

# Welcome to our Churches

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

## All Saints

Etwall Road, Mickleover,  
DE3 0DL  
01332 510446



## St Andrew's

School Lane, Radbourne,  
DE6 4LY



## St John's

Devonshire Drive, Mickleover,  
DE3 9HD  
01332 513363



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## Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2025

### Services In Our Churches This Sunday

- Holy Communion at All Saints, 10am. John Foxon will be speaking.
- Morning Praise with JACK at St John's, 10am. Karen Cowgill will be speaking.

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

### Collect

Almighty God,  
by the prayer and discipline of Lent  
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's  
sufferings, and by following in his Way  
come to share in his glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Sunday's Reading

Philippians 3: 17-4: 1, Luke 13: 31-end

### Next Sunday's Reading

1 Cor 10: 1 – 13, Luke 13: 1 to 9

### Midweek Services and Groups

- Mondays:**     **St John's Internet Café** 10am – 12pm in the Link. Free help with laptops, tablets, smartphones and other technology. Free Wi-Fi
- Tuesdays:**   **Prayers**, 8am at the Vicarage, Etwall Road.
- Wednesdays:** **Holy Communion**, 9.30am at All Saints, **followed by 'Be Still' course**
- Wednesdays:** **All Saints Café** 10am – 12pm in the Centre. Join us for friendly chat with coffee/tea, cake and biscuits. Everyone welcome!
- Fridays:**     **St John's Rest Stop Café** 10am – 12pm in the Link. **Followed by 'The Prayer Course'**. Everyone welcome.
- Fridays:**     **Brunch Bible Study** 12.15 – 2.30pm in the St John's Link. We join for a cup of soup and a sandwich followed by discussion on life, faith and a bit of Bible study. **We are completing a Lent course until 11<sup>th</sup> April.** Come and join us.

## Talk by Clare

This week we entered the season of Lent, that time before Easter where we reflect upon our faith, church services more muted, and when Christians traditionally practice fasting. Today, people often decide to give something up for Lent, such as chocolate or cake. In centuries past the rules for Lent were much stricter. From the 6th century Christians were only allowed to eat one meal in the evening, which was not allowed to include any eggs, meat or dairy.

I remember a couple of years ago being asked about the practice of Lent by a student who was at the college I was on attachment at. I explained that it relates to Jesus fasting in the desert and his temptation by the Devil, however, it is not simply about saying: 'Jesus chose to fast for 40 Days and therefore we will try to follow his example.' The temptation of Jesus, as this event in his life is known, is far more complex than that. Luke's account is focused, like much of his gospel, upon the identity of Jesus, and provides a pivot in his Gospel, between his early life and when Jesus enters the fullness of his ministry. Everything Luke tells us about these 40 days is designed to reveal to us who Jesus really is.

Firstly, we are explicitly told that Jesus was led into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit. Jesus himself is full of the Holy Spirit, because he has just been baptised in the Jordan. Some early Christians believed that after their baptism they would be helped by their baptism to live in an ongoing state of holiness, and God would take away their desire for sin from that moment on. As we know, baptism does not act like some magical switch turning us into perfect people. We are still human, and remain vulnerable to the temptations of the world. When Jesus was born, he was born fully divine and fully human. This is what allows to enter into a relationship with God in a way that was not possible before Jesus' birth. It also means that when Jesus and the desert and was tempted, his human nature was truly tempted. We can draw strength from the fact that the human side of Jesus was able to resist.

We are told that Jesus was tempted by the devil. Not tempted in the way we might say "I'm tempted to go outside to relax in the garden for a little while", or "I'm tempted to have a desert". The Greek word used, meant tempted with hostile intent. This is the devil tempting Jesus, knowing that if Jesus succumbs the result for the world will not be good.

The Devil first suggests to Jesus that he commands a stone to become a loaf of bread, combined with a torrent of "if you are the son of God". At the time of Jesus' baptism, the words "this is my son, of him I am well pleased", were heard. If Jesus succumbs to this temptation he would not only be taking advantage of who he is, the word of God would be undermined, by the suggestion that they had to be proven.

When this doesn't work, the devil tempts Jesus with authority over the world if Jesus will worship the devil. We know from the events recounted in the gospels, that Jesus already possesses the power to change things and undertake miracles, so what is the devil tempting Jesus with? This is another one of those pesky English Greek word problems! Greek had two words for world, one referred to creation. The other is *oikoumene*, which is what Luke used here. This was used when referring to a political order. For example, it would be the version word used to describe the Roman world, meaning the Roman Empire. What the devil is doing, is trying to tempt Jesus away from God's world of creation in return for political power and glory. Yet again Jesus resists, quoting deuteronomy and the commandment to worship only God.

