

# 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



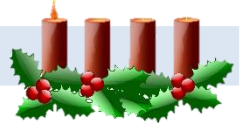
## St Johns

Devonshire Drive, Mickleover,  
DE3 9HD  
01332 513363



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## Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024



### Services In Our Churches This Sunday

- Holy Communion at All Saints, 10am. Clare Owen 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 and Events

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

### **Collect**

Almighty God,  
as your kingdom dawns,  
turn us from the darkness of sin to the  
light of holiness,  
that we may be ready to meet you  
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

### **Sunday's Reading**

Jeremiah 33: 14-16, Luke 21: 25-36

### **Next Sunday's Reading**

Philippians 1: 3-11, Luke 3: 1-6

**St John's Christmas Fair** – Come along this Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 10am - 1pm.

**St Johns Internet Café** – Mondays 10am-12pm in the Link. Free help with laptops, tablets, smartphones and other technology. Free Wi-Fi.

**All Saints Café** - Join us for a friendly chat, coffee/tea, cake and biscuits every Wednesday in the Centre 10am-12noon. Everyone welcome!

**St Johns Rest Stop Café** - Fridays 10am-12pm in the Link. Join us for Tea/Coffee, friendly conversation, and delicious home-made cakes. **Brunch** follows the café from 12.15 – 2.30pm. We join with others for a cup of soup & sandwich followed by discussion on life, faith and a bit of Bible study. Brunch is not meeting on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December.

## The Feast of Christ the King. John 18v28-37

Who are you following I wonder? Or who may you have followed at different times in your life? In a world where we value independence and freedom who we are “following” seems rather oddly to have become more of an issue - Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Football, Rugby, film stars. Somehow despite our desire to make our own way we are still all seekers after something or maybe someone who can show us how to live a better life, be more successful, wear better clothes, do more exciting things. And maybe also, in a world full of fake news, we are still all seekers after truth.

You may think that the reading from John’s Gospel an odd one for this time of year. If you know your Bible stories you will recognize it as belonging, more to Easter and not to the rapidly approaching seasons of Advent and Christmas. So what on earth are we doing reading it now???

This weekend we have just celebrated what the Church calls the feast of Christ the King. It is the very last Sunday in the Church’s year. A time for looking back over the year but also perhaps a time for looking forward. Next week Advent begins and we will start again to tell the story of the prophecies foretelling the coming of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus, our coming King.

Over the past year we have told the story of Jesus’s birth, death and resurrection. We have reflected on what His life on earth may mean for us here and now and today, finally, we focus on His coming reign, the time when we believe He will return to earth as king, when all creation will be healed and everything will be put right.

On the whole kings and queens today, in the western democracies at any rate do not hold the same place and power that they once did. The power of decision more generally resides in politicians. For the lifetime of most of us we had only one queen. She modelled for all of us a type of monarchy that cares and serves and advises but does not hold any direct political power. Now we have a King and the transition has been, rather to our surprise, fairly seamless. The King shows the same values as the late Queen but expresses them in his own way He spent his recent birthday at a food hub for those in need.

So how does that make us feel about the claim that Jesus makes, to be our King? Does He even look like a King to us? He showed in His own life many of the qualities of serving and caring valued by our monarchy and yet, ultimately, He is a different sort of king. A King with ultimate, saving power.

In the reading from John we find Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor of Palestine with Jesus, a poor itinerant preacher standing in front of him. Imagine the scene. Pilate, the man with all the authority delegated to him by the Roman overlords, asks Jesus, the poor preacher, the most extraordinary question “Are you the king of the Jews?” he says. It is quite unbelievable really as nothing about Jesus at that moment proclaims His kingship. Jesus has no crown, no wealth and at this precise moment He has no followers. They have all deserted Him. However, Pilate has heard rumours, rumours of teaching that may be subversive, rumours of healings, rumours of a new kingdom that may be coming and,

certainly the Jewish rulers are very worried that there may be a challenge to the power they hold. It is Pilate's job to keep the people at peace. It is His job to deal with any threat but this man does not look as if He has power to cause very much trouble. He doesn't LOOK like a king at all.

The two men look at each other and the only reply that Jesus is prepared to give is "You say I am". Jesus's quiet authority unnerves Pilate but he cannot find the courage to let Him go free and he is handed over to the Roman soldiers to be tortured and killed.

"Are you a King" asks Pilate and we as Christians, would want to say "yes". "Yes" Jesus is our king. So, what do we mean by that? What is the model of Kingship He offers and why is it worth following?

God sent Jesus to earth because He loves each one of us and longs to restore His relationship with each of us. Sometimes stuff gets in the way between us and God doesn't it. We think about those things that get in the way every time we say the confession but we also hear that God longs to love us and forgive us. Jesus came to make a relationship with God possible for us. He lived a human life just like us and in doing so showed us how to live as people of His kingdom. He forgave people, healed them, welcomed outcasts and strangers. Jesus saw corruption in high places and challenged those who misrepresented God. Jesus talked about the new kingdom He was to bring in where all would be welcome and peace and justice would finally triumph and all creation would be healed.

This is a King worth following. This is a King we can know today and follow for the rest of our lives until He comes again and His rule is seen in all its completeness. Our following is not just a matter of following a set of principles, following the ideas of someone who lived a long time ago, although those things help us. As Christians we believe that Jesus didn't just die but rose again as well. He is as alive today as He ever was. We can talk to Him and learn what He is like by spending time with Him. We can each have a real relationship with Him but like all relationships, you will get out what you put in. We may not feel very clear about what God's kingdom is like but as we try to follow we will find out more and more.

St. Paul in his letter to the Corinthian Church uses a wonderful phrase. He says "Now we see through a glass darkly but then we will see face to face". Here now, we see glimpses of Jesus and His kingdom in the love of those around us and in the glory of the natural world and in many other ways. We see His kingdom every time truth triumphs; every time the poor are cared for; every time someone is forgiven; every time justice prevails. We are seeing it in all the movements to care for our planet and make it a better place to live. It may feel that Jesus is a long time coming but He is still here by His Spirit and is still working if we have but eyes to see Him and hearts willing to take up the challenge of following Him. He still invites each one of us to be His friend and to follow Him, as our King and Saviour.

So, as I close, take time to be silent and reflect. Ask yourself, "Who do I choose to follow?"  
*Every Blessing on your walk with Jesus.* *Mary Staunton*

## Notices

**CTM Prayer for Mickleover** - 5<sup>th</sup> December 10:15am in St. John's Link. During the winter months we suspend our prayer walks, but still meet to pray for our community. We will spend about an hour praying for our community, businesses, schools, etc. listening for anything the Holy Spirit reveals. If you plan to come, please contact me. Ray Lee

**New Opera Company Christmas Concert** – Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Dec at 2.30pm at St Johns '*Water Everywhere*' in support of Friends of Kenya's Children. Tickets £10 at the door.

**Refreshment Volunteers Required** - for the afternoon of 7<sup>th</sup> December at the New Derby Opera Concert at St Johns. A free concert ticket is available for any volunteer. Please let Joy Templer know if you are able to assist.

**All Saints Decorating for Christmas** – We are decorating church on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December from 10am. We hope to put greenery and candles on the windowsills. If anyone has long lasting greenery it would be most welcome. I can collect. Help is very welcome. Contact Celia Cullen for more info. Thank you.

**Gently into Christmas 'Bring and Share'** – Open invitation to anyone to bring something to share in this act of worship on 8<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm at St Johns. This is an opportunity for sharing of readings, prayers, poetry and space to prepare our hearts for Christmas.

**Mickleover Singers Christmas Concert** - "A European Celebration" on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 7:30pm. It will be held in the St. Johns. £8 on the door.

**Welcomers at St John's** - If anyone would like to join the team of welcomers doing a very important job at the 10am Sunday service at St John's, please speak to Joy Brandrick who is preparing the rota for 2025.

**St John's Rest Stop Café** – Join us each week in the build up to Christmas from 29<sup>th</sup> November for craft activities and a Carol service on 20<sup>th</sup> December at 11.30am with dedications for the memory tree. Please see the website for more details.

**Churches Website** – You may have noticed recently there has been an issue with accessing the website. We are looking into the problem and hope to have it sorted soon.

**All Saints Stitchers** – Thank you to everyone who braved the bad weather to support us at the coffee morning on Wednesday. We raised £63.50 for Breast Cancer UK. We would also like to thank you for all the support at our craft and coffee sale on Sunday afternoon. The proceeds from the craft stall of £453 will be donated to Breast Cancer UK and the proceeds from the refreshments of £277 will be donated to All Saints Church funds.

**All Saints Christmas Card** – Please sign the paper at the back of church by 11<sup>th</sup> December to be included in this year's Christmas card.

**Poppy Appeal** – Thank you to everyone who bought a poppy or donated towards the poppy appeal, £24.08 was raised by All Saints and £77.21 was raised by St Johns.