

Welcome to our Churches

www.mickleoveranglicans.org.uk

All Saints

Etwall Road, Mickleover,
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St Andrews

School Lane, Radbourne,
DE6 4LY



St Johns

Devonshire Drive, Mickleover,
DE3 9HD
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Sunday 2nd February 2025

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/>

Collect

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us, and present
us pure and holy to your heavenly Father
your God, and our God.
Amen.

Sunday's Reading at All Saints

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

Next Sunday's Reading

1 Corinthians 15: 1- 11, Luke 5: 1-11

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 the Vicarage, Etwall Road.

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.

Luke 4v14-21. (Isaiah 61v1-6)

How long does it take you to prepare for something? Well, it depends on what you are doing, doesn't it? At this time of year I find it takes me vastly longer to get ready to go out – change of shoes, hats, coat, gloves, walking stick (if it's icy) than it does in the summer when, maybe, I am just changing my shoes. If you are decorating there is considerable preparation – cleaning up, sanding down, priming, undercoat, final coat. It is so much easier if you can get a single application paint, isn't it? But sometimes even that take two coats. You can no doubt think of other examples from your own life.

The next question is, of course, how long does it take God to prepare for anything He may want to achieve? His patience and planning far exceeds anything we might attempt. From the very beginning of creation God planned for a saviour. He promised Abraham that all the nations of the world would be blessed through him and as we read through our Old Testament we find again and again the promises of a Saviour... a Messiah.

The Isaiah reading was written 7- 800 years before the birth of Christ. It told of the coming Messiah and the salvation He would bring to His people. God was planning even then for the perfect moment but still He waited. Even when Jesus was finally born God still waited 30 years before Jesus first appeared at His Baptism. What patience God showed for the perfect moment. As we have heard over the last few weeks Jesus was led by the Spirit after His Baptism into the desert to be tempted by the devil and then, when He left the desert, He didn't go home to Nazareth but to the neighbouring town of Capernaum and the surrounding area where He is recorded as teaching in the synagogues and healing many people. It is a relatively gentle start to a crucial ministry. It is only when Jesus gets back home to Nazareth that the sparks start flying.

Jesus goes to the synagogue in Nazareth as He has done all His life. He is handed the scroll of the prophet Isaiah to read and the passage He reads this one from Isaiah. He reads it and hands it back to the attendant as He has done many times before but this time there is something different. He looks at the congregation and says, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing". Everyone knew that this passage referred to the Messiah. He was the one who was coming to change things for ever and here was Jesus, a nice enough chap, but the son of a perfectly ordinary couple claiming to be this revolutionary hero for whom they were all waiting. It didn't go down well at all. He couldn't possibly be the fulfilment of these prophecies – could He?

When Jesus says, "the Spirit of the Lord is upon me" This is a statement going back to His birth and childhood. He was conceived by the Spirit, brought up in a faithful household, taught to pray as a child. The Spirit was made manifest at His Baptism and lead Him into the desert and on into His ministry. Then with the years of prayer and teaching behind Him Jesus stands in His own town. Called by God and enabled by the Spirit for the Ministry He was made for. All that the people of Nazareth knew of Jesus and all that they expected of a Messiah militated against what He was saying. They expected a Messiah who would

prioritise His own people. Who would reward the faithful and throw out the Romans but Jesus was bringing in a very different kingdom.

This passage in Isaiah is the forerunner of the hymn of praise Mary proclaimed when she met her cousin Elizabeth when they were both pregnant. The passage we may know of as the Magnificat. In that passage Mary proclaimed God's promise to be merciful to those who fear Him. That He would scatter the proud and would raise up the lowly and feed the hungry. Her words echo the words of Isaiah that the Messiah would bring good news to the poor, and freedom to the captives. This mandate gives no priority to those who are rich and powerful or to those who have followed every dot and tittle of the extensive rules created by the Jewish elders. No one will gain their place in this new kingdom by any means other than the Grace of God. Jesus sensed that the crowd was not with Him and so He put Himself in the long line of prophets who were also rejected by the people. Prophets who stood with the outsider, the foreigner and the marginalised. He talks about Elijah and Elisha, both of whom performed miracles among foreigners and outsiders because no faith was found among the Jews. That's what finally drove the people to fury – God was apparently rescuing the wrong people. Not the people of Nazareth, not the faithful, not according to the rules they followed - but the outsider, the foreigner, those who didn't belong. They demand he performed for them the miracles He had performed in Capernaum but Jesus could see there was no faith present and that it would not be possible for Him to work there.

Jesus was coming to defy expectations to turn the social order upside down. He would respond to the faith He found around Him. He would heal and restore all who would come to Him but often these were the outsiders, the poor, the leper and even the Roman oppressor at times. These references to the Prophets were the last straw and ironically, the people try and throw Jesus off a cliff, the temptation that the devil had tried not long before to use to test whether God would save Jesus but Jesus wouldn't succumb and just walked away quietly. The people of Nazareth had been given a chance but had rejected Him. So where does that leave us today?

Let us reflect. As you read this I suggest you read each question and then pause in silence to reflect for a moment.

First - I wonder what your image is of God? How do you see Him?

Second - Do you believe you have promises from God for yourself as well as for the wider world? These promises are there in Scriptures or you may have received a promise personally through prayer or a friend? Are you still waiting for God to be faithful to you? Remember His promises and ask Him again to fulfil them.

Finally - How do you think God should act? Are you so clear about how He will behave that you are missing what He is actually doing?

In Conclusion. God is with us every day because He has promised to be. God loves each one of us because He has promised He does. God calls each one of us. But walking in His way is surprising, worrying, scary and more exciting than we can imagine.

Every blessing in your walk with God in the weeks ahead

Rev. Mary Staunton

Notices

Our Love Prayers and Sympathy – to Louise and her family following the death of her mother, Betty Marshall. The funeral will be at All Saints on Tuesday 18th February at 10.30am. Followed by committal at Markeaton Crematorium, Round Chapel.

Our Love Prayers and Sympathy – to the family of Jenny Joyce who passed away last week. 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

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. 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.

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 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

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.

Threefold Magazine - The first issue of our new joint magazine is now available. Feedback and contributions for future issues will be very welcome. Please email threefold@mickleoveranglicans.org.uk, or speak to James, Rebekah, or Richard.