



## ST. JOHN'S – 'THE HEART OF THE VILLAGE'

At the end of this month we celebrate our first anniversary milestone as a transformed church. 12 months ago we re-opened on completion of the entire gutting and transformation work to the interior of our church building. Since that time St. John's has become a 'Building for All' and embraced a new life at the heart of the village.

We have provided a space for local people to gather socially, to enjoy Keep Fit, Pilates and Yoga Classes, Model Railway Club Meetings, Choral Evenings, Musicals, Recitals, Pottery Classes, 'a Christmas Tree Festival', Family Parties and Celebrations and we provided a venue for a party to mark the VE Day Celebration in the village earlier this year.

All this and still St. John's continues to fulfil our primary function as a place of worship, a Christian spiritual focal point within the village and Parish; our mission to worship God and to work for His kingdom in the world, remains paramount.

So we come together each week to express our faith through prayer and song with thanksgiving and collective worship, individual prayer, and participation in religious ceremonies and rites of passage.

We are open during the week (Tuesday – Thursday 10am – 4.00pm) for anyone to come in for private prayer, peace and quiet and contemplation.

We provide a friendly welcome; nurturing and building up believers in our faith, providing opportunities for learning, fellowship, and spiritual growth.

We share the Good News message of the Gospel with all who are keen to listen, while also serving as a hub for social community interaction, as a space for various community activities.

Additional to the Anniversary Party and Family Fun Day that you can read about on the next page, we will be holding a Celebration Wine and Worship and Thanksgiving Evening on Friday August 29th to mark the occasion. Bring a bottle of wine/beer or non-alcoholic drink of your choice and a few snacks or nibbles to share.

Come on and praise and party, celebrate and sing a few hymns and songs, old and new. Everyone welcome, bring a friend..

Blessings to you all

Derek Tomlin



## FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

**LUNCH LIGHT** our group that supports folk who are bereaved, **will be taking their annual summer break this month but will return again in September on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> at 12.30pm – 2.00pm.**

If you have lost a loved one and would like some company, a chat and a bite to eat, why not drop in or Telephone Janet 01283 215000, if you want to know more and would like to join us, or if you wish to help out. There is a charge of £3

**COFFEEANDCHAT@CHURCH** will meet in church on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> August between 9.30 and 11.00am.**

<b>AUGUST SERVICES ACROSS THE WOODFIELD TEAM.</b> <b>(all starting at 10am unless otherwise stated).</b>	
Saturday August 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>St John's Prayer Group meeting Winnie Meadows home at 10am</b>
Sunday August 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Donisthorpe (MP),</b> Measham & Norton(HC), Normanton & Swepstone (MP) , Packington, (Breakfast Church),
Tuesday August 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Coffee &amp; Chat at St. John's Donisthorpe at 9.30am</b>
Sunday August 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Donisthorpe (Baptism),</b> Appleby (HC), Packington (MW, Baptism), Measham (Breakfast Church)
Sunday August 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Donisthorpe (Lay Led Worship),</b> Normanton (HC), Swepstone (HC, Baptism), Norton (HC), Measham (MP, Lay Led),
Sunday August 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Donisthorpe (HC),</b> Measham (Baptism), Packington (HC), Appleby (MP).
Wednesday August 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Donisthorpe Midweek Holy Communion 10am</b>
Friday August 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Celebration Wine and Worship and Thanksgiving Evening</b>
Sunday August 31 <sup>st</sup>	Team Service (HC) at Measham <b>Donisthorpe 'Anniversary Party and Family Fun Day at St. Johns (1.00 – 4.00pm )</b>

## **1<sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF VILLAGE HEART @ ST.JOHNS**

Our refurbished church and Village Heart @ St. Johns has been operating within the community for a year and it is time to mark this anniversary with a Party and Family Fun Day on:

**SUNDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 1:00pm till 4:00pm**

This event is in recognition of all of the support from the local community and businesses.

All are welcome to this fun event where we will have lots of entertainment and games with live music from local choirs and musician, games for the children, local barbecue food will be available along with tea and cakes and lots of interesting stalls celebrating local groups. Entry is free with food and drink on sale at affordable prices

So come along and celebrate this landmark with us.

We look forward to seeing you there.

## **REFLECTION**

**Matthew 9:9-13 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)**

### ***The Calling of Matthew***

<sup>9</sup> As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. 'Follow me,' he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

<sup>10</sup> *While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples.*

<sup>11</sup> *When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?'*

<sup>12</sup> *On hearing this, Jesus said, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but those who are ill.*

<sup>13</sup> *But go and learn what this means: "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.'*

Jesus reaches out to Matthew.

