

Welcome to our Churches

www.mickleoveranglicans.org.uk

All Saints

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St Andrews

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St Johns

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Sunday 8th September 2024

Services In Our Churches This Sunday:

- Morning Worship at All Saints, 10am. Mary Staunton will be speaking.
- Holy Communion at Johns, 10am. Peter Walley will be speaking.
- Holy Communion at St Andrew's, 11am. Led by Peter Walley

Live Link for Sunday's service: <https://mickleoveranglicans.org.uk/you-tube-services/>

Midweek Services

- Tuesday: Prayers, 8am at All Saints
- Wednesdays: Holy Communion, 9.30am at All Saints

Collect

Lord God,
defend your Church from all false teaching
and give to your people knowledge of
your truth,
that we may enjoy eternal life
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

This Sunday's Readings

James 2: 1-10, 14-17, Mark 7: 24-end

Next Sunday's Readings

James 3: 1-12, Mark 9:14-29

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-1pm in the Link. Do join us for Tea/Coffee, friendly conversation, and delicious home-made cakes. There will be children's activities alongside the Rest Stop Café on Friday's. Come along and join us!

St Johns Brunch – Fridays 12.15-2.30pm (after the Café). We join with others for a cup of soup & sandwich followed by discussion on life and faith and a bit of Bible study.

Mark 7v 24-37

Autumn I am afraid is coming upon us. I don't know how you feel about it, but I am not very keen!

It hasn't been a great summer weatherwise. The coolest since 2015 we are informed. Wind, rain, huge bean plants but not many beans. At least in our garden! However, I have valued the quieter pace of August and the chance to do different things. But now perhaps we are feeling the call to get going – back to work, back to school, back, even, to the busyness of church life. Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas, Home Groups, Messy Church. We may face all of these with mixed emotions. We may be glad to get going. Glad there is more to occupy ourselves. Glad to be seeing more of other people. Perhaps glad to face a new challenge. But where, I wonder, is God in all of this? How are we going to build our own faith in this time. How indeed are we going to pray - pray for ourselves, for others and for our Churches. For prayer is the foundation of our relationship with God.

This week I am going to give us the chance to reflect on these questions using mainly the reading from Mark 7v24 onwards. Then I am going to invite you to spend some time reflecting on what we might be seeking in the months ahead.

So, first of all, our Bible reading. Jesus is tired and so He goes with His disciples go to the area of Tyre. The people there are not Jewish and He hopes that they won't know Him so well. However, almost immediately a woman comes to Him with a request, and she speaks. Really, she is praying, "Please heal my daughter" she says. She had been searching probably for a long time for the one person who could help her child and, in the end, she did something that was unimaginable for her. She went to a travelling Jewish preacher. She was an outsider to Him but, equally, He was a stranger to her. A foreigner. A man. The level of desperation that drove her to come to Him can only be imagined. And what reply did she get? Jesus said "no". "Others, my people, come first" He says. Have you had that problem with prayer? You are at your limits, the end of your tether and God says "no". However, this woman did not give up. "Yes, Lord" she said "I know that. But even then you will allow others (she talks of dogs) to pick up the bits round the edges". Jesus, looks at her again and sees her faith and her daughter is healed.

Well, why did Jesus do it we may ask? Why not answer the prayer immediately? Why be so harsh? We don't know entirely but two things seem important. Firstly, Jesus wanted to see how persistent she would be. He teaches elsewhere about asking, seeking and knocking. Prayer is not meant to be an easy fix. Prayer is often difficult and we may all have experiences of God apparently saying "no". In his book on unanswered prayer, Pete Grieg suggests that one of the reasons for unanswered prayer is that God just likes spending time with us. This may sound odd, but If God answers our prayers immediately, we so often rush off about our own business. If we are stuck with

unanswered prayer, we may just spend more time with Him, learning about Him and yes, being loved by Him.

The other reason for the woman's prayer not being answered immediately maybe because Jesus was making a point to the onlookers. He was making a point about including outsiders. Here was a woman and He was spending time with her, listening to her and ultimately answering her prayer.

