

Services this week

Wednesday 19th May

10.0am Holy Communion

Saturday 22nd May

9.30am Morning Prayer

Sunday 23rd May Pentecost

10.30am Holy Communion

Please let Karl know if you would like to come



Church Family

Newsletter

Sunday 16th May 2021

Seventh Sunday of
Easter



CHURCH NEWS

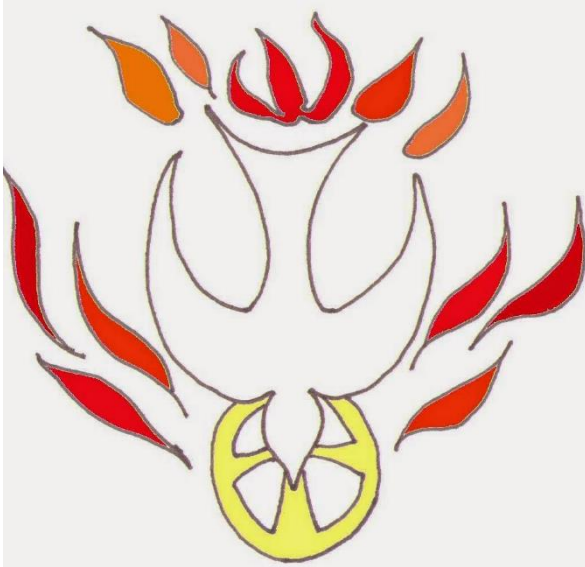
Praise & Play

Praise & Play, our group for pre school children and their carers has started again. We meet on Mondays at 1.30/1.45.

Diane says: "Although things are slightly different due to government guidelines, we will

do our best to keep things as normal and as fun as possible. Our aim is to keep everyone safe. Masks are required when social distancing isn't possible. Contact details will be taken for track and trace. Although things are slightly different, we love to welcome you all and have a good catch up whilst the children play."

Please contact Diane Lindley on 07704 787905 if you would like to come.



Next week we celebrate **Pentecost** when the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit. Red is the colour of the Holy Spirit! As we cant walk around Dukinfield in the traditional manner, can you wear something red to church?

New Testament Characters – a new Bible study

On Wednesday 2nd June we shall start a new Bible Study about New Testament characters – not the usual famous ones, but people who appear probably once but play an important part in the story of the Gospel.

This will be on Zoom at 7.30 on Wednesday evenings. We shall be working from a book called New Testament Characters, part of the LifeBuilder Bible Study series. Please contact Chantelle to order a book

simon
governorfelix
marymagdalene
thomassimeon
priscilla
jailer
philemonaquila

at £4.50. This will run for 5 weeks until 30th June. Everyone is welcome to one, some, or all of the sessions. Come and see!



Contacts



St. Mark

Praise & Play Toddler Group

Diane Lindley 07704 787905

Little Lion's Sunday School

Helen Bates 01457 511192

Church Hall Bookings

The vicarage 0161 330 2783

Church website: ???

www.stmarksdukinfield.org.uk



Contacts

Vicar - Rev Karl Williams

Tel: 0161 330 2783 Mobile: 07463 876753

rev.karl.williams@outlook.com

Associate Minister - Rev Jenny Dunlop

Tel: 0161 368 2149 Mobile: 07946 586188

Email: revjenny15@gmail.com

John 17:6-19

Jesus said: ⁶ 'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵ I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people) and said, ¹⁶ 'Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus— ¹⁷ for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.'

²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.' ²³ So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ Then they prayed and said, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.' ²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot

fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Reflection

There is a very human temptation to build walls around ourselves for protection; to build boundaries around our families or communities in an effort both to guard those within and to keep others out. The worst kinds of boundaries are those around our minds: those which cling to the outmoded concepts, which limit the expansion of thought and the creative imagination which God gave us in order to do his work more effectively. A sudden burst of new ideas can disorientate and frighten us. But if we grow up absorbing the knowledge of Christ's confidence in us and our sanctity for which he prayed, we will have learned how to handle development and change, which is all the protection we need. We shall not need walls.

Jesus did not ask his disciples to build a big wall around themselves. He was well aware of the dangers and evils of the world. He had been subjected to enough of them during his own life and ministry. One of his concerns for them was that they should be protected from the "evil one". He does not want his followers to be removed from the world, but protected within it. In this great discourse of Jesus at the Last Supper he prays with all his might, not just for those around this Passover table, but for the whole Church, then and to come. He wants his followers to remain faithful to his teaching, as he knows that this is the way in which God's world can be renewed and made more perfect. Not an easy task in a world where many reject his message.

His disciples who accept and hand on his teaching will also receive harsh treatment. Christianity is not a cosy club. But Jesus has confidence in them and us and in our ability to keep his message alive, despite the hardships and dangers.

We are gifted just as they were. Of course we have our doubts, we struggle with questions of faith. But this is part of our gift to God, that we persist in spite of difficulty. Walls which restrict our movement or thought cannot protect us, but God can and he hears the prayers of his Son on our behalf. If Jesus has confidence in us, as individuals and as part of the Church, then we should have confidence in ourselves and each other. We are a force for tremendous good in the world. In our families and communities, in great acts of generosity and in simple acts of kindness we make the presence of God manifest. Under the protection of Christ we become confident disciples, sanctified and consecrated in the truth and ready to spread his word by our living out the example of his love.

From Redemptorist Publications