

# Welcome to our Churches

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

## All Saints

Etwall Road, Mickleover,  
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## St Andrews

School Lane, Radbourne,  
DE6 4LY



## St Johns

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## Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – Happy New Year!

### Services In Our Churches This Sunday

- Morning Worship at All Saints, 10am. Clare Owen will be speaking.
- Holy Communion 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**

Creator of the heavens,  
who led the Magi by a star  
to worship the Christ-child:  
guide and sustain us,  
that we may find our journey's end  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Sunday's Reading**

Ephesians 3: 1-12, Matthew 2: 1-12

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

Acts 8: 14-17, Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

**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.

## The Life Of Champions' School – So Far

Our joint MA service on the 29<sup>th</sup> December this year took on a rather different flavour. We hosted the visit of Sandra Noon the Founder and Trust secretary of FKC (Friends of Kenya's Children) who gave an overview of how the work in the slums of Eldoret started back on 2006 and what it has achieved since then, in spite of many challenges.

For those unaware she explained how the visionary local Paster, Kenneth Kimeu saw such a need to support and educate the young people from the slum area of Eldoret, which his church served and how he had built and developed Champion's School with the financial help of FKC and its supporters. She effusively thanked our two Mickleover churches for their regular financial contributions and the involvement of those who had been such valuable supporters to the Trust over many years.

There were many graphic pictures of the stages in the construction of the school from the bare unused plot of land in 2006, to the school which exists today. Much progress was made until the Riots in 2010, illustrated on video. These arose from the general tension following the Kenyan Government's imposition of a new Tax. The School building proved vulnerable and was badly damaged from break-ins. A security audit highlighted the urgent need for a substantial wall to surround and protect the school premises. This proved very effective in preventing further damage or break-ins.

Sandra highlighted the significant achievements of providing running water from the two wells drilled in 2019 and the installation of Solar Panels on the roofs, which gives a free consistent electrical supply. These improvements enabled another major step in 2023 when the soil toilets and Cess tanks were replaced by an Ablution block connected to the recently installed town drains. This was completed in the school's annual shutdown in December and January when the students are normally on holiday at home. A very poignant observation was made through a picture of some of the orphan students who had requested to stay in school to help with the construction; they said they preferred being at Champions rather than returning to their 'basic' tribal home villages where they would not be so welcome or comfortable!

Champion's student life was illustrated through a variety of pictures showing teachers working with their students, some on computers, preparing for the curriculum in the 'Home Economics' and 'Science' Laboratories. These two new facilities were arranged to meet the legal obligations of being a Junior High School, which was achieved before the commencement of the 2024 academic year. It was good to see how the famous laptops and tablets were being so well used to meet the governments detailed annual curriculum. It was also interesting to note how their Department for Education carry out regular scrutiny visits of the School's operations, one recent result of this was them declaring 'Champions' the best Junior High School in the area.

A different experience for the students was shown as they went on their 'School tour' (our School Trip), this is now mandatory in their curriculum. They witnessed some wild animals in a Hotel's Safari Park; swimming and messing around in a Water Park which opened their minds to aspects of life previously unknown. The School and parents can't afford trips further afield, but they do the best they can.

2024 was a traumatic year as many challenges faced Champions and FKC. Initially Paster Kenneth was struck with a serious bout of Malaria for two months, then the floods came, destroying so many homes, businesses and livelihoods of the parents and local residents. Amidst this another poignant account was given of a young student called *Mercyline*, she had become seriously ill and needed major surgery to save her life. FKC were asked if they could help, which they did. Photographs which her Mother had taken were shown, when she was seriously ill in hospital, then having a scan and entering the Operating Theatre, then recovering. Thankfully she is now fully recovered and back studying. The whole operation and aftercare cost just £500! A little different from what it would have cost in the UK, but illustrating how FKC's money was well spent.

Further mention was made of the third major challenge of 2024, when the floods inundated the school, causing so much damage to all areas. It was a reminder of how crisis keep occurring but then being able to observe the amazing responses. The damage from the floods was significant, so Kenneth told the trustees the projected cost of repairs before the October 2024 AGM, this was shared with those at the meeting without any suggestions of contributions being needed. A supporter who was present quietly wrote a cheque and handed it to Sandra after the meeting to cover the entire cost. Miracles continue to happen, Praise God!

In light of these many challenges, it was explained that progress on the Vocational Skills Centre, introduced at St Johns at the 2023 AGM by Kenneth, had been postponed, but will be started in early 2025.

The final video shown was of the last day of term, of students enjoying their lunch and then a younger class performing on a stage with their teacher. Although it was difficult to hear, the children were singing "***I am a child. I am me. You are you. We are special***". ***Hear! Hear!***

It was such a suitable ending to an inspirational overview of what can be achieved by a Charity we support.

We were reminded of our Lord saying, "***I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!***"

## Notices

**All Saints Standing Committee** – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January in Church at 7pm.

**Our Love Prayers & Sympathy** - To the family of Daphne Hayton. The funeral will be on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January, 1pm at All Saints Church, followed by committal at Markeaton Crematorium Round Chapel.

**Who Let the Dads Out?** – are meeting next Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January at 8.45am in the All Saints Church Centre.

**Breakfast Church** – Next Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> January at 8am meeting in the All Saints Church Centre.

**St Johns PCC Meeting** – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm

**Our Love Prayers & Sympathy** - To the family of Harry Bedborough. The funeral will be on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January at 11.30am at St Johns followed by committal at Markeaton Crematorium.

**All Saints PCC Meeting** – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January, 7pm in Church.

**Rest Stop Café** - Many thanks to everyone who supported our Christmas jumper day and raffle at rest stop cafe. In total we raised £151.54 for Save the children fund. Special thanks to Tammy and Jason (fruit and veg stall), and to Pips Plaice (fish stall), for their kind donations of raffle prizes.

**Wine & Wisdom Quiz Night** – Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> February. To book please contact Richard [events-stjohns@mickleoveranglicans.org.uk](mailto:events-stjohns@mickleoveranglicans.org.uk)

**All Saints Stitchers** – would like to thank everyone who supported our fundraising efforts this year. Our total for the year was £2,590 which has now been donated to Breast Cancer UK. We are looking forward to another successful year in 2025 and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.