

## 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 25<sup>th</sup> May 2025

### Services In Our Churches This Sunday

- Morning Praise at All Saints, 10am. Clare Owen will be speaking.
- Holy Communion at St John's, 10am. Peter Walley will be speaking.
- No service at St Andrew's this Sunday.

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

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

### Collect

Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed  
your call to your disciples:  
help your Church to obey your command  
and draw the nations to the fire of your love  
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

### Sundays Reading

Acts 16: 9 – 15, John 5: 1 – 9

### Next Sundays Reading

Acts 16: 16-34, John 17: 20-end

### Midweek Services and Groups

Mondays: **St John's Internet Café** – Not meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> May (bank holiday)  
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.

Love! What images does that word conjure in your mind?

Do you imagine the expression of a new parent holding their child for the first time or comforting them when they have fallen over and are crying? Does it conjure up images of one person caring for another during sickness, or thoughts of a couple on their wedding day? Is your mind drawn to a pet that has been part of your life for many years; or in the style of a card shop - do you think of hearts, flowers, chocolates and cupid with his bow and arrow?

Love is a word with such complexity of meaning, yet it is also a word often used very lightly in our society: “Oh, I love your chocolate cake!”, “I love your new haircut!”, or “I would love to visit (insert your dream destination here)!”. I am sure that when used in such a way, the intention is not to diminishing it, but how many times do we really sit down and think what the word love truly means?

One dictionary definition gives the definition of love as ‘An intense feeling of fondness or attraction, deeper and stronger than liking, especially when associated with a romantic attraction’. Another is ‘a great interest and pleasure in something’. Not bad definitions per say, but is that what Jesus meant when he asked us to love one another?

I do not think Jesus would in any way condemn us for taking an interest in other people? But what about those people who we don’t like? Jesus certainly didn’t tell us to love the people we like! The truth is, even as Christians, there will be some people we encounter who have vastly different opinions to us, with whom we share nothing in common, and who have behaved in ways we might disapprove of. We might even consider them to be not very nice people at all. That doesn’t make us bad people, or even bad Christians, it makes us human! Yet as Christians we commanded to love them, and how we relate to the people we do not like, does matter.

Christ’s love for us is so deep that he died for us on the cross and brought the possibility of salvation to each and every one of us. Only Jesus himself could express his love in that way, so that is not how **we** can show love for others, but it is far more than hearts, flowers, and fluffy bunnies. The love Jesus showed during his lifetime was radical, all encompassing, and actively sought out those on the margins - those rejected by mainstream society. The love of Jesus involved practical expressions of care (providing food and drink, and washing his followers’ feet), but it was also about not turning away those who had been rejected. The love of Jesus involved forgiveness and acceptance, teaching, and at times standing up to those he loved, when he believed they were in the wrong.

You may be aware that a row erupted in the USA a few weeks ago when the US Vice President said that there are hierarchies of love, and that we have a greater responsibility to show love to those closer to ourselves than to those halfway around the world. JD Vance responded to a tweet made by the former politician Rory Stewart (who was criticising changes to US policy about international aid) that he should look up Ordo Amoris, which is a Christian idea about hierarchies of love. There is indeed a Christian idea called Ordo Amoris, meaning hierarchy of love, and it comes from the writings of Augustine of Hippo, but it does not say what Vance suggested. The order of love Augustine wrote about was that our love should **first** be directed towards **God**, then to other people, and only then to other things. It is about putting God before all else and putting people before our desires for earthly things.

As Christians, our faith should shape every aspect of our lives, reaching out to those on the margins, and also living our lives so that the choices we make do not harm others. During training last week, we were looking at the current state of creation, and how changes to the environment will impact people around the world and where it is going to be very difficult to live by the end of this century if things do not change. Christ is at the heart of creation, and as followers of Christ we must act in ways to safeguard that creation. Loving others also means that if our actions here are impacting the ability of other people to live their lives in other parts of the world, then we are not fully living out the command to love one another. If we ever need a reason to sort our recycling, or drive more smoothly so as to use less fuel, then loving others should be motivation enough. We cannot change the world on our own, but if all Christians play their part, collectively we can have a huge impact.

So, my challenge to you is to really think about what the word love really means in the way that Jesus meant it, and if Jesus were alive today, who would it be that he would want us to reach out and demonstrate that love? Where is Christ's love needed in the world today, and how can we, as individuals, live out that love?

Yours in Christ.  
Rev Clare Owen

### Notices

**Elected at St John's APCM** - Wendy Lee and Michael Vick were elected as churchwardens for 2025/26, and we welcome Glynn Bevan, Susan Bevan, Barbara Lucas, Andrew Templer and Lorraine Mycock elected as new or returning members of the PCC.

**Elected at All Saints APCM** – Janice Toplis and Ian Nicklin were elected again as churchwardens. We welcome Joy Shooter and Mike Swanwick as elected new members and Christine Ward and Dave Chapman as returning members to the PCC.

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

**‘Thy Kingdom Come’ Prayer Breakfast** - at All Saints with Bishop Malcolm Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> 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) are available at each church. 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** – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June at 2pm at St Andrew’s Church, Radbourne. Come to hear the magical sound of the harp from classical to traditional tunes and a jazz standard. Tickets £10 on the door. Refreshments available. If you would like a lift to the event, please let Rebekah know.

**We Are Invited!** - As part of their Community Action Week, Ravensdale Junior School have invited us to join them on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**CTM Prayer Walk** – 5<sup>th</sup> June 10:15am. We will meet at St. John’s car park. Then we walk for about an hour praying for God’s Blessing on our community, the local businesses, schools etc. Listening for anything the Holy Spirit might want to reveal to us. As I am away Judi Witcomb will co-ordinate this. If you plan to come, please contact her at [tutorjudi@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tutorjudi@yahoo.co.uk) or on her mobile 07531 495891, so she knows to expect you. Thank you. *Ray Lee*

**New Opera Company Are Back!** - Our forthcoming concert on Friday June 13<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm is at All Saints. Our theme: ‘DECEIT DISGUISE and DESPERATION’ featuring a wide variety of numbers from Musicals and Operas including a Quack Pharmacist [Donizetti’s Elixir of love], a ‘Big Spender’, the shady ‘Mack the Knife’ and many more very suspect individuals. Book in advance £10 including light refreshments 01332 - 55096 or 882637 email: [jannice@read55.plus.com](mailto:jannice@read55.plus.com) or pay at the door.

**Messy Church** – Due to low numbers we are taking time to reevaluate the timing of Messy Church and our target audience. We will not be holding Messy Church until further notice.

**Our Love Prayers and Sympathy** – to the family of Jean Abberley, who passed away last week. Funeral details to follow.