

# 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 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025**

### Services In Our Churches This Sunday

- MA Holy Communion at All Saints, 10am. Alun Rowlands will be speaking.
- *There is no service at St John's this Sunday.*

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

### Collect

God of glory,  
the end of our searching,  
help us to lay aside all that  
prevents us from seeking your kingdom,  
and to give all that we have  
to gain the pearl beyond all price,  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

### This Sunday's Reading

Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15-16, Luke 14: 1, 7-14

### Next Sunday's Reading at All Saints

Deuteronomy 30: 15- 20, Luke 14: 25-33

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

Philemon 1 to 21, Luke 14: 25 to 33

### 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.
- Fridays: ***St John's Rest Stop Café*** 10am – 12pm in the Link.
- Fridays: ***Brunch Bible Study*** Resumes again on 5<sup>th</sup> September.

## Luke 13v10-17

One of my favourite books by the Christian Author Adrian Plass is called “The Visit”. It tells the story of a church which receives a visit from its “founder”. The Church sets up a special service, they arrange meals and accommodation and a speaking programme and then the big day comes.

The church is packed, the moment arrives and then, apparently... nothing happens. Is He late? Well no, He is actually sitting largely unrecognized in a back pew. Thankfully, someone does recognize Him and He is encouraged to the front. He sits on the chancel step and requests a cup of tea and a sandwich. He doesn't stand up and speak. He chats to one or two people – but not the people you would really expect. Suddenly He leaps up and goes to the door of the church “What's going on over there?” He asks, looking at the local pub and he leaves, taking half the congregation with Him. When he returns an hour later, the rest of the congregation have gone home and he brings with him a lot of people who have never darkened the doors of the church before. They don't know how to behave at all.

And that is just the beginning of the story. Throughout the Visit the Founder proves impossible to pin down or program. People always come first, but even in cases of great need He doesn't always come when called. In the end, when He finally goes, He leaves people who have been healed in many ways. People who have had the eyes opened to the reality of God. People who are beginning to understand what He is really about.

It is a story, and one can see the parallels to our reading from Luke. Jesus is teaching in the synagogue on the Sabbath. That is fine. He was Jewish man and an acknowledged teacher, a Rabbi. He was qualified to speak and people wanted to hear Him. And then a woman – a woman note, considered to be one of the lowest of the low - walks in, bent double, crippled for more than half her life, and Jesus interrupts Himself in mid-sentence to go and heal her. He breaks a great many man-made rules and it isn't well received. As in the story we started with, Jesus did not always do what is expected of Him, or what the religious rules said he should.

What I wonder would you have thought? Would you have been excited by what was going on or frustrated that Jesus never finished His teaching? Would you have been worried about the disruption caused by this woman? Would you in fact have wished that Jesus was paying you that sort of attention?

Jesus sets her free. He says “Woman you are set free from your ailment” although it isn't specified what that was. Was it a physical disease or something else? What we do know is that the physical deformity goes and she stands up straight and immediately praises God. Free to stand, free to praise, free in ways we perhaps cannot tell. This is fundamentally a story about freedom. The woman was severely physically restricted in what she could do and even in what she could easily see – she was always looking at the floor. However those around her were restricted as well. Restricted by rules imposed by others or by themselves. Rules, of course, are not always bad. The good ones are fundamental to a civilized society and we see all around us what happens when the good rule of law breaks down and justice is denied. I can think of three types of rules, but you may be able to think of others.

There are rules that enable – we are only able to receive as many television programmes in our homes as we do because the broadcasters stick to their designated frequencies. This

prevents our viewing of a drama on one channel being interrupted by a documentary on another. Fun maybe, but over time viewing figures would drop dramatically.

There are rules that protect – rules about food hygiene for example and the protection of children and vulnerable adults. In Biblical days the 10 commandments and indeed much of the Old Testament Law was specifically formed to protect the weakest in society.

