

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



admin@mickleoveranglicans.org.uk

Sunday 30th November 2025



Services In Our Churches This Sunday

- MA Holy Communion at St John's, 10am. Nick Harding (Diocesan Safeguarding Trainer) will be speaking.

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

Collect

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the
darkness of sin to the light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

This Sunday's Reading

Romans 13: 11-end, Matthew 24: 36-44

Next Sunday's Reading

Isaiah 11: 1 to 10, Matthew 3: 1 to 12

Midweek Services and Groups

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

St Johns Christmas Craft Fair – Saturday 29th November 10am - 1pm. Lots of Stalls to enjoy, Crafts, Cakes, Tombola, Jams & Pickles, Books, Jigsaws, Gifts and lots more! Refreshments served throughout and lunches from 11.30am to 12.45pm.

Psalm 46 (Luke 23v33-43)

We are coming to the end of the Church's year and next week we move into Advent and begin to turn towards Christmas. We will hear the prophecies, foretelling the birth of the Saviour. The one who God would send to save His people. I find that I also spoke on this Sunday last year. At that time, I reflected on who or what we might be following. Today, I thought I would ask a slightly different question – if we are choosing someone to follow – king, politician, pop idol, football team, what is it we expect from them?

My guess is that somehow, despite our desire to make our own way in life we are still all seekers after something or someone who can show us how to live a better life. And maybe also, in a world full of increasingly fake news, we are still all seekers after truth. Today is sometimes known as the Feast of Christ the King but for most of us this is a relatively new occasion. Most of you will remember this as “Stir up Sunday” from the words of the old prayer for the day. The Feast was introduced by Pope Pius XI in 1925. In the aftermath of the First World War. He could see how fractured and divided the world had become. National Pride caused people to see each other as enemies just because of where they were born. To counter this the Pope wanted to stress that all Christians belong to one Kingdom, the kingdom of Christ. It is disheartening to think that many of the issues that were faced in 1925 are still being faced today. Issues to do with nationality and how we practice our faith still divide when God sees us all as His children with the potential to be heirs of His kingdom.

Psalm 46 was also written at a time of great uncertainty for the Jewish people. It resonates with us today as it must have resonated in the world of uncertainty in 1925. The Jews had just returned from exile and were rebuilding the Temple. They were constantly in fear of attack and conquest. The Psalm talks of God being our strength and refuge, a very present help in trouble. It reminds us that our God is not just a local God but God of all the world. He holds all things in His hands. We are safe, in the midst of all we see around us because He is God and He is in control. It is hard to believe sometimes, isn't it? We may be fearful of many things both personal and national. The risk is that we focus too much on these things and not on the God who created us and saved us. He is the God who is our refuge but so often we lose sight of Him by becoming consumed with the things close at hand.

The Psalm gives us an answer to these worries. It is twofold – come and see the works of the Lord. Be aware. Watch for what God is doing around us. Look for his work in creation and in our own lives. Owning His work in the small things will help us to see Him in the big.

And secondly – Be Still. Just stop and know Him. Know Him as Almighty God – expand your vision of what He can do by waiting and watching. He is King of all the world. Surely, He is a God worth following?

You may think that the Gospel reading we have just had an odd one for this time of year. More fitting for Easter than Advent or Christmas. So why read this today you may ask.

The answer is that the cross is what it meant for Jesus, the image of God among us, to be king. His Kingship meant that He came to challenge the world order, to lift up the poor and heal the sick. He was a refuge for those who came to Him in need. He challenged the authorities and ultimately went to die for us. So how does that make us feel about the claim that Jesus makes, to be our King? Does He even look like a King to us? He showed in His own life many of the qualities of serving and caring valued by our monarchy and yet, ultimately, He is a different sort of king. A King with ultimate, saving power.

In the reading He is challenged by the soldiers “If you are a King, save yourself” but Jesus knew that being a King meant death for Him so that others might be saved. Ultimately, He Himself is safe because He knows God holds Him in his hands as He holds us also. The soldiers do not recognize this type of Kingship but the thief hanging next to Him knows Him for who He is and pleads “Remember me when you come into your kingdom”. This thief somehow understood who Jesus really was. He saw that Jesus was a King of a very different and eternal kingdom – but surely a King worth following.

God sent Jesus to earth because He loves each one of us and longs to restore His relationship with each of us. Sometimes stuff gets in the way between us and God doesn’t it. We thought about those things that get in the way earlier when we said the confession, but we also heard that God longs to love us and forgive us. He has open arms to welcome us if we will come to Him. Ultimately, in all we face He is our safe space. In the Bible He is described as our shield and as a mother hen who gathers us under her wings.

There are many Bible stories of people being met by God when they in fear and hiding. David meets God in the caves. Elijah meets God in a cave on a mountain and, although He was not running away, Jesus sought out space and silence to pray to God. Most notably in the Garden of Gethsemane.

So, as we end this year with all its fears and tribulations and take our first tentative steps into the unknown let us remember that God is our refuge and there is a kingdom that is His alone. We see His kingdom every time truth triumphs. Every time the poor are cared for. Every time someone is forgiven. Every time true justice prevails. It may feel that Jesus is a long time coming but He is still here by His Spirit and is still working if we have but eyes to see Him and hearts willing to take up the challenge of following Him. He still invites each one of us to be His friend and to follow Him, as our King and Saviour. He is our safe place when we are deeply troubled. The refuge God offers may not free us from the world’s troubles, but it assures us that God is in the control if we focus on Him and we are ultimately safe for all eternity.

Every blessing as we move forward into Advent

Rev. Mary Staunton

Notices

Our Love, Prayers and Sympathy - to Janet Young, following the death of her daughter Dawn. The funeral will be at St Andrews on Monday 1st December at 11.30am followed by interment in the Graveyard.

Christmