

Welcome to our Churches

www.mickleoveranglicans.org.uk

All Saints

Etwall Road, Mickleover,
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St Andrews

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St Johns

Devonshire Drive, Mickleover,
DE3 9HD
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Sunday 16th February 2025

Services In Our Churches This Sunday

- Holy Communion at All Saints, 10am. Ian Godlington will be speaking.
- Morning Praise with JACK at St Johns, 10am. Helen Walley will be speaking.

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

Collect

Eternal God,
whose Son went among the crowds
and brought healing with his touch:
help us to show his love,
in your Church as we gather together,
and be out lives as they are transformed
into the image of Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday's Reading

1 Corinthians 15: 12-20, Luke 6: 17-26

Next Sunday's Reading

Revelation 4, Luke 8: 22-25

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 Group** 12.15 – 2.30pm in the St John's Link. We join with others for a cup of soup & sandwich followed by discussion on life, faith and a bit of Bible study.

Talk for the notices : 1 Corinthians 15 1 to 11, Luke 5 1 to 11

Christian humility which we saw in our late Queen, comes from her deep rooted faith in Jesus Christ (no doubt the Queen's great sense of humour which allowed her not to take herself too seriously helped). And so it is interesting that both of our readings today also record the importance of humility.

The only eye-witness account we have of Paul records that he was bald, but that he had a twinkle in his eyes. "A man of small stature, with a bald head and crooked legs, in a good state of body, with eyebrows meeting and nose somewhat hooked." In other words he wasn't a Hollywood star look alike.

He didn't consider himself a 'super-apostle' but as one 'untimely born'. It was the Lord's direct intervention on the Damascus Road that stopped Saul in his tracks as he was on his way to arrest followers of 'the Way'. Saul who became Paul, was absolutely committed to God's call on his life. But he had to change his thinking completely. Not just to recognise that Jesus was the Messiah for the Jewish people but also (and for this he was regularly beaten), for the Gentiles too. And he writes: 'But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain'. I want to come back to that phrase a little later, but what of our Gospel reading?

Here the awesome majesty of Jesus Christ is revealed. Not in a blinding light on the road, but in the enormous catch of fish that the disciples catch, after they have fished all night and caught nothing, Jesus (not known for his fishing prowess) has told them to do what they would never do ordinarily and tells them to put their nets down for a catch in the day time.

On seeing the catch, Peter's immediate reaction is to say – 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man'. Peter was echoing the prophet Isaiah when he was called and given a vision of heaven when Isaiah declared 'I am a man of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the Almighty'. The Angel in Isaiah's vision flew to the altar and brought back a live coal which he then touched Isaiah's lips declaring him to be clean. Sometimes we need to confess our sins, but we do so remembering the promises of Scripture that as we do, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins because we rely on the shed blood of Jesus on the cross.

In Peter's case notice how Jesus responds. Not with 'you're right Peter' 'You are completely useless, you are a sinful man and so you can never be a part of my plan'. No. Jesus responds by saying what he says each and every time to those he calls. 'Do not be afraid' and then he gave Peter a commission in terms he could understand. From now on, Jesus says to Peter, 'you will be catching people.' Does Peter get it right all the time from then on? No. Indeed, Peter denied knowing Jesus three times at the

point at which Jesus was put on trial. But praise God after the resurrection, Jesus reinstated Peter and it all happens at breakfast on the beach on the shores of Lake Galilee. Peter and his friends had gone fishing over night. In the morning, when they were coming back to shore, they see a shadowy figure on the shoreline.

Jesus then calls out 'Friends, haven't you caught anything? Their dejected response 'no' leads to him telling them to put their nets down on the other side of the boat and again so many fish are caught that it became clear to Peter that it was the resurrected Lord speaking. Peter dresses, jumps into the water and goes to shore and then Jesus tenderly invites Peter to affirm that he loves him, three times to mirror Peter's three-fold denial of Jesus earlier.

These appearances, or 'Theophanies' demanded a response. And whether it was Isaiah, Peter or Paul, each responded to God's call in humility recognising that God is indeed Almighty and having said yes to Jesus, their lives were never to be the same again. Jesus called each of them to a particular task, but not to be done in their own strength, but instead, in humility, completely reliant on God's grace.

Paul said, 'by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain'.

What a wonderful way of putting it.

We must never think that our past has to completely shape our future, God is the God who transforms us and helps us. His spirit re-shapes us and gives us the strength, yes, the humility to walk hand in hand with him.

As Louise Minnie Haskins put it in her poem 'The gate of the year' in 1908.....

'I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year,
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."
And he replied,
"Go into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

Every blessing. Peter

Notices

Opportunities For Learning During Lent - In next weeks' notice sheet we will advertise groups and times for people to come together to do Lent courses across the churches in Mickleover. Ash Wednesday is on Wednesday 5th March.

Our Love Prayers & Sympathy – to the family of Jenny Joyce. The thanksgiving service will be on Monday 17th February at 1.30am following a private family cremation.

Our Love Prayers & 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.

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 contact Richard or events-stjohns@mickleoveranglicans.org.uk

A Pot Pourri of Words & Music – Our concert, with Afternoon Tea, will take place at All Saints on 1st March at 2.30pm. Thank you to those who have volunteered to take part. We have a varied programme of much-loved words, instrumental music, a comedy sketch and vocal music. There will also be a small exhibition of other talents, paintings, photographs and hand-made items. All performed or created by members of our congregations. Tickets are priced at £6 and can be obtained from Rebekah in the church offices and from the All Saints Churchwardens. We look forward to seeing you there. *Janice Toplis*

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.

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.

Brunch Bible Group Calendar – February 28th we will be looking at Psalms. March 7th, 14th and 28th, April 4th, 11th we will complete a Lent course. We will take a break then until 9th May. Please feel free to join us in the Link at St Johns on Fridays. Any questions phone Judi.

Christmas Wreaths – will be removed from graves in the All Saints churchyard at the end of February. Please pick up any that you wish to keep before then.

(Women's) World Day of Prayer – Friday 7th March at St Peter's Church in town at 11am. Followed by refreshments.

Thank You - for the beautiful flowers, card and gift voucher I received on 9th Feb in recognition of my time as Editor of "Contact". It was unexpected and very much appreciated. Joy Templer