

Welcome to our Churches

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 18th May 2025

Services In Our Churches This Sunday

- Holy Communion at All Saints, 10am. Clare Owen will be speaking.
- Morning Praise with JACK at St John's, 10am. Judi Witcomb will be speaking.
Followed by St John's APCM

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

Collect

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Sundays Reading

Acts 11: 1-18, John 13: 31-35

Next Sundays Reading

Acts 16: 9 – 15, John 5: 1 – 9

Midweek Services and Groups

- Mondays: **St John's Internet Café** – 10am – 12pm in the St John's Link
- Tuesdays: **Prayers**, 8am at the Vicarage, Etwall Road.
- Wednesdays: **Holy Communion** 9.30am at All Saints.
- Wednesdays: **All Saints Café** 10am – 12pm in the Centre.
- Fridays: **St John's Rest Stop Café** 10am – 12pm in the Link.
- Fridays: **Brunch Bible Study** 12.15 – 2.30pm in the St John's Link.

Talk by Peter Walley

Acts 9: 36ff tells the story of Tabitha, some translations call her Dorcas. What do we know about her? Essentially that she busied herself by sewing and making clothes for poor people. She was known for good works. She died and her death would have been a sad loss for her community. But she is also named as a disciple of the Lord. In other words, she is a believer and a follower of the teachings of Jesus. She lived out her faith not in theological debates with learned teachers, but in practical loving service. I'll come back to that at the end.

But let us return to what happened. I think it is summed up in the phrase: W.W.J.D? (What would Jesus do?). In this section of Acts, Luke tells us that Peter was out and about meeting the believers in different villages. Just before this passage we read that he had met Aeneas who has been bedridden for eight years. Peter proved himself to be a good learner from Jesus for he does almost exactly what Jesus did. When Jesus healed the paralysed man he told him to 'pick up his mat'. Here Peter commands 'Aeneas, Jesus Christ is healing you, get up and make your bed'.

In other words, normal life can begin again. The miraculous is followed by the mundane (incidentally nowhere does it say that he had to do 'hospital corners!'). For that man, and whoever were his dependents life has come back in all its fullness – and he still has to make his own bed! (Good job Aeneas wasn't a teenager!).

News of this miracle had spread around the surrounding villages. It would be like us saying: news of the healing in Mickleover spread across the City of Derby. So naturally the news spread to Joppa. And soon afterwards Peter was sent for by the local disciples to go to Joppa, to Tabitha's house.

When Peter arrives, he is told about her faith, and the amazing works of needlecraft that she was doing to help others out but realises that her death was not going to be the last word. W.W.J.D?

And again, Peter does what Jesus did when he raised Jairus's daughter from the dead. He tells those who are weeping to leave the house, he kneels down to pray and tells the dead body, 'Tabitha, get up!'

She opens her eyes and he helps her up. What an amazing story again and of course what an amazing testimony to the power of the name of Jesus.

Miraculous things going on in very ordinary circumstances.

And this is where our Gospel relates to this passage in Acts. Jesus was always being challenged. "How long will you keep us in suspense! Tell us!"

Jesus retorts – “I have told you and you do not believe”. He then goes on to say: ‘The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; but you do not believe’.

Unlike the critics of Jesus, Peter had witnessed Jesus heal his mother-in-law from a fever, the healing of the little girl, Jairus’ the synagogue ruler’s daughter, the raising of Lazarus from the dead – to name just a few. And what did Peter learn? That Jesus simply, quietly and authoritatively issues a command. e.g. ‘Little Girl ‘Get up’, or ‘Lazarus, come out!’

How encouraging for Peter. He knows the truth, that at that breakfast on the beach he had been forgiven and restored to leadership and so under the Holy Spirit’s guiding, he can ‘do the things that Jesus did.’

I said I’d come back to Tabitha’s life and what it says to us: I believe she stands for all those unsung heroes and heroines who get on with what they can do best and are doing it to the glory of God.

Whilst Apostles and Evangelists go about making important decisions, getting locked up, stoned or shipwrecked, writing great sermons, generally being great and good all over the place, it’s those who faithfully live their lives devoted in prayer to the Lord who form the beating heart of the church, and I may say, it includes people like us, every one of us.

Don’t ever think that because you haven’t seen a miracle, that God can’t use you at all. God can use all of us for his purposes. So whether that be in sewing, stitching, cooking, gardening, laying bricks, painting walls, drinking cups of tea with neighbours, praying. These are all part of our joint witness.

More Lord! (and maybe a miracle or two?). Amen. *Peter*

Notices

A Message from Karen Cowgill - I was overwhelmed by the support and love shown to me as I was licensed as a Reader. Thank you to those able to attend the service, and for all the cards, gifts, and good wishes I have received. I would like to especially thank my friends at St John's for the beautiful flowers and generous gift. The encouragement and support of everyone throughout my training contributed to my successful completion of the course. I am looking forward to serving God and all of you through my new ministry.

Our Love Prayers and Sympathy - to the family of Ashley Littlefield. The funeral will be at Trent Valley Crematorium, Aston on Trent on Tuesday 27th May at 2.30pm.

St Andrew's – There will not be a service at St Andrew's on Sunday 25th May.

Ascension Day – There will be a joint MA Holy Communion service on Thursday 29th May at 7.30pm at St Andrew's, Radbourne. All welcome.

'Thy Kingdom Come' Prayer Breakfast - at All Saints with Bishop Malcolm Saturday 31st May from 8am to 10am. Signup sheets will be available at all the churches if you would like to come to give an indication to us for catering (continental style). Prayer journals, Novenas (book of readings) will be available from Sunday 25th May. To aid our prayers we will also be joined by Paul Brookhouse from Derby Food 4 Thought Alliance who will update us on the current state of poverty in the city. Our focus for prayer will be young people coming to faith plus the needs of the poor. If you would like to help at the event in any way, please get in touch with Peter or Clare.

Summertime Music with Harpist Eira Lynn Jones – Come to hear the magical sound of the harp from classical to traditional tunes and a jazz standard. Sunday 1st June at 2pm at St Andrew's Church, Radbourne. Tickets £10 from Diana Rose 07854809680. Refreshments available.

We Are Invited! - As part of their Community Action Week, Ravensdale Junior School have invited us to join them on Wednesday 4th June 2-3pm to enjoy tea, cakes and listen to their school choir. There is a signup sheet in the Link at St John's. For more information, speak to Alun Rowlands.

WE ARE BACK! - New Opera Company at All Saints on Friday 13th June at 7.30pm. Our theme this time: DISGUISE, DECEIT and DESPERATION! We look forward to seeing you then for more operatic and music theatre action. Supporting Derby Food 4 Thought.