

Welcome to our Churches

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



allsaintsadmin@mickleoveranglicans.org.uk admin-stjohns@mickleoveranglicans.org.uk

Sunday 9th February 2025

Services In Our Churches This Sunday

- Morning Worship at All Saints, 10am. Peter Walley will be speaking.
- Holy Communion at St Johns, 10am. Alun Rowlands will be speaking.
- Holy Communion at St Andrew's, 11am. Led by Peter Walley

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

Collect

Lord of the hosts of heaven,
our salvation and our strength,
without you we are lost:
guard us from all that harms or hurts
and raise us when we fall;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday's Reading at All Saints

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

Sunday's Reading at St Johns

Isaiah 6: 1-8, Luke 5: 1-11

Next Sunday's Reading

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

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 Link. We join with others for a cup of soup & sandwich followed by discussion on life, faith and a bit of Bible study.

Talk by Clare

Have you ever thought of making a bucket list? A list of once-in-a-lifetime experiences, you hope to fulfil. No matter how unlikely such bucket list items might be, they are things which we have control over, perhaps by prioritising time to a certain activity, or saving for years to realise a particular dream. In our Gospel reading we heard of the experiences of Simeon and Anna, who had faithfully waited for years to meet the Messiah. Their consistent faith in God was fulfilled when there was nothing they could do except trust in God to answer their prayers.

Prayer is central to our practice as Christians, yet we will all have experienced feeling at some time that our prayers have not been answered. These times can be incredibly challenging to our faith and can even make us question whether we should continue to pray. Accepting that we do not always have our prayers answered in the way we would like them to be or accepting that perhaps God has answered our prayers with a 'no', can be very difficult indeed, especially when they involve those we love. Trusting that God knows what is best for us and will remain alongside us during the most difficult times of our lives, can be a challenge. It is also something that those without faith often struggle to understand about Christianity. Our Gospel reading today is an example of trusting in God's faithfulness to us, that our prayers are answered sometimes in ways that we do not expect, and in God's time rather than our own.

When Jesus was taken by Mary and Joseph to the Temple 40 days after his birth to give thanks, the Jewish people had been praying for the appearance of the promised Messiah for a very long time. The Jewish people believed that the Messiah would be sent by God to save them, and as a people living under the tyranny of Roman occupation, they expected that the Messiah would come as someone who would literally fight to save them from this oppression. Jewish leaders looked to the example of patriarchs such as David and Joshua, who had previously taken the Jewish people to freedom and military success and believed that the Messiah would be someone who would act in a similar way. They were expecting a strong leader who would rise up against the Romans and physically drive them from the land.

Yet when Simeon and Anna recognise Jesus as the Messiah, he was not recognising a physically strong adult with excellent fighting skills who could lead an army, but a completely vulnerable baby. A baby who Simeon tells Mary and Joseph will one day be opposed, and 'will be the cause of the piercing of [their] own souls'. We know that will be the case, as Mary will know the difficulties experienced by Jesus during his ministry, and she will personally witness that most heartbreaking of sights: her own son being Crucified! Simeon recognises that God is fulfilling the promise of sending the Messiah in the person of Jesus, yet not in the way people expected.

Instead of being someone who will lead an army to drive the Romans out of Jerusalem, Jesus was sent to bring salvation to the whole world. Undoubtedly, God

could have sent a strong military leader to destroy the Roman occupation, which would have undoubtedly been wonderful for those living under such oppression and would have answered the prayers of so very many at the time; yet God had something even better in mind. God was faithful to the promise made to send the Messiah in a completely unexpected way: Through the sending of God's own Son, who would reach out to the most vulnerable in society; and teach compassion and love rather than uprising and war. Jesus would not overthrow the Roman occupation. Instead, he would bring salvation to the whole world through his death and resurrection, allowing each and every one of us to be saved through our faith in him.

Through their faithfulness, Simeon and Anna were able to see with their very own eyes the saviour of humanity, and the words of Simeon have been turned into the words of the Nunc Dimitis – The hymn that has been sung or said, during evening services since the fourth century. It is a prayer to be used at the end of each day as a thanksgiving that Jesus has taken away the fear of death for us all.

The words of the Nunc Dimitis, also known as the Song of Simeon are:

'Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :

according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen:

thy salvation;

Which thou hast prepared:

before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:

and to be the glory of thy people Israel.'

These words act as a daily reminder to us that Jesus was sent as a light to the whole world. As followers of Jesus, it is our responsibility to take the light of Jesus' teachings into the very darkest parts of our world. To bring light to those who live in darkness, and to provide a guide to the ways of peace. It is for this reason that today is not only known as 'The Feast of the Presentation at the Temple', but also as 'Candlemass', a day upon which candles are lit to give thanks for the light of Jesus in our world. It is also a time to reflect upon how each of us can act as a light to others in our lives.

Let Candlemass be a time to remember that even at the darkest moments of our lives, and no matter how long we have to wait for our prayers to be answered, God is faithful, and our prayers will be answered, just perhaps not in the way we anticipate.

Yours in Christ.

Rev Clare.

Notices

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 01332 493939 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.

Threefold Magazine - Unfortunately a couple of errors relating to St John's events got into Threefold's first issue. The cost per person for our Wine & Wisdom Quiz is £6, not £5 as shown in the advert, and the Table Top sale is on Saturday 22nd March, not 15th as shown in the magazine. Our apologies for this confusion. Also, in the table of deadlines, deadline for the June issue should be 16th May.

Bible Group Calendar – February 7th, 14th and 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. Any questions phone Judi on 07531495891.

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.

“The Bible Comes Alive” - at 12 Murray Road on Monday, 10 February, at 10am. Mark 6,53-end – A Turning Point in Jesus’ Ministry. All welcome.

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