

Welcome to our Churches

www.mickleoveranglicans.org.uk

All Saints

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St Andrew's

School Lane, Radbourne,
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St John's

Devonshire Drive, Mickleover,
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Sunday 20th July 2025

Services In Our Churches This Sunday

- Holy Communion at All Saints, 10am. Ian Godlington 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,
You made us all in your image:
May we discern you in all that we see,
And serve you in all that we do;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sundays Reading

Colossians 1: 15-28, Luke 10: 38-end

Next Sundays Reading

Colossians 2: 6 – 19, Luke 11: 1 - 13

Midweek Services and Groups

Mondays: **St John's Internet Café** 10am – 12pm in the St John's Link.
Tuesdays: **Prayers**, 8am at All Saints Church.
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.

Luke 10v25-37

What is the right thing to do? Here this morning we have one of the best known stories that Jesus told (Luke 10v25-37). The trouble about well-known Bible stories is that we think we know exactly what they say. However, as with any Bible passage there are always lessons still to be learnt.

Here a young, learned, professional man comes to Jesus. He is not part of Jesus's normal following of the poor and disadvantaged. Maybe he wanted to catch Jesus out, but perhaps, despite all his learning, he still felt a gap, a need.

Somehow, he couldn't quite answer all his own questions from the law he had read. So, he asks, "Teacher what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Maybe he is being difficult and contentious, but maybe this question is a reflection of his own deep need. It reflects what he really wants to know.

Jesus, clearly takes him seriously and he asks the lawyer a question that plays to his strengths. Jesus asks him about the law. "What does the law say?" He asks. It is a good place to start with anyone, isn't it? Listen to their expertise.

See what you can learn from them before trying to teach them. Also, allowing people to ask their questions about the Christian faith in their own way is also important. One of the key things about the Alpha course, which we often run, is that it allows people to ask questions any questions about Jesus and the Christian faith however basic or unusual.

The young man is clearly a thoughtful person. He doesn't real off the 613 commandments in the law of Moses and the large number of interpretations available. He gets to the heart of the matter with just two commandments one from the book Deuteronomy "Love the Lord your God with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind" and the other from Leviticus "Love your neighbour as yourself". These indeed are huge commandments, the rest of the law hangs on them, and which of us has managed to follow them all the time?

That, I guess is what the lawyer felt. He was of course a man of fine detail. That was his job. The law was precise about what you should and shouldn't do. By the time of Jesus a huge number of definitions and explanations of the law had grown up. They often tied people in knots –if you do this and this and this you will be saved. The young man knew he himself didn't match up and Jesus's response did not help him. "Do this and you will live" says Jesus. You can almost hear the young man wailing "but I can't do this all the time". He wants to be told that he will be "okay". That he will receive eternal life and he isn't getting the reassurance he wants.

So he picks on the one word that might give him a let out. "Who is my neighbour?" he says. "My wider family, the person who lives next door. The people I meet in my job? Who is my neighbour?" And Jesus answers the question not with the law, or precise instructions but, as so often, with a story.

The story of a Jewish man set upon by thieves and those who would and wouldn't help him. The story of the priest and Levite who walk past literally on the other side and of the

one man who helps. We could discuss what the Priest and Levite might or might not have done. In fact, the Priest was going home after doing his duties in the temple. Touching a sick man or a dead body might have made him ritually unclean but there were remedies at hand, and he could go through the cleansing rituals once he got home. Levites were not in fact banned from touching dead bodies.

Both men were hanging on to the form of the law and missing the heart of compassion that lay within it.

Did the young man listen and think yes, yes, that could be me. I know well enough the penalties of touching the sick and dying. Perhaps he sympathised with these two men. Do we actually think they had a point? Could we say absolutely that we have never bypassed someone in need?