Finally, the devil takes Jesus to the top of the temple in Jerusalem, the very home of God in Jewish tradition. Jesus is taunted, to prove who he is by throwing himself down from the top of the temple to the ground. The Devil quotes from Psalm 91, saying that if Jesus is really who he says he is, angels will appear and save him. Yet again Jesus resists.

The ways in which the devil tries to tempt Jesus are self-absorbed. Satisfying Jesus' human need for food, which by this time must have been so overwhelming; tempting Jesus with earthly status and power, fulfilling that very human sin of greed; and finally asking Jesus to even tempt God the Father to prove his love for Jesus by saving him from certain death falling from.

What the devil does not understand in the slightest, is that Jesus' very life, very existence, is not about fulfilling his own desires and needs. When the devil asks Jesus to abandon the greatest commandment of worshipping God and instead worship him, he completely forgets that this commandment (this core principle of Judaism and then later Christianity), is only half of a double commandment. The first half of the double commandment is to love God with all our hearts, with all our soul and with all our strength. The second half is to love our neighbour as ourselves. The love of Jesus, the very existence of Jesus, is so intrinsically wrapped up with the second of the double commandments, that when the devil tries to tempt Jesus to abandon God's divine power and worship him instead, he completely fails to tempt Jesus in the slightest. What it truly means to be the son of God is revealed – it is not about earthly power and greed, it is not about self-interest and desire, it is about loving God and demonstrating God's love in love of others.

This Lent, let us focus, not upon things in our own self-interest, but upon what will allow us to draw closer to God, living out God's love for the whole of humanity by actively living out our love for others.

Blessings. Rev Clare.

## Notices

**Our Love Prayers & Sympathy** – to the family of Jan Jarrett. The funeral will be on 18th March at 11am at Markeaton Crematorium Main Chapel.

**Rest Stop Café Extended Opening** - from 8.45am term time to offer drinks and pastries to parents, grandparents and carers after the school run. There will be toys and activities for small children. This will be a trial to gauge interest.

**St John's Craft & Tabletop Sale** - 22<sup>nd</sup> March 10am-1pm. Do come along and support this event. We have over 20 craft stalls, together with refreshments, books, CDs and jigsaws for sale. Book donations welcome, especially paperback fiction (please leave these at the back of church or in the vestry) and also home baked small cakes, tray bakes etc. (please bring these to cafe on Friday morning or after 9am on Saturday.)

**Helping at the Sale** - Help is needed please to set up, serve, and clear up afterwards. Setting up is on Friday afternoon from 3.15pm; serving on the day from 9.30am, helping with refreshments and assisting with the sale of books etc. If you are able to help in any way contact Joy Templer (515293).

**St John's Electoral Roll** - Forms are available in the Link or via Rebekah in the Vestry and need to be **returned by 28th March**. There's a box in the Link or hand them to a warden, ministry team member or Andrew Templer (ER Officer). We are also updating our GDPR consent forms. If you are unable to collect the forms, contact Andrew 01332 515293

**All Saints Electoral Roll** - Forms are available at the back of church. Please return to James Bowles or the office by Sunday 20th April.

**All Saints Pot-Pourri Concert** - Thank you so much, for all your work to make the event so enjoyable and, I think, a success too. Be really pleased with yourselves! Thank you to our lovely audience, you made all the hard work worthwhile! Thank you to our 'catering ladies'. We made a small profit of £189.02, which, on this occasion, will go into the All Saints 'Repair and Renovation' pot. There will be news of other social/entertainment events in a few weeks' time. Thank you again for your support last weekend. *Janice Toplis – Churchwarden*

**Our Love Prayers & Sympathy** - I don't know if anyone at St John's will remember Tony Chesterman, son of Frank and Frances Chesterman. Tony died on 4<sup>th</sup> March. He was vicar of Muggington but also vice principal of EMMTC and a significant figure in the life of the diocese over many years. He occasionally attended St John's with his parents in 1980s. Our prayers are with his family at this sad time. *Joy Templer*

**All Saints Stitches** – Will be selling their Easter crafts after the joint HC service on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March at All Saints for church funds. Cash only please.