Finally, there are rules that restrict – rules we concoct for ourselves and for others about what we can or cannot do. Rules that may come from our childhood. Rules from our personal experience, those internal voices we hear telling us we should, or we must. We so often make rules for ourselves about what we can and cannot do but, as worryingly we make rules about what others can do and rules, unfortunately about what might happen in church. These are not laid down by the national Church or the Bishop but have developed in us over a period, things which sadly stop people returning to our churches rather than welcoming them in.

To give an example from history. We have thankfully stopped paying rent for our pews in our churches and although we take a collection people are free to give or not, as they wish. But just think how restrictive the old rules about pews would have been and the trouble it must have caused. Where was a visitor to sit?

What if you did not have the money to pay rent? and certainly the wealthiest would have got the best seats.

We always need to remember that Jesus came to set people free. John's Gospel says "you will know the truth and the truth will set you free". Not the sort of freedom which means that we think we can do what we like, but the freedom to grow into being the people God made us to be, the freedom to express ourselves in worship and service. The freedom to follow Jesus.

Jesus calls us into the wholeness of the children of God and that is what He says to the woman and to those around her. "Ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham... be set free on the Sabbath day."

This was quite a remarkable statement by Luke, the gentile outsider, and it isn't the only place he makes it. Normally he focuses on the outsider and God's call to them. But here Luke knows there was a whole inheritance that this woman was missing because others had excluded and cut her out from the place she was entitled to as one of God's children. She needed to come into her inheritance as a child of God. We also have an inheritance. An inheritance that God has promised us. An inheritance in eternity. Saint Paul talks about our inheritance now being "to live to the praise of His glory".

The woman went away healed and she and the crowd around her rejoiced, but what about the leader of synagogue? Well perhaps he also learnt something that day and found the real freedom God called him to. I hope so. The story is a vivid one and may speak to each of us in different ways because we are all on a journey, a journey to freedom and wholeness. We of course will not be complete and perfect until we see Jesus face to face but God calls us to change and grow and gives us the means to do it by His Spirit.

For some of us our life's journey will be harder and rockier than for others, but we will get there in the end. If you have a Bible to hand you might like to close. by being quiet for a few minutes and then reading this passage again.

*Every blessing. (Rev.) Mary Staunton*

## Notices

**Our Love Prayers and Sympathy** – to Keith and his family following the death of Adrienne Godley. The funeral will be on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September at Markeaton Crematorium, Main Chapel at 1.30pm. There will be celebration of Adrienne's life during the service at St John's on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September.

**CTM Prayer Walk** – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September 10:15am. We will meet at Mickleover Memorial Hall, Station Rd. 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. If you plan to join us please let me know by email ray\_lee16@yahoo.co.uk, or phone or text to 07766927539 Thanks Ray Lee.

**St John's Service with Bring & Share Lunch** - Unfortunately the bring and share lunch planned for Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Mickleover Singers** - If anyone fancies joining this developing choir, rehearsals resume on Monday September 8<sup>th</sup> at St John's Church.

**All Saints Harvest and Flower Festival** – on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September we will once again celebrate Harvest at All Saints running concurrently with Flower Festival. 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.*

**Advance Notice** – All Saints Flower Festival Friday 26<sup>th</sup> – Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September. Church will be open on Friday and Saturday from 10am-12noon and 2pm-4pm, on Sunday church will be open from 2 -4pm. Monday morning we will be selling the produce from the harvest from 10am with money going to Derby Food 4 Thought.  
*The Wardens*

**Many Congratulations** - to David Wells who this month has completed 45 years of playing the organ for St Andrews Radbourne. He has also made sure that the organ is in tip top condition throughout all this time and indeed it still has a beautiful tone when played. We trust David that you will be able to continue for a while longer! With warmest congratulations from St Andrew's Church family.

**Threefold Magazine** – The September edition of our Threefold magazine is available at the back of the churches and also on the website.