

Welcome to our Churches

www.mickleoveranglicans.org.uk

All Saints

Etwall Road, Mickleover,
DE3 0DL
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St Andrews

School Lane, Radbourne,
DE6 4LY



St Johns

Devonshire Drive, Mickleover,
DE3 9HD
01332 513363



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Sunday 26th January 2025

Services In Our Churches This Sunday

- Morning Worship at All Saints, 10am. Mary Staunton will be speaking.
- Holy Communion at St Johns, 10am. Peter Walley will be speaking.
- BCP Evening Prayer at St Andrews, 4pm. Led by Paul Pritchard

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

Collect

God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday's Reading at All Saints

Isaiah 61:1-6, Luke 4: 14-21

Sunday's Reading at St Johns

1 Cor 12: 12-31a, Luke 4: 14-21

Next Sunday's Reading

Hebrews 2: 14-end, Luke 2: 22-40

Midweek Services and Groups

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

Tuesday: **Prayers**, 8am at All Saints.

Wednesdays: **Holy Communion**, 9.30am at All Saints.

Wednesdays: **All Saints Café** 10am – 12pm in the Centre. Join us for a friendly chat, coffee/tea, cake and biscuits. Everyone welcome!

Fridays: **St Johns Rest Stop Café** 10am – 12pm in the Link. Join us for Tea/Coffee friendly conversation, and delicious home-made cakes.

Fridays: **Brunch Bible Study** 12.15 – 2.30pm in the Link. We join with others for a cup of soup & sandwich followed by discussion on life, faith and a bit of Bible study.

Turning Water into Wine – Talk by John Foxon

Weddings in biblical times usually lasted a week and everyone in the village would be invited. For family reputation and honour it was vital that the host was seen to be a good and generous host. Yet in the Wedding at Cana the wine was running out! This was a socially disastrous! Jesus steps in, and John says this first miracle “revealed his glory”. You may think: Saving people from social embarrassment is compassionate - but how does it show God’s glory? Wouldn’t we prefer the first miracle to be something magnificent that met a basic human need – like raising the dead or feeding the hungry? Scholars tell us that John arranges his Gospel around seven signs (The Greek word is “**SEMEON**” – from which we get semaphore.) These signs are signposts in the Gospel indicating that we should look for more than just a surface meaning. In which case, what is that meaning in this miracle? There are at least three signs why this miracle reveals God’s glory and these three aspects of Christ’s ministry indicate the way God usually works with us.

1. GLORY IN THE ORDINARY The circumstances of Jesus’ birth is not regal and certainly can be placed in the ordinary category. The circumstance of the miracle is something haphazard and ordinary - that is caused by bad planning. Yet in that ordinary place and in that ordinary circumstance Jesus comes and makes a difference. That is glorious?! That means that Jesus comes in the ordinary every-day aspects of our lives today. He comes in the ordinary joys. Jesus came to the fun and festivity of this wedding in Cana. He would probably have drunk the wine and danced. So, we can say that in our ordinary fun Jesus is there – and that it is right for us to celebrate and know pleasure and joy in our lives. Jesus also comes to us in our ordinary troubles. If Jesus helped in the context of a social gaff when the wine ran out - we can expect him to help in our social and domestic needs. There is nothing too small for him to care about – whether it is health issues, work problems or concerns about bringing up kids. God is the God of surprises, because so often we meet him in very ordinary things.

2. GLORY IN THE TRANSFORMATION This is an obvious theme because, Jesus transformed water into wine. It was a “creative act”: The whole process of wine making (planting, growing, ripening, harvesting, pressing) was squeezed into a moment. It is the ultimate picture of transformation! It is not the work of a magician – but the work of a Creator God. But that’s just surface meaning. John says the transformation took place within pots used for ceremonial cleaning. Their religion demanded outward rituals which were onerous, tedious and perhaps empty. So, Jesus gives a signal of the transformation his ministry will bring. Some things will be made obsolete, some things will be made new. After all, the stone jars can no longer be used for ritual cleaning! They are filled with wine and useless for washing. They are

obsolete in Jesus' kingdom! More than that, the wine was God's amazing gift of grace – and it has nothing to do with human effort or ritual. It is sign of the kingdom and its newness. Jesus was therefore demonstrating his glory in transformation reality. We don't have to "DO" rituals to be Right with God. He does it all for us - it is a gift (just as this wine was a gift). It has been suggested that there are two approaches to religion: It is either "**Do**" or "**Done**"! Some people think of all the things they must **DO** to make themselves right with God. However, this miracle is a signpost that shows God's glory – of transforming religion from Do... to Done. As you take wine at communion perhaps say to yourself, "**It's Done**"! Jesus takes sin and gives new life as a gift – rather like that wine!

