continue to fill these as usual and keep them until we get the "all clear". And if you usually put money in the plate perhaps you could put it to one side each Sunday ( or into an old jam jar or similar) and bring it to church when we re-open. Thank you. Take care and keep safe. God Bless. *Geraldine.*

Reflection from Alun – based on the Reading for this Sunday - Ephesians 2:19-22 New International Version (NIV)

*<sup>19</sup>Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, <sup>20</sup>built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. <sup>21</sup>In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup>And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.*

Dear Friends.

I've been thinking a lot about places this week. Places where people usually meet to work, socialise, seek medical advice, shop, learn and so many other things that makes our modern life so agreeable. And, I don't know about you, but two of the most important places in my life are our Churches quite rightly shut in line with government guidelines. We all must do what we can to prevent the spread of this horrible coronavirus, Covid – 19 and by doing so aiding the marvellous NHS staff and all other essential workers to do their self-sacrificial work on our behalf.

It seems obvious to say it but bear with me as I say that all these amazing people keeping going on these essential activities work out of places, buildings of all kinds. I'm sure you can picture many of them yourselves.

So where am I going with all this other than taking the opportunity to recognise and pray for all who are doing their bit at present? Well I'm heading to the main place for many of us at the moment, a place I've not specifically mentioned yet, the home. The places where the majority of us are hopefully able to keep ourselves safe and from where we are trying our best to keep in contact with our friends and family by whatever means possible. In saying this I realise that is not possible for everyone but I hope and pray that

you have the courage to reach out to trusted neighbours, church friends, or even the appropriate authorities for help. People will almost certainly be happy to help if you ask.

So church people stuck at home, what are we doing at present in these challenging times other than keeping safe? We don't have our worship places, our churches available to us bringing a great sense of loss for many. We recognise it's in our calling to love our God through Jesus Christ through our collective worship and it's in our calling to love our neighbour as ourselves in so many ways through our normal church activities and involvement with other wider community projects we do in the Lord's name.

So all kinds of places are important in our daily lives and there is no doubt our current experiences are showing us this fact in abundance. However, just think of the essential work activities I've mentioned earlier. They all require some sort of physical place to operate from even if people are working from home at present. I've said I'm missing terribly the worship, fellowship and helpful activities we enjoy in our churches but we can still share in their main purpose independently of buildings. Because we all surely know that the church is the people not the building, Ok the church building is essential as a place to collectively worship. energise and centre ourselves upon God through Jesus when available but when it's not surely it is an opportunity for all Christians to 'work from home', get back to basics, building a personal relationship with our wonderful Lord and Saviour.

Our reading today from Ephesians surely reminds us of what church really is. Is that not saying the people, the followers of Jesus Christ, are what makes the church? The context was Jews and Gentiles being brought together under Christ without the Temple in Jerusalem. But nowhere do we read about a replacement stone, bricks or mortar. Of course when available to us our church buildings, our places of collective worship, are the icing on the cake as it were. But when they are not available just now it's down to all of us to keep it going with our prayer life our Bible study and our individual worship as we are 'being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.' Our prayer, worship and study will all be enabled and drawn together by the Holy Spirit to the glory of God and the growth of his Kingdom here on earth.

Remember God is everywhere in his world not just in our churches. He knows intimately what we are enduring at present and he knows that if we do the right things as instructed by the Government we will get through it eventually. I pray that we can all keep well physically as well as spiritually and use the time to keep the true church going for that glorious first Sunday back whenever that might be.

God bless you all.  
Alun

Lectionary Readings for this week fifth Sunday of Lent: Rom 8. 6-11, John 11. 1-45

<p><b>Contacts:</b> <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: 01332 512 530 Revd Ian Godlington Tel: 01283 730832</p>	<p><b>Other contact details</b></p> <p><b>E-mail:</b> vicar@stjohnsmickleover.org.uk alunrowlands@btinternet.com paulmpritchard@gmail.com revdigodlington@gmail.com bulletin@stjohnsmickleover.org.uk magazine@stjohnsmickleover.org.uk</p> <p><b>Website:</b> www.stjohnsmickleover.org.uk <b>Address:</b> St John's Church, Devonshire Drive, Mickleover, Derby DE3 9HD</p> <p><b>Safeguarding:</b> Andrew Templer safeguarding@stjohnsmickleover.org.uk</p> <p><b>Hall Bookings:</b> Joy and Andrew Templer Tel 515293 hallbookings@stjohnsmickleover.org.uk</p>	<p>Information for this bulletin should be sent to me by email in the usual way to bulletin@stjohnsmickleover.org.uk or contact me by phone on 239654 and leave a message if for some reason we are unable to answer your call. Deadline for inclusion Thursday midday.</p> <p>Thanks. Ray</p>
--	---	--