She was also a foreigner, probably a Greek. In time people would learn that Jesus had indeed come as the Jewish Messiah, but He had also come for all people everywhere. This woman and her child mattered to Jesus even though they were foreigners and both females. They mattered enough for Him to want to spend time with the mother and they mattered enough for Him to heal the daughter.

In the second story in our reading we have a deaf man brought to Jesus by his friends. Again, this story is about prayer. Maybe they had been supporting their friend and seeking for a healer for a long time. There is no evidence of the faith of the deaf man at all, but Jesus saw the faith of the friends and responded. Not dramatically, not in front of the crowd, but quietly in a place where only the man knew what Jesus did. Jesus was not wanting to advertise the healing but, most importantly, He didn't want this man to be swamped by noise when he suddenly found he could hear. Jesus didn't give any overt praise to the friends. But this is for us an encouragement to pray for others. For our friends and family who may have little or no faith. Jesus will see our faith. He will hear but it may take time and persistence before we see a result.

So where does that leave us now at the beginning of this autumn? What about our prayer lives?

Our relationships with God? Brilliant? Not very good? On a reasonable keel? In need of attention?

Most importantly. What do we want to ask God for this autumn? Maybe there are new things in our lives we would like His blessings for? But maybe also there are old prayers. Things and people we have lost heart over. Things we have given up on because the answer always seems to be "no". Never be discouraged, God hears. Keep going – and I say that to myself as much as to you.

I am going to stop now but do take time to reflect. Maybe sit down with a hot drink and a pen and paper. What are your needs at the moment? What is it we most want to pray for ourselves and those closest to us? Write them down and offer them to God, asking for His blessing. Maybe tell a friend and pray with them for both your needs.

Every Blessing. Mary Staunton

Notices

St Andrew's Open Morning – Thank you to Diana everyone who supported the open morning at St Andrew's last Saturday.

The New Lodge Summer Fair – Saturday 7th September 2-5pm. The New Lodge Nursing Home, 114 Western Road Micklegate. BBQ, bric-a-brac, cakes, miniature steam engine displays, miniature donkeys, henna painting and more! all money raised will go to the resident's fund.

Our Sympathy and Prayers – to the family and friends of Vivien Rodgers. The funeral will be at Markeaton Crematorium Main Chapel on Friday 13th September at 11am.

Our Dementia Choir – Saturday 21st September, 6pm at All Saints. As a Dementia friendly church, we are delighted to welcome the Our Dementia Choir along with the Brookfield School Choir for an evening of songs, lucky bag raffle and refreshments. Tickets £15, available at St John's and All Saints offices. *Please bring the right money.*

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

All Saints Harvest Flowers – On Saturday 28th September from 10am we will be decorating church for Harvest. If you can help in any way and need more info, please ring Celia. Any donations towards the cost of flowers would be appreciated. (the cost of flowers is going up and up). Any seed heads, Autumn berries, greenery or flowers from the garden are very very welcome and will help off set the cost. Hope to see you at 10am on Saturday 28th September. Tea, coffee and cake at half time!! Thank you. *Celia on behalf of the flower team.*

Harvest – All Saints' Harvest will be on Sunday 29th September at 10am. We will be collecting food items for Derby Food 4 Thought, there is a list of items needed at the back of All Saints Church, money donations will be given to Derby City Mission. St John's Harvest has been moved to **Sunday 20th October** at 10am with donations going to Padley. St Andrew's Harvest is 13th October at 11am more details to come.

All Saints Messy Church - We are restarting a midweek Messy Church for every 4th Wednesday of the month; the first meeting will be on Wednesday 30th October (5th Wednesday). Clare will be coordinating this, if you would like to be involved, please contact her on revceowen@gmail.com

Small Group at the Vicarage - exploring prayer with Justin Welby 7.30pm Wed 11th September. The group is starting again for the Autumn, and we would love to welcome anyone who would like to join us. It is friendly group, and we will be following this engaging course over five sessions. For more details and dates contact Helen Walley

St Johns Flowers – I would like to thank the Wednesday Friendship Group for noticing there are not many names on the flower list for September, and so made a donation. It was very thoughtful of them. *Eunice Upton*

Churches Magazine – From February next year the three churches will have one joint monthly magazine. We need a new name for the magazine and would like to hear your suggestions!