

# 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



[admin@mickleoveranglicans.org.uk](mailto:admin@mickleoveranglicans.org.uk)

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

### Services In Our Churches This Sunday

- Holy Communion at All Saints, 10am. Mary Staunton will be speaking.
- Morning Praise at St John's, 10am. Dawn Perry will be speaking.

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

### Collect

God of constant mercy,  
Who sent your Son to save us:  
Remind us of your goodness,  
Increase your grace within us,  
That our thankfulness may grow,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### This Sunday's Reading at All Saints

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

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

Philemon 1 - 21, Luke 14: 25 - 33

### Next Sunday's Reading

1 Timothy 1: 12 - 17 Luke 15: 1 - 10

### 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** 12.15 – 2.30pm in the St John's Link.

## Humility. Based on Luke 14:1,7-14

What's one of the most challenging tasks of organising a wedding? I reckon it's deciding who to invite to the reception and then putting the seating plan together. So many opportunities for upsetting people for what should be a joyous occasion. Of course, as Christians, we always believe that Jesus is there with us whatever the occasion and that's a lovely thought to sustain us. But in today's Gospel reading from Luke, it doesn't sound if Jesus was the most ideal house guest they could have had amongst them, does it? Mind you the Pharisees certainly had an ulterior motive to inviting him there.

As we know though, context is everything. Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem and faces increasing hostility as he travels south. We don't learn why the Pharisee invited him to a meal, but verses 12-14 suggest that part of the reason was a wish to impress and gain influence with their like-minded friends. This was normal at the time, when a person's honour depended on their proper reputation among peers. Our Lectionary, the set readings for a certain day, often throws up some interesting dilemmas. Today for example we used verse 1 from chapter 14 and then jump to verses 7 to 14. That leaves out the story when Jesus firstly arrives at the meal, immediately meets and cures a sick man much to the anger of the other attendees as it's the Sabbath when, according to their laws, no work must be done. I think that's quite important background to describe the atmosphere of the place. They are angry and even more determined to catch Jesus out. Jesus takes the lead in the conversation and challenges them both on Sabbath law when it comes to important things like healing people as well as the tradition on being seen to be the most honourable and important person in the room by expecting the best seats. Jesus points out the risks of being asked to move lower down the table as it could bring them serious shame. He stresses God's commitment to those who choose humility, as Jesus himself does.

Jesus goes much further. He criticises the host by directly challenging his motivation. His suggestion of inviting the poor and downtrodden instead without a focus on honour means that Jesus' suggested guest-list is radical as well as seriously offensive to them. In the next verses in chapter 14, 15-23, also not used today, Jesus doubles down on this approach by telling the story of the host whose guests refused to come. After this insult he sent his servants out to invite people from the streets to the party. This gets to the heart of God's kingdom when all are invited, and it gives full context to Jesus' earlier teaching.

The English New Testament Scholar, Tom Wright, gives us some useful background and context to today's Gospel reading. He writes, *'Within Luke's lifetime thousands of non Jews had become Christians – had entered, that is, into the dinner party prepared by the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Many Jewish Christians, as we know from Acts, had found this difficult, if not impossible, to understand or approve. They were*

*so eager to maintain their own places at the top table that they could not grasp God's great design to stand the world on its head. 'Pride notoriously, is the great cloud which blots out the sun of God's generosity: if I reckon to be favoured by God, not only do I declare that I don't need his grace, mercy and love, but I imply that those who don't deserve it shouldn't have it.'*

Essentially, our Lord teaches us to be humble in all things. Humility should be a characteristic of every Christian. To know our own sinfulness and weakness, and to understand our need of Christ, is the very beginning of the wider Gospel of Jesus. Humility has been a characteristic of many of the great Christians in the Bible – men like Abraham, Moses, Job, David, Daniel, and Paul all appear humble men. Humility is also something every Christian should have. We aren't all preachers, or teachers, or organisers, or youth workers. We can't all cook meals, drive people around, or give generously beyond our tithe, but we can all be humble. It is within the grasp of every believer. But so often it needs us to work at it.

How do you become humble? Well, I suggest the root of humility is us really knowing ourselves and our own hearts. We should strive to know God through Jesus, our ultimate role model, recognising his infinite majesty and holiness. And with the power of the Holy Spirit to empower our daily lives this should assist us to be humble. Our Hebrews reading today (13:1-8, 15-16) outlined just some highlights of the lifestyle of those who based their lives on the humiliating gospel of Jesus. I use the word humiliating as there can't be a much more humiliating way to die as Jesus did for us on that cross.

I believe humility works itself out in the way we treat others. As Jesus modelled for us, we should be living our lives to love and serve God and to love and serve our neighbours. We should be wanting to help those in need. Further, Jesus tells us that we should go out of our way to invite those in need specifically rather than wait for them to come to us. And He reminds us that though we may receive no thanks or appreciation on earth for doing good, our Father in Heaven sees all that we do. As kingdom people, we can take risks in caring for others without needing to worry about our status, for we can have confidence in God through Jesus.

*Rev'd Alun*

## Notices

**St John's Service with Bring & Share Lunch** - Unfortunately the bring and share lunch planned for today, 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.

**The Bible Comes Alive** - at 12 Murray Road on Monday, 8 September, at 10am. Luke 6,6-11 – Jesus upsets religious people. All welcome.

**Help Needed!!** - Our Flower Festival at All Saints will take place from Friday 26th - Sunday 28th September, and will incorporate our Harvest Festival on the Sunday. Sale of the fresh produce from the Harvest Festival will take place in church 10-11am on Monday 29th. We need stewards in church while it is open during this time. Friday and Saturday 10-12noon and Sunday 2-4pm. If you can give an hour (or 2) to act as stewards. Tea/coffee/cakes will be served during open times. The Churchwardens and 'The Flower Girls' will be very grateful. There will be a list at the back of All Saints on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September, please add your name if you are able to help. Thank you!

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

**Derby City Mission Annual Celebration** – You are invited to New Life Church on Normanton Road, DE23 6UU on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 6pm for a time to gather as a community, reflect on what God has done, and look ahead with faith and hope. The Annual Celebration is open to everyone. Whether you're a long-time supporter, a volunteer, a partner, or someone newly connected to our work, we'd love you to join us. Come and hear updates from our projects, celebrate stories of transformation and enjoy worship led by the New Life Church team. Refreshments available.

**Adrienne Godley** - There will be celebration of Adrienne's life during the service at St John's on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September.

**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 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.