



ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST
MICKLEOVER
News Bulletin Sunday 5th April

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 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 – Dawn Perry will be on Derby Community Radio this week at 10am and 7pm this Sunday. You can hear her on 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'.

Easter Sunday – In addition to the Radio Broadcast on Derby Community Radio, we are hoping to be able to hold an Easter Sunday service at 10am (as Mickleover Anglicans) via the online video calling application, **Zoom**. Provisionally, the service will start at 10am. for those of you with laptops, tablets or smart phones, all you need is to go the website zoom.us, download Zoom, without having to sign up for it to be able to join. For those of you who would like assistance in setting this up please contact Deidre Cheetham 07976921864 or 01332 518410

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*.

Christian Music and Movement – In the absence of the regular meetings Dawn has created some videos to help people who would normally attend join in from home. Anyone can use these whether they would normally attend her event or not. These can be found on the All Saints website at <http://www.allsaintsmickleover.org.uk/christian-movement.html> they are also linked on the St. John's Facebook page and St. John's Website.

Sunday Link and Prayers sheet – The Sunday link and Prayers sheet for the coming week, will be found on St. John's Website under the "latest News" tab in addition to this bulletin. Just scroll down the page to find the relevant buttons. *Ray Lee*

Talk from Dawn for Palm Sunday based on Matthew 21: 1 - 11

Hosanna to the son of David - The crowds were shouting and laying down palm branches and their cloaks. Such a stark contrast to hear of crowds gathered and shouting in the street when compared to our current world in its lockdown state. But in our reading today, everyone is shouting in joy and in welcome – an opposite the hush of our streets and the 2m social distancing we are all practising. But let's not forget that the people in our story were also under a form of oppression – restricted in many of the freedoms that we take for granted. People in power over them kept them firmly in their 'place' rather than the safety restrictions that we are part of, and the people of Jerusalem looked to the arrival of Jesus as the new Messiah – the leader who would take them out of oppression to a new, promised land.

We too, look to others to solve our current needs and free us from the restrictions and worries, we look to the government and to science for the answers and help that we need – and actually – when we are on the other side of this in months to come I am sure we will rejoice the lifting of the social distancing we have had and we will welcome the return to our families that we miss.

But take a look back at Jesus as he entered Jerusalem – what the people expected and what they got were two very different things. Jesus did not arrive as our traditional expectation of an avenging hero – a knight in shining armour on the white majestic steed. No, here was a man – humble and unassuming, taking the role of a servant to his people, riding on a donkey’s colt – its young foal. And he came to free the people not from the Roman oppression but from the fear of death. He gave them in the events at Easter an eternal hope, a room prepared and a pathway to follow to reach him there. The people would need to re-align their expectations on what was important and what really mattered in the coming weeks and months, not least of all the disciples who were closest to Jesus and yet did not fully understand what they were seeing.

We too, are in a time where we are re-aligning our perception on what matters and who is important and necessary around us. Although we may not be coming together in large crowds today – we are not processing around the streets with palm branches – we are coming together in new ways. The rise of social media has connected many of us to different communities, work friends, families and close friends in different groupings. We have seen the palm branches of friendship and support being offered between neighbours and to people we know are alone and at risk. Messages of hope have cloaked our windows with rainbows and teddy bears for children (and some adults) to find and smile with on their daily exercise. And we have come together to shout praise in the street, for those who give themselves freely – our NHS workers applauded on Thursday evenings at 8pm and actually this week, we applauded our Bin Men when they arrived to do their so important job. We do shout our praise for these unassuming heroes and we need to remember this when we come out of the time we are in. We need to remember the re-alignment of our values on the importance of people in our society. Who are the key people? Who are the key workers? For those of us not leaving the house, we can find ourselves feeling a little lost, but now is the time to find new ways to reach out, by the smiles in our windows, by the applauding on the streets, by the phone calls that we make, and by the simple and humble gift of our prayers for those in need. We can also call on others around us – there are many volunteers and helpers willing to lend support if you are struggling – please, please use them and do not be afraid..

We can remember the unassuming arrival of a man on a young donkey into a city where he knew what lay ahead of him. And when we feel or think of those who feel, lost, lonely, scared, exhausted, ill and in pain, and grieving, then we can remember that in the week that followed that arrival, Jesus too went through feeling lost, lonely, scared, exhausted, pain, and grief. We are not alone, wherever we may be right now, we are not alone. Amen.

Collect for Palm Sunday

True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you, that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory. **Amen**

Lectionary Readings for the Liturgy of the Passion:

Isaiah 50.4-9a, Psalm 31.9-16*, Philippians 2.5-11, Mark 14.1 – 15.47 *or* Mark 15.1-39[40-47]

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