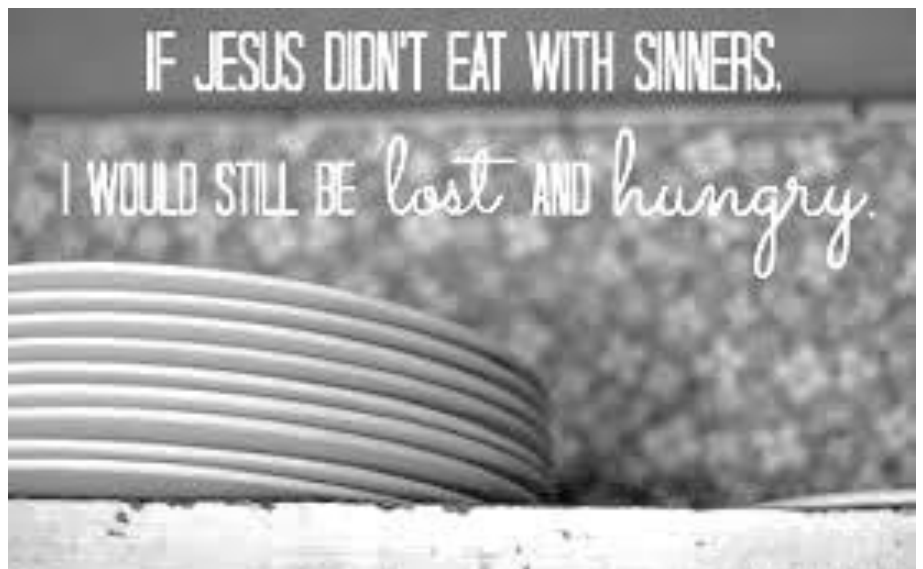
Because Matthew was a tax collector he was seen as a sinner and an outcast who should be avoided; but Jesus wasn't like that. Jesus reached out to the sinner and asked him to be one of the Apostles. You see, Jesus isn't looking for perfect followers, he doesn't pay attention to what others think are important qualifications of a disciple. A doctor doesn't turn away the sick in search for the healthy and Jesus doesn't turn away the sinners in search for a saint. He calls us sinners to follow him because he can heal us. We are imperfect. We are sinners. We are in need of Jesus' mercy. But the thing is, Jesus knows that and doesn't care. He will give us his love and forgiveness. He will call us in his name.

When Jesus sits down to eat, you never know who is going to turn up.

He seems to have a knack for sharing a table with difficult people, awkward people, people with violently opposing views.

He brings to the surface the secret prejudices and hidden animosities between them. And if things get heated, he has his own special way of defusing the tension.

*In your life, who are the people who make you angry or uncomfortable?*



*Is there someone you really can't cope with?*

*Or someone who tends to sit in judgement on you?*

*Someone you dread seeing or having to deal with?*

Read the story once more then.....try to imagine that you are at table with Jesus and a group of your least favourite people.

Hear how he talks to you all, see how he gestures and acts.

Maybe some disagreement or long-buried grudge comes up in conversation.

See what Jesus does.

How are you feeling after a potentially uncomfortable meal?

Tell Jesus what it was like to be there – how you would like things to develop in the future, or even today or in the next few days.

Bring those feelings and that desire into conversation with the Lord.

***(Adapted from Pray as You Go - Get the App. and try it for yourself. It's free.)***

I read the following for the first time way back 2016 and found it again recently. It's a meditation of Richard Rohr's (**Adapted from Richard Rohr, *True Self/ False Self* (Franciscan Media: 2003)**). It resonated with me and I felt that I wanted to share it with you in this newsletter. It raises some interesting thoughts and truths and certainly altered my thinking about love being more than something we do and is more what and who we all are deep down.

Derek Tomlin

## LOVE IS WHO YOU ARE

Love is not really an action that you do. *Love is what and who you are, in your deepest essence.* Love is a place that already exists inside of you, but is also greater than you. That's the paradox. It's within you and yet beyond you. This creates a sense of abundance and more-than-enoughness, which is precisely the satisfaction and deep peace of the True Self. You know you've found a well that will never go dry, as Jesus says (see John 4:13-14).

Your True Self, God's Love in you, cannot be exhausted.

Material gifts decrease when you give them away. Spiritual gifts, by contrast, increase the more you use them. Yes! You get more love by letting it flow through you, just as modelled by the Trinity. If you love, you will become more loving. If you practice patience, you will become more patient. If you stop the Divine Flow, you will be *stopped up* ("sin").

Love is not something you can bargain for, nor is it something you can attain or work up to—because love is your very structural and essential identity—created in the image of the Trinity. When you are living in conscious connection with this Loving Inner Presence, you are in your True Self. God is forever united to this love within you; it is your soul, the part of you that always says yes to God. God always sees God in you—and “*cannot disown God's own self*” (2 Timothy 2:13).

Many Christians live with a terrible sense of being rejected, because their religion is basically a worthiness game where no one really wins. That's precisely *not* the Good News. It's bad news. The Gospel will always be misinterpreted by the false self in terms of some kind of climbing or achieving. Since the false self can't even understand the command to love one's enemies, it has to disregard the message as naive, which is exactly what most of Christian history has done. Jesus' rather clear teaching on love of enemies has been consistently ignored by all the mainline churches. Christians have been fighting one war after another, and excluding, torturing, and killing enemies right and left because *the false self can never understand the Gospel*. Yet we have been baptizing, confirming, giving communion to, and even ordaining false selves throughout our history. It is probably unavoidable, and God surely must be patient.

Once, after I gave an anti-war sermon, a businessman came up to me and said, “Well, Father, maybe in an ideal world. . . .” I know he meant well, but that's what we've done with most of the teaching of Jesus. We interpret his meaning for some ideal world. Of course, the ideal world is never going to come so we can just ignore 99% of the actual teaching of Jesus, as the institutional church (and I too!) have usually done. We concentrate instead on things that Jesus never once talked about, like birth control, homosexuality, and abortion—bodily “sins” because the body can most easily carry shame. We shouldn't disregard bodily shame or addictions, but they are not the core problem. Jesus focused on issues of power, prestige, and possession—which all of us have largely ignored. I don't think the church has had intentional bad will. It has simply tried to get the false self to live the Gospel, and that will never work. In other words, we've tried to have a church without fundamental transformation. Thus we whittle down the whole Sermon on the Mount, and Jesus' direct teaching that “he who lives by the sword dies by the sword” (Matthew 26:52); and we look for absolutes in ever new secular places—like the 2nd Amendment to the United States Constitution which allows us to carry weapons. And this is done by a vast majority of Bible-quoting Christians. (**Richard Rohr**)