3. GLORY IN THE ABUNDANCE John tells us a minute detail – for a special reason. He tells us that these six stone water jars held 20-30 gallons. So that means there must have been at least 150 gallons of wine! Enough for a wedding but also enough to provide a cellar for "newly-weds; a cellar that would last many anniversaries and celebrations. That is abundance! But there is more than that- it isn't cheap wine. The steward says, "Everyone brings out the choice wines first and then when the guests have drunk too much, he brings out the cheaper wines. But you have saved the best till now". Here is quality and quantity! This life isn't all we have ... The best he has kept for us. For some this is a world of suffering, for others the world is full of joy but for all the best is still in store for us. Here's a miracle of abundance – and that shows God's glory. Indeed, it would be appropriate to say that God's generosity is his most glorious attribute. Paul wants us to see this generous heart of God and so in Ephesians 3 he says God works in ways "**above all we can imagine or ask**" ... so he prays that we know "**the height and length and breadth of the love of Christ**". In Luke 6 v 38 Jesus tells us "**Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.**" It's a sign of the way God acts. He is generous. He is Gracious. He is glorious.

CONCLUSION Unfortunately, it is in our fallen nature to doubt this. The very first sin in Eden was a doubt about the generosity and goodness of God. So, there will be some who will think, "God can't work in ordinary me! He can't transform me." When Marco Polo returned from China – no one believed his fabulous stories. When he lay dying his friends urged him to retract his stories. But he said, "I haven't told you the half of what I have seen". We are told that "Things beyond our seeing, things beyond imagining, things beyond our hearing have been prepared by God for those who love him". We need to be assured that this is the way God works. God is in the business of taking ordinary things and ordinary people – and transforming them so we can know abundance.

Notices

Our Love Prayers and Sympathy – to Louise and her family following the death of her mother, Betty Marshall. Funeral details to follow.

Wine & Wisdom Quiz Night – Saturday 22nd February at St Johns Church Hall at 7pm. Complimentary glass of wine, table snacks and interval cake. £6 per person (teams of 4). Registration deadline is 14th February. To book please contact events-stjohns@mickleoveranglicans.org.uk

Homegroup at The Vicarage, Etwall Road - The next group will be on Wednesday 29th January. We will be looking at a study on Heaven by Paula Gooder, with notes and video provide at each study. If you would like to join us, please contact Helen Walley

A Pot Pourri of Words and Music – at All Saints Church on Saturday 1st March 2.30pm. Afternoon tea and concert to showcase the wealth of talent, of all ages, across the congregations of our three churches. This will be a relaxed occasions and our audience will be limited to the congregation members, family and friends. There is an entry fee with profit going to All Saints Church. If you would like to take part, please let me or Rebekah know by 2nd Feb. *Janice Toplis All Saints Church Warden.*

Mickleover Singers Spring Concert - Please join us for an evening of uplifting and entertaining music at St Johns on Saturday 29th March at 7:30pm. £8 on the door including light refreshments in the interval. Doors open at 7pm.

Remembering Cynthia – A tribute to Cynthia Farmer which was shown at her funeral is available to watch on YouTube https://youtu.be/r13kDAS_Wa0

Thank You – to everyone who contributed to St Johns Christmas card appeal. £118.50 has been sent off to ToyBox – Changing the world for street children.

CTM Prayer Walk - We will meet in St. John's link at 10.15am for about an hour on Thursday 6th February. We resume prayer walks in April on Thursday 3rd April. We pray for our local community, schools, businesses, and our city. Listening to God for anything He wants to reveal. If you would like to join us please contact Ray Lee so that I know to expect you.

All Saints Electoral Roll - 2025 is the year when we completely revise the Electoral Roll. This means that everyone must complete an application form even if you have done this before (forms available at the back of church) and return it to James Bowles or the office. The closing date for the entries onto the roll is Sunday 20th April.