

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

### Services In Our Churches This Sunday

- Holy Communion at All Saints, 10am. Ian Godlington will be speaking.
  - Morning Praise at St John's, 10am. Peter Walley will be speaking.
- Due to pressure on time for preparation it's been decided to postpone the special cafe service and bring & share lunch planned for 4<sup>th</sup> May for a few weeks. Apologies to anyone who has re-arranged commitments to make that date.*

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

### Collect

Risen Christ,  
you filled your disciples with boldness and  
fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your  
risen life and fill us with your peace,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

### Sunday's Reading at All Saints

Psalm 30, John 21: 1 - 19

### Sunday's Reading at St John's

Acts 9: 1 to 20, John 21: 1 – 19

### Next Sunday's Reading

Acts 9: 36 to end, John 10: 22 to 30

### Midweek Services and Groups

- Mondays:** *St John's Internet Café* – Not meeting on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May
- 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.  
*Resumes on 9<sup>th</sup> May*

**CONGRATUALTIONS** - to Karen Cowgill as she is licenced as a reader on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May at 2.30pm at the Cathedral. Everyone welcome.

## Talk by Mary Staunton

It is the evening of Easter Sunday, the night is coming, and the disciples are huddled together in one room, so frightened of what may happen to them that they have locked the doors. Barricading themselves in and shutting the world out. For us, looking back on the events, this may seem astounding, for should they not have been thrilled that Jesus was alive? Should they not have been rejoicing at the truth of the resurrection as we were last week? But if you think about it carefully, you will perhaps realise that what may seem clear to us in retrospect, was not so apparent at the time.

They had all suffered an appalling shock, Jesus had been taken from them violently and horribly crucified. One of their closest friends had betrayed Him. They had all let Jesus down badly and they knew that. They had all failed Him in His hour of greatest need. The Jewish priests and religious leaders had conspired against Jesus, the Romans were worried enough to have Jesus crucified. Perhaps the disciples thought they would be next to die. So, no wonder they were being extremely careful about what they did and who they spoke to. Staying hidden until the hoo-ha settled down was much safer. Keeping the door shut gave them security.

And the resurrection? Well that only added to the confusion. Jesus had chosen only to appear to women and they were considered unreliable witnesses by society as a whole. Luke, in his gospel specifically says that the women were thought to be indulging in “idle talk.” So, at this moment the disciples had a dead leader, an empty grave and a lot of women apparently talking nonsense. What would you have done or believed under the circumstances?

The whole situation is then transformed for them in a moment as Jesus appears among them – through the locked door of the room. Suddenly He is there, He speaks, He breathes and He shows them the physical evidence of His crucifixion. The evidence that proves to them that He is who He says He is and that He is not a ghost. He has a physical body, still bearing the scars from His crucifixion. And Thomas? Well Thomas wasn't there of course. It was not Jesus who called Thomas “doubting” this is something we have done to him. He only asked for the sort of proof the other disciples had received and he got it. God never minds honest questions about faith.

Jesus then speaks, saying three distinct things to the disciples - peace - receive the spirit - forgive. Firstly, Jesus greets the company with the ancient Jewish greeting of “shalom”. Shalom meaning not just a sense of wellbeing but also “completeness” and “soundness.” Together giving that sense of deep wholeness and completeness that centres us in who we are in God. Surely at that moment this is what the battered disciples need more than anything else - shalom, peace, completeness, wellbeing. This will no longer be a Jewish greeting for them but the hallmark greeting of the new church.

We of course greet each other every time we meet for Communion in the words of the Peace. It may be something we find easy or difficult. There may be days when we would prefer not to have to be involved but it is really important. It is a greeting with the deepest meaning and not to be done without thought. We are not just saying “hello.” In sharing

the peace, we wish each other God's peace, God's shalom. We are wishing each other that deep sense of God's wholeness and wellbeing that can carry us through both the good and the difficult things of life. And we need to recognise that we are also the recipients of the same greeting. We are also recipients of the peace offered to us. It is a point in the service to reach out to others, whether friends or strangers. A point to be reconciled and to forgive, before we come together to God's table... It matters.

And this peace comes with a purpose, Jesus gives them His peace – so that they can go. Go out of the room and the fears within which they are trapped. Open the door and spread the good news of His resurrection to the world. Over the months ahead the disciples learn to do this big time and by the time of our Acts reading the authorities are having great trouble keeping them contained in any prison cell. No threat will shut them up about their Lord and saviour.

The gospel reading then continues, “when Jesus had said this, He breathed on them and said to them “Receive the Holy Spirit.” In John's gospel there is no Pentecost 40 days after Easter. The whole story of the resurrection and the sending of the Spirit all happens on the one day. At this moment Jesus breathes His spirit, His breath on to the disciples. The word for Spirit is the same as is used in Genesis for God breathing life into Adam. The inert, unmoving body of Adam, trapped in its lifelessness *is* breathed on by God and comes to life. In the same way this trapped, unmoving body of disciples is breathed on by Jesus and brought to life as His body, the church. By giving them His spirit Jesus restores and recreates them. They are now a new entity, with new life and a new purpose and that purpose, quite specifically is to go and forgive. As Jesus has so obviously forgiven them. Although He does not actually say “I forgive you all.” But you will notice that there have been no recriminations for their desertion, no going over the past, no demands that they do better in the future. His very presence has changed everything. They know they have a new beginning, if they are prepared to receive it. His peace has made them whole and His spirit has given them new life.

And they are therefore sent to forgive others as well. They are to be a community of the forgiven, a community of those who practice forgiveness and, perhaps alarmingly, a community that has real power to forgive or not. There are many tough things we are called to do as Christians but this, I think, is one of the hardest. We know how much the world and other people can hurt us and Jesus says “forgive.” We see terrible things that happen to other people. Sometimes to those we do not know at all and we may marvel when they are able to forgive and understand deeply when they are not able to forgive. Terrorist attacks, murder theft, the betrayal of friends and Jesus says, “go and forgive.” Sometimes it is God or even ourselves that we find hard to forgive but still Jesus says the same thing “forgive.”

Jesus continues *“if you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven and if you retain the sins they are retained.”* If we retain the sins of others, or even of ourselves, we tie them and ourselves in knots. We deny ourselves and others their freedom and we give them too much power over us. But how are we to do it? If we wish to, how are we to forgive? Sometimes the only place we can start is by saying “God I don't know how to do this. Make me willing to forgive. Please help me.” And of course this is the right prayer.

Because we are of ourselves incapable of forgiving. It is God's spirit that will help us. The power to forgive only comes from God's spirit within us. The order of events in this story is deeply significant. Jesus gives His spirit and then, and only then, does He tell the disciples that they have the power to forgive or not.

So, these are the three hallmarks of the new church peace, God's spirit and forgiveness. And we receive them every time we meet in Jesus' name together but let us never forget this. These gifts were given by Jesus to free His disciples from the box they were in and specifically to send them. To send them out into the world and spread the good news. Just as we go are sent out at the end of every service, to go, to spread the good news and to forgive.

*May God Bless you and give you His Peace this Easter Season, Rev. Mary Staunton*

### Notices

**Our Love Prayers and Sympathy** - to Javier and Stephanie following the death of their baby, Leo Witherspoon on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April. Funeral details to follow.

**Our Love Prayers and Sympathy** - to the family of Ashley Littlefield, who died 29<sup>th</sup> April. Funeral details to follow.

**Our Love Prayers and Sympathy** - for Richard and the family of Mo Brown. The funeral is taking place on 9<sup>th</sup> May at 11.30am in the Round Chapel at Markeaton Crematorium.

**All Saints APCM**- The annual report and the agenda for the APCM on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May, are at the back of church. If you would like to stand for elections for the PCC, please pick up a form from the back of church.

**Our Love Prayers and Sympathy** – to the family of Colleen Yates. The funeral is on 15<sup>th</sup> May at 1pm at Markeaton Crematorium, Round Chapel.

**St John's APCM** - will be on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 11.30 following the morning service. There are 6 vacancies for lay representatives on the PCC. Please consider being nominated and talk to a member to find out about what is involved. Minutes of recent meetings are at the back of church and nomination forms are available in the Link.

**WE ARE BACK!** - New Opera Company at All Saints on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm. Our theme this time: DIGUISE, DECEIT and DESPERATION! We look forward to seeing you then for more operatic and music theatre action.

**St John's Easter Flowers** – Thank you for all donations towards the Easter flowers. The cost this year was £73.05 which was fully covered. Thank you.

**All Saints Electoral Roll** – the revision of the electoral roll is at the back of church. Please check your information is correct.

**Anne Stone** – Has moved to Derby Heights Care Home, Rykneld Road, Littleover. Visitors are welcome.