

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 17th August 2025

Services In Our Churches This Sunday

- Holy Communion at All Saints, 10am. Dawn Perry 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

Gracious Father,
Revive your Church in our day,
And make her holy, strong and faithful,
For your glory's sake
In Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

This Sunday's Reading at All Saints

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16, Luke 12:32-40

This Sunday's Reading at St John's

Luke 19: 1 - 10

Next Sunday's Reading at All Saints

Isaiah 58: 9 - 14, Luke 13: 10 - 17

Next Sunday's Reading at St John's

1 Corinthians 4: 9 – 15, Luke 21: 1 - 4

Midweek Services and Groups

- Mondays: **St John's Internet Café** 10am – 12pm in the St John's Link.
- Tuesdays: **Prayers** - Suspended for the time being.
- Wednesdays: **Holy Communion** 9.30am at All Saints.
- Wednesdays: **All Saints Café** 10am – 12pm in the Centre.
- Wednesdays: **The Quiet Place** 10am – 11am at St John's.
- Fridays: **St John's Rest Stop Café** 10am – 12pm in the Link.
- Fridays: **Brunch Bible Study** Resumes again on 5th September.

Talk by Alun

In St. John's, through August, our theme is Giving in Grace just as All Saints did last year. Today, I'm looking at it more scripturally rather than from the practical side. Paul and Karen did an amazing job last Sunday on the scheme overview while looking at 1 Corinthians 15 verse 10 and particularly Paul the Apostle's words 'By the grace of God I am what I am.' Please see last week's Newsletter for a precis. So today I'm mainly concentrating on the James reading we used, James 1:17-25. Let's look particularly at verse 17, *'Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.'* I found a definition for 'What are the Christian means of grace' on a website called the Bible Hub.

1. In Christian theology, "means of grace" refers to the divinely appointed channels through which spiritual blessings, growth, and sanctification are conferred upon believers.

2. These means are rooted in Scripture, finding consistent affirmation across the biblical narrative.

3. By examining key texts and church history-including early Christian documents and archaeological findings-these practices reveal how divine grace nourishes and transforms the faithful.

Now I understand this is somewhat technical, but I believe it gives us something useful. I'm going to split it onto three.

1 Divinely appointed, that is it comes from God, for our spiritual growth as believers. And it's freely given.

2 So much of how it comes to us and how Old Testament characters, our Lord and New Testament Christians demonstrated for us the way to live is covered here.

3 This builds on number 2 by adding all the physical evidence found over the years to back up Scripture. We can add to this the many Christian writers since have added to the glorious mix of our spiritual development.

So, the headlines in our definition are about belief, Scripture and practices of people who have gone before us. Those practices are around Scriptural study, prayer and teaching but of course there is so much around serving others in the practical things of life we could head as Time, Talents, and Money the key components of Giving in Grace. I chose the James reading today with thoughtful purpose. We don't use James too much in our services, concentrating perhaps on Paul's letters. There's always

been much theological debate around the two. People say that Paul concentrates on faith and belief as the sole means of salvation whereas James writes that it's about what we physically do in the Lord's name. James 1 verse 22 puts it like this, *'But be doers of the word....and not merely hearers.'* But what does he mean by that? We do need to understand that this letter was written to the early Christians to help them to live as Christians. James' letter is not that interested in reminding us of what we believe. Or how we worship. But in how to live. It is a very practical letter, in that sense. James' letter is written for us who are already professed Christians and I suggest it's tremendously important. Because it challenges us to take the next step in our walk with Jesus, in our life of discipleship, and it teaches us how to do so. It challenges us not just to talk the talk, but to walk the walk. And then it shows us what that means.

James starts this particular passage by reminding us that every perfect gift is from above, from "The Father of Lights," as James calls God in this reading. Every perfect gift is from above, including the gift of God's Word. And before we can do the Word, we must hear the Word. We must receive the Word. The Word that comes down to us from above. We often use the prayer when we receive the gifts in our services *'All things come from you and of your own do we give you.'* 1Chronicles 29:14.

So that hopefully gives us helpful background to how we individually choose, within our ability, to 'Give in Grace' to be 'Be doers of the word....and not merely hearers.' I can't or won't try to tell you what to give of your time, talents or money. I don't know your circumstances, your ability, physically, mentally, emotionally or your financial state. It's definitely down to each one of us with our God to decide what we can offer. I will just throw it out there though that we do need to recognise that someone has to do it or it won't get done and all that might mean to the future of our activities and perhaps even the future of our worshipping community. Finally, though, please recognise that God provides in so many ways but in the main through us, his followers. But if he calls us to something he will equip us to do it. Yes, I used the word call and I need us to recognise we are all called to do something. It doesn't mean just to ministry of some kind. There are needs listed in the Giving in Grace brochure of all kinds and we can be called to do the smallest to the largest of them. The front of the booklet has in large font 'Our Church, Our Challenge, Our Choice.'

So, the challenge to each one of us is simply, what can you do, what can you give? However small or large. St. John's people, please prayerfully consider and fill in the form in the booklet and put in the box. All Saints and St. Andrews people, there are still many needs in your own churches so I'm sure you won't be turned away if you talk to your Churchwardens. As King David first said, 'All things come from you and of your own do we give you.' Amen

Reverend Alun Rowlands

Notices

Brunch & Bible Study – are taking a short break after 15th August. We will resume again on September 5th. We will be studying an exciting topic Spiritual Warfare. Please join us. *Judi and Ingrid*.

Brick by Brick Festival – at Derby Cathedral until 21st August. Free entry. Enjoy a fantastic variety of interactive activities, captivating talks and fun workshops. Suitable for all ages.

Sunday 31st August – MA service at All Saints, 10am. There will not be a service at St John's on this date.

Our Love Prayers and Sympathy – to Keith and his family following the death of Adrienne Godley. The funeral will be on Monday 1st September at Markeaton Crematorium, Main Chapel at 1.30pm.

Mickleover Singers - If anyone fancies joining this developing choir, rehearsals resume on Monday September 8th at St John's Church. 2026 will be special as we will celebrate 85 years since Mickleover Singers started as a group during the war.

Harvest Festival – At the end of September we will once again celebrate Harvest at All Saints. We hope to have church open over that weekend. This is an early request to save or nurture any Harvest/Autumn garden produce. Stop/think before chopping down before Harvest! Donations towards the cost of flowers can be left with Rebekah in the office or any of the 'flower girls!'. Many thanks in advance. *Celia Cullen*.

Thank You – from Joy Brandrick for the beautiful basket of flowers and the lovely card, (I never thought that I would see my name on the screen.) Thank you!

St John's Service with Bring & Share Lunch - Unfortunately the bring and share lunch planned for Sunday 7th September has had to be cancelled. It is not going to be possible to reschedule before Christmas given all our other autumn events so it is intended to look at our future plans for worship and outreach and how we can carry forward our Everyday Faith agenda early in 2026.

The Quiet Place - St John's Church, Wednesdays 10 – 11am. Come to be still, come for sanctuary, come to be listened to, come to give your problems to Jesus, come to pray.

All Saints Standing Committee – Monday 18th August in Church 7pm.