

# 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

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## Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – Mothering Sunday

**Clocks go Forward  
1 hour this Sat/Sun**



### Services In Our Churches This Sunday

- MA Informal Holy Communion supported by Brookfield School Choir at All Saints, 10am. Maisie, Mickey and the other puppets will be taking part.  
*All Saints Stitchers will be selling their Easter crafts after the service.*
- No service at St John's this week.

**The service will not be streamed this Sunday.**

### **Collect**

God of love, passionate and strong,  
tender and careful:  
watch over us and hold us  
all the days of our life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Sunday's Reading**

2 Corinthians 5: 16 - end,  
Luke 15: 1-3, 11 - end

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

Philippians 3: 4b to 14, John 12: 1-8

### 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* 8.45am – 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.**

## Luke 13v1-9 Isaiah 55v1-9

Apparently, it is a long running joke on the BBC series DIY SOS that the person responsible for taking the detailed measurements needed to build bespoke cupboards or dividing walls frequently makes mistakes. These mistakes are usually discovered when the newly made cupboard doesn't fit its corners, the piece of work top isn't the right length or it is impossible to fit a bed between the door and the new wall. Always, despite the frustration that underlies some of the teasing, the culprit is loved and encouraged and allowed to try again. The mistake is fixed, and the measurer is given another chance, another project, another episode.

We are now roughly halfway through Lent. Maybe a good time to take stock. Did you make any resolutions on Ash Wednesday or even longer ago? How are you doing? By your own measure are you succeeding? Is it working? Or are you struggling? Have you given up?

In the Isaiah reading the people of Israel were in a place where they might have given up. Chronologically this reading comes late in the history of the Jewish Bible. The people of Israel have wandered as Nomads.

Spent time in Egypt and then returned to live in the Promised Land. They then split into two kingdoms and now the smaller of the two kingdoms, Judah, has been invaded and taken hostage to live in Babylon. They are a long way away from home and from the Holy City Jerusalem. They had been warned through the prophets and for several generations that their faithlessness and particularly their idolatry was going to lead to trouble but they didn't listen.

Now, in a foreign country, they are struggling to believe the promises God has made to them in the past. Everything has gone wrong for them. They are waiting for God to speak and then He does speak again through the prophet Isaiah. But these are not words of judgement. The people knew they had got things wrong and they expected that when God spoke His words might be unpleasant to hear. However, this passage is, instead, a call to abundant life to people living in slavery in a foreign land. These verses look forward and give hope. They promise the restoring of the covenant, God's special relationship with His people and, in particular, God's promise to His people that they would be a blessing to the whole world. The people are called to seek God while he may be found and to call on Him again because He has come near to them. God is giving them another chance and He is doing this just because He is God. They may deserve punishment for the way they have behaved in the past but that is not how God works. He is seeking them out with love and forgiveness. He is giving them a second chance not because they in any way deserve it but because they are His and it is in His very nature to love them. Here is a great invitation to return to God who is giving them another chance. To "return to the Lord that He may have mercy on them and to our God for He will abundantly pardon". Sometimes we are quick to condemn and find fault and we think God is like that too. Maybe we think we have failed too

and are concerned about what God might allow to happen to us. But God reminds us that He does not think or act as we do. God's ways and thoughts are much higher than ours. He is more loving and forgiving than we can possibly imagine.

As we turn our attention to the reading from Luke we may wonder if the Jewish people had learnt their lesson from the past or not. They had returned from exile, and this did lead to a revival of faith in Jerusalem but here, four hundred years later, the Jews are questioning Jesus about events in their time. Jesus, looking into their hearts could see the lurking judgement. Why were these things happening? Why were people suffering in this way? Indeed, the sort of questions we might ask today in the face of disaster personal or national. What had these people got wrong? Was God punishing them? Jesus responds with a story about a fig tree. It is one of those little stories about second chances that we can easily skim over because it really doesn't seem that important. If you are a gardener or a farmer you will know there is a limit to how long you can allow crops that are not fruiting properly to last. Sometimes removing them just qualifies as good husbandry. But here the gardener pleads the cause of the fig tree. Three years it has failed to fruit – surely that was enough of a chance in itself? but the gardener says “no” let us try again. Let us feed it and care for it. Let us give it the best possible chance.

Like the person taking the measurements for DIY SOS, let them have another chance but let us give the best support, the best tools, the best ground and let us see what happens then. Just one more chance but they need our support. And that is what God gives us. There is always just one more chance with Him.

The bible rings with second chances. It tells us frequently of the love of God. God will abundantly pardon. Again and again the Psalmist talks of God's steadfast love. Psalm 100 says “For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures for ever, and his faithfulness to all generations.”

It comes again in this reading from Isaiah. Of course, God knows when we get things wrong or fail to do things but His love is infinite. He is always calling us and challenging us to do our best for Him.

We tend to want to rush things. Particularly in this world of instant gratification when you can order today and receive tomorrow we can miss out on the fact that God's time scales are different. He gives each of a lifetime to come to Him and be saved by Him. He gives each of us more chances than we can imagine. He will place us in the places where we can grow and flourish. We need to do our bit of course and sometimes we struggle but He will always call us back to Him.

So let us take stock. It is not too late to start our Lenten journey to begin that movement towards the events of Holy Week and Easter. It is not too late to try again and let us also be kind to each other. Encourage and support each other as we continue this journey together.

*Every Blessing as we continue our Lent journey together. Rev. Mary Staunton*

## Notices

**Church Office Closed** – next week from 31<sup>st</sup> March.

**St John's Craft and Tabletop Sale 22<sup>nd</sup> March** - A big thank you to all who helped at this event— setting up, baking, running stalls and clearing away. We raised an amazing £808.34. Thank you. *Joy Templer and Richard Finch*

**CTM Prayer Walk** – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 10-15am. Meeting at Our Lady of Lourdes car park. This is the first walk of 2025. We will walk for about an hour, praying God's blessing upon the people and businesses in this area, and listening to God's Holy Spirit as we go. If you plan to join us, please let me know by email ray\_lee16@yahoo.co.uk, phone or text to 07766927539 Thanks Ray Lee

**Jan Jarrett** - There will be a short service to celebrate the life of our dear Jan Jarrett at 3pm on the 6<sup>th</sup> April at St John's. Those who were unable to come to the funeral service at Markeaton on March 18th would be so welcome to join the family on this occasion. Anyone who has a specific memory of Jan, which you would like shared, please talk to Paul Prichard who will be leading this service.

**Derventio Choir at All Saints Church** – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April, 7.45pm. Come along and hear some of your favourite songs from the musical theatre and the world of film, together with a host of other well-known melodies. £10 on the door, includes refreshments during the interval. Raising funds for Umbrella.

**Derbyshire Community Male Voice Choir** – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm at All Saints Church. Join us as we perform a wide-ranging repertoire featuring traditional male voice classics, sea shanties, contemporary pieces and some singalong fun. Plus, some terrible jokes courtesy of our compere! Tickets £10 (including refreshments) can be purchased from the All Saints church office or from Janice (All Saints Warden) from 12<sup>th</sup> April.

**St John's Flower Rota** - This year's flower list is available in church if you wish to choose a week. The lily list for Easter is also now in Church.

**Save the Date** - Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May Special service and bring & share lunch at St John's to consider the way forward for our worship and outreach at St John's based on the Everyday Faith agenda outlined in Peter's article in the March issue of our Threefold magazine. It is important that as many as possible of our St John's community join in on 4<sup>th</sup> May so, please get this date in your diary.

**All Saints Sidespersons Rota** – Is available at the back of church for completion please.

**All Saints Social Committee** – During refreshments after the service on 6<sup>th</sup> April, there will be a little get together for those interested in being on the Social Committee.