

Welcome to our Churches

www.mickleoveranglicans.org.uk

All Saints

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St Andrews

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St Johns

Devonshire Drive, Mickleover,
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Sunday 28th July 2024

Services In Our Churches This Sunday:

- Morning Worship at All Saints, 10am. Peter Walley will be speaking.
Live Link: <https://youtube.com/live/QyIJBdYJus4>
- Holy Communion at Johns at St Johns, 10am. Paul Pritchard will be speaking.
- BCP Evening Prayer at St Andrews, Radbourne, 4pm. Led by Clare Owen.

Midweek Services at All Saints

- Tuesday: Prayers at 8am
- Wednesdays: Holy Communion at 9.30am

Collect

Lord of heaven and earth,
as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent
in prayer, give us patience and courage
never to lose hope,
but always to bring our prayers before you
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sunday's Readings

Ephesians 3: 14-end, John 6: 1-21

Next Sunday's Readings at All Saints

Ephesians 4:1-6, 11-16, Mark 6: 30-44

Next Sunday's Readings at St Johns

Ephesians 4: 1-16, John 6: 24-35

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.

Derby Embroidery & Textile Group - are holding an exhibition titled '*Sharing the Joy of Stitch*' in St. John's from Saturday 27th July to 3rd August 10am-4pm each day. Refreshments available. Please just drop in and enjoy.

Talk by Peter Walley

'I pray that [all of us], being rooted and established in love,¹⁸ may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.'

Power and love are two very deeply held human drivers. We saw this over the Covid pandemic, as families struggled to cope with enforced isolation. 'I can't give my granny a hug' or, 'I can't pick up my grandkids from school'. Love expressed as human touch and being present is basic to us as a species. We need that closeness.

Both power and love have good and bad sides. Power used in the right way can be seen when there is a clear choice between good and evil. Love can 'love too much' and become choking when combined with power, or love can be freeing.

However, God's power is the polar opposite. When God's power is seen in action, the hungry are fed, dead are raised, the blind receive their sight, people are released from demonic oppression, the prisoners are freed, and people find new hope and life in the midst of the darkness.

Some years ago, there was a discussion on the legacy of Nelson Mandela in South Africa. This may have been an attempt to re-write history, or a coming to terms with the fact that those who followed Mandela didn't act with the same motives that drove him to let go of all bitterness and desire for revenge, when he left gaol.

What impressed everyone who met Mandela was his lack of bitterness.

At the moment of his release, Mandela remembered the importance of internal renewal ahead of external change. ***"As I walked out the door toward the gate that would lead to my freedom, I knew if I didn't leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I'd still be in prison."***

Nelson Mandela wasn't perfect. He had his faults, but he realised that he needed the power of God to transform his own heart if South Africa was not to descend into a bloodbath. Above all, he recognised that fear was at the root of apartheid South Africa, fear which expressed itself in separating white and black. That fear needed to be addressed and named, hence the setting up of the truth and reconciliation commission under Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu and I hope all of us understand that whatever our skin colour, in the Kingdom of God, we are united as one family.

And here, Paul starts his prayer by declaring that humankind's origins lie in God himself: ^{Ge}
^{1:26} *Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."*

^{Ge 1:27} *So God created humankind in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

He then prays that God's own life-giving creative power might dwell in us, through his Holy Spirit, in our inner being. Here is the image of the breath of God, breathing life into Adam as he was created out of the ground – the name Adam, meaning 'out of the red earth'. Without the breath of God, Adam would have been lifeless.

When a baby is born, the thing that tells us that a baby is alive, is that first cry, that first breath. It's an amazing moment. Spiritually, we need God's breath, his life-giving Spirit, (Pneuma / breath) to renew us and bring us to Spiritual life. Note here, that it is out of his Spiritual riches that we are blessed with his presence.

But that power must find its expression in love. *'I pray that [all of us], being rooted and established in love,¹⁸ may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.'*

Unbridled power is destructive but power that is informed and shaped by the Spirit of God and expressed in loving acts is life giving. One without the other is destructive, one with the other is transformational. And this is Paul's longing for the Ephesians, and it is I hope every pastor's longing for their congregation – that everyone that comes through that door, knows that they are loved unconditionally. No 'ifs', no 'buts', without conditions.

I do think that these verses are a timely reminder to us that we need to go on that journey of seeking to understand for ourselves what that love of Christ means for us. Nelson Mandela after all the years in prison, in forced labour camps being treated harshly by his gaolers realised that he had to forgive. And he could forgive, because he realised how much God loved him. You see if we hold unforgiveness in our hearts, the prime person that it affects is ourselves, not the other person. We get eaten up on the inside. So Jesus calls us to confess these things, and let his peace and his love transform us from the inside.

As the prophet Ezekiel prophesied many centuries before, the time in which we live now would be times when God did human heart transplants, replacing hearts of stone and giving us instead hearts of flesh. Only Jesus can do that for us. It is so important as Christian communities that we do not let disputes and bitterness drive wedges between us.

However, if we do instead focus on what is right and good, if we begin to 'grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ' then the transformation that we seek will come as the Spirit of God is welcome in our midst.

May you and I indeed grasp the overwhelming love of Christ and with that knowledge go out and give that love to others. *Every blessing. Peter*

Notices

Rest Stop Café – Thank you to everyone who came, helped and supported the Rest Stop Café on 5th July when fundraising for Alzheimer's, £160.60 was raised.

Churches Together in Mickleover (CTM) Prayer Walk – Thursday 1st August at 10.15am. We will meet at the Great Northern car park, then walk for about an hour praying for God's Blessing on our community, the local businesses, schools etc. Listening for anything the Holy Spirit might want to reveal to us. If you plan to come, please contact me at ray_lee16@yahoo.co.uk, or phone 239645 (answerphone screened), so that I know to expect you. Thank you. Ray Lee

All Saints Churchyard Tidy Day - 'Ian's Gardening Gang' will be convening again on 3rd August to see if we can win the battle against the weeds and grass etc. We shall meet at 9.20am to divide the churchyard into manageable lots/teams and start work at 9.30am. Lunch will be provided (if you have any dietary requirements, please let Janice know by end of July). Drinks will also be provided throughout the day. We aim to finish the day 3.30-4.00pm, we may 'finish off' areas on Sunday afternoon if necessary or the following Tuesday morning. You don't have to do the whole day! jobs will be allocated to fit individual ability; we shall be very grateful for whatever time/expertise/ enthusiasm you can offer. So, find your favourite 'implements' and bring them along with you and come and join us. (Make sure you put some sort of mark on them, so you know they are yours!) Please sign the list at the back of church or let Rebekah or the churchwardens know if you are able to help. Look forward to seeing you there!! *Ian and Janice*,

St Andrew's Church Coffee Open Morning – School Lane, Radbourne (parking at top of the lane). Saturday 31st August 11am-3pm. All welcome.

Open The Book - The team and I who perform biblical assemblies at Brookfield and Mickleover Primary schools would like to thank your congregation for sponsoring Churches Together in donating keepsake books to all the year 6 leavers at Brookfield, Mickleover Primary, Silverhill and Ravensdale schools to remind them of God's love and care for them which will continue throughout their lives. Each generation has appreciated these assemblies and the 'It's Your Move' books which help with the transition to secondary school. Once again, many thanks to you all. *Lana Jamieson*

Pause and Ponder in All Saints Graveyard – For the September Pause and Ponder, the picture theme will be 'Holiday Joy' as seen by 16yrs and under. So, if you have children, grandchildren, nephews, nieces or neighbours children who like taking photos of places visited, items/building seen, interesting views, and they would like to take part, send a copy of the photo/s by email to the Church Office and they will be forwarded to me (if you have my email address send them direct to me) Make sure you include Name of Photographer, name of place, view or building. We need both 'portrait and 'landscape' style please. No selfies!!! Photos need to be with me by September 6th, please. Happy snapping! *Janice*

Confirmation With Bishop Malcolm - at All Saints Church on 22nd September at 6.30pm.

Thank you – to everyone at All Saints for all the presents and cards, it was lovely. *Jen Ratcliff*