

# Welcome to our Churches

[www.mickleoveranglicans.org.uk](http://www.mickleoveranglicans.org.uk)

## All Saints

Etwall Road, Mickleover,  
DE3 0DL  
01332 510446



## St Andrews

School Lane, Radbourne,  
DE6 4LY



## St Johns

Devonshire Drive, Mickleover,  
DE3 9HD  
01332 513363



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**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

### Services In Our Churches This Sunday:

- Holy Communion at All Saints, 10am. Mary Staunton will be speaking.
- Morning Praise at St Johns, 10am. Paul Pritchard will be speaking.

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**

Faithful Lord,  
whose steadfast love never ceases  
and whose mercies never come to an end:  
grant us the grace to trust you  
and to receive the gifts of your love,  
new every morning,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **This Sunday's Readings**

Job 1: 1, 2: 1 - 10, Mark 10: 2 - 16

### **Next Sunday's Readings**

Job 23: 1-9, 16-end,  
Mark 10: 17-31

**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-12pm in the Link. Do join us for Tea/Coffee, friendly conversation, and delicious home-made cakes.

**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, faith and a bit of Bible study.

## Harvest sermon 2024. Matthew 6, 25-33 Joel 2, 21-27

'Do not worry!' What simple yet incredibly weighted words! These words of Jesus risked sounding glib to those gathered around him on a hillside nearly 2000 years ago, as they risk doing so today. If you were one of the poor and hungry, the marginalised and desperate, who were gathered on that hillside, being told to not worry by look to the birds of the air and the Lilly's of the field, might have made you question whether Jesus really understood what life was like. These same words risk sounding hollow today if you do not have the money to pay your next electricity bill, are about to be evicted from your home, or do not know where the next meal is coming from. Hearing Jesus tell you not to worry about your life, what you will eat, what you will drink, or what you will wear, might seem impossible, or perhaps even cruel.

Yet we know Jesus was not, **is not**, cruel, so what was he really saying? His message was not intended to dismiss the difficulties of life: for us to simply ignore them and then everything would be ok. Rather, I believe that Jesus is saying to us that he **knows** that everything in life is not always fine, and at those times, simply worrying about our difficulties does not help us. At our darkest moments it is important for us to stop, to look around us, and also consider something else. A couple of weeks ago I was in the West of Ireland visiting a relative of mine, who I love dearly, and is very unwell. One morning I took a particular road which suddenly turned to reveal the most stunning scenery in front of me. The beauty of the place simply took my breath away, and for that moment, nothing else in the world mattered - I was simply immersed in the beauty of God's creation. Each of us will have different things in our lives which bring us joy. It doesn't have to be stunning scenery, or beautiful music. Sometimes it can be something decidedly more random, but which has meaning to us. There is a particular bridge on the M1 motorway which is old, rather dirty, and covered in graffiti, which, whenever I see it, my heart lifts and I am filled with a sense of joy. This might seem decidedly odd, but when I was growing up, seeing that bridge meant that we were almost home. Bedfordshire is no longer home for me, and most of those I love are no longer there, yet the sight of that bridge still makes my heart feel lighter, even if I have been sat in motorway traffic for hours, and know that there are more hours of traffic to come.

Today we are celebrating our Harvest Festival. A time in the year to stop and give thanks for God's creation, and to recognise that the wonder of creation is more important than worrying about material things. The words of Jesus are also a reminder to us, that whilst there might be things that are a cause of concern, there are also many things in life we worry about, which are not really that important.

Our society is incredibly commercialised, and many people worry about or compete to have, the latest 'thing'. Whether that be the newest version of a phone, item of clothing, a new car which is bigger and better than that owned by their friends. The words of Jesus in our Gospel today, and those of Joel in our first reading, are a reminder that striving for such things is truly not what matters.

Instead, we should strive for the kingdom of God. Our focus in life should be to live lives which show the love of God, and God's righteousness. In centuries gone by, and in parts of the world today where everyday existence is still very much tied to the land upon which each community lives, the harvest festival service was a key date in the calendar. It would be a celebration in years of plenty, going into winter knowing that you had enough to survive until spring. In years with a poor harvest, the service would include prayers to God to sustain the community during the coming months, and to prayers for a better harvest next time. Most of us will have lost that explicit link between seeing the newly harvested grain in a barn, and being able to judge whether that will be enough to feed our family through until spring. Yet the success or failure of each harvest still impacts our lives. In the price we pay for our bread, fruit and vegetables, and whether or not certain foodstuffs will be available for us to enjoy. For those who count every penny, a poor harvest still means going hungry.

Today's thanksgiving service also allows us to focus upon working towards the kingdom of God by giving to those who do not have as much as we do. The inequalities in our society are starkly highlighted by the number of food parcels distributed every week in our very city. The demands upon our local food banks do not appear to be reducing, and as the nights get colder and darker, these needs will increase further as people choose to heat their homes or feed their families. By taking time to stop and consider the wonders of creation, the beauty of the birds and the flowers, we can also remember that we are still dependent upon the land, even if we do not sow and plough it ourselves; and then respond with joy and thanksgiving through acts of generosity and kindness.

Yours in Christ, *Rev Clare*

## Notices

**Our Love Prayers and Sympathy** – to Pat Seager and her family following the death of her husband, Brian Seager last Sunday. Funeral details to follow.

**Thank You** - to everyone who helped decorate All Saints for Harvest. An excellent team effort. Thanks once again to John and Enid Cole for the gift of so many dahlias, and to all the gifts of greenery, and money towards the costs. Thank you. *Celia Cullen*

**St Andrew's Harvest** – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 11am. Goods will be going to the Mickleover Pantry.

**St Johns Craft & Tabletop Sale** – Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October 10am – 1pm. 20 tables with a selection of crafts including crafts, cards, jewellery, knitted/sewn/crocheted items, wood and pebble art and lots more. Refreshments available. Do come for a visit.

**St John's Harvest** - Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 10am with donations going to Padley, there is a list of items needed on the notice board in the Link. **If you have any berries or garden flowers in your garden that would be suitable for Harvest Festival, would you please ring myself or bring them to Church in the morning for 17<sup>th</sup> October.**  
*Eunice Upton*

**Messy Church** - We are restarting a midweek Messy Church at All Saints for every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month from 3.30pm - 5pm; the first meeting will be on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October (5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday).

**Alpha** – is starting again also on 30<sup>th</sup> October on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm. Alpha is a very accessible introductory course on the Christian Faith, where you can ask all those questions you have always wanted to ask! If you are interested, please contact Peter Walley, Clare Owen, Andrew Brown or the Office. Leaflets will be available to take away and if you feel brave, ask a friend to come.

**Blister Packs (Pill Packets)** – are still being collected at St Johns, so please continue to bring them.

**St Johns Internet Café** – Monday's 10am-12noon in the Link. Free help with laptops, tablets, smartphones and other technology. Free Wi-Fi. Our helpers don't guarantee to have all the answers but may know where to start looking! Refreshments served around 11am

**Christmas Tree Festival Carols** – All Saints Church, Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 4pm joined again by Newmount Brass Band. The trees this year will be Nutcracker themed.

**St Johns Christmas Fair** - Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November, 10am-1pm. The usual range of stalls will be available at this popular event. Lots of help will be needed!