Then we come to the third traveller. Jesus's audience would probably be expecting the final traveller to be a member of the third group of Jews alongside the Priests and Levites – an ordinary Jew. The shocking thing about this story and the surprise to the original hearers is that the hero is not an Israelite at all but a hated Samaritan. To understand the depth of animosity between these people we only have to think of the present problems in Gaza and the West Bank.

So here comes a compassionate man. Not a Jew at all but a Samaritan. A man who just saw a fellow human being in trouble. He didn't stop to think. He just helped. I love Van Gogh's picture of this moment. (Look it up if you can.) Helping is never an easy thing, and Van Gogh captures exactly the great difficulty that the Samaritan faces in getting the wounded man on to his donkey.

Who, who says Jesus was this man's neighbour? and the lawyer gets the point immediately. Despite any preconceptions about people or even about what the law, which he knew so well, would have to say, he answers correctly. "The one who had mercy on him" he replies. Jesus looks at the young man and says, "go and do likewise".

Well, we don't know what happened to the young man and whether this encounter changed his life or not. Perhaps he felt he had his answer and went away and learnt himself to be a compassionate man. Maybe it was meeting Jesus, being accepted by Jesus and listened to by Him that was the thing that made all the difference.

Finally, I wonder where are you in this story? Who do you relate to most? My guess is that the priest and Levite were both, to some degree scared. Tied up with the law and tradition. Frightened of the man and what had happened to him – after all the brigands may still be about. Maybe we sometimes fail because we, also, are uncertain or even scared.

Maybe we need to learn new ways of responding. We can learn and grow, whatever our age and there is help available to us. We are called as Christians to be together and to help each other so that we may love all our neighbours whether they are part of our Church communities or are yet to come through our doors.

Every Blessing. Rev. Mary Staunton

Notices

Radbourne Summer Fete - Saturday 19th July from 2pm at Radbourne Hall. Teas and cakes, BBQ, beer tent, Rock Choir, bouncy castle, fancy dress competition, dog show starting at 2.30pm and many more stalls! This event is cash only. Everyone welcome.

Coffee, Clutter-Clear Sale, Crafts & Cobs – Saturday 26th July at All Saints Church. Come along from 10am – 1pm for refreshments (cobs served from 11.30am), car boot sale and the All Saints Stitchers craft stall. If you would like to hold a stall at the clutter clear sale, please contact the office (stall numbers are limited). Funds raised from the event will go to All Saints Church renovation and repair funds.

Our Love, Prayers and Sympathy – To the friends and family of Kate Thomas (Helen Walley's Mother), who passed away last week.

Our Love, Prayers and Sympathy – to the family of Melvyn Nicholas. The funeral will be on Tuesday 22nd July at All Saints Church at 1pm followed by burial in the churchyard.

Funeral of Maureen Underwood – The funeral of Maureen Underwood will be held on Wednesday 30th July at Markeaton Crematorium at 9.30am and then at St John's Church at 2pm, followed by refreshments in the Link. All are welcome to attend the services.

Peak District Mighty Hike – St John's churchwarden, Michael Vick is walking 26 miles on Saturday 19th July to raise money for Macmillan. If you would like to donate, please go to <http://www.justgiving.com/page/michael-vick-2>

Benefice BBQ – at All Saints Church Centre on 3rd August at 1pm. £5 per head. Please put your name on one of the sign-up sheets at the back of all three churches. Please indicate any dietary needs.

St John's Save the Date - the cafe style service and bring & share lunch postponed from May will now be on Sunday 7th September. Please keep this date free as it is important that as many as possible are able to take part.

All Saints Stitchers – Are in need of any unwanted wool, material (not upholstery), matching china teacups and saucers and small vases. These would be very gratefully received. You can bring them to Stitchers on a Tuesday morning 10.30am – 12.30pm in the All Saints Centre, or to the All Saints office during opening hours or leave them at the back of church at other times. Thank you.

Our Love, Prayers and Sympathy – to the family and friends of Tony Buck. Funeral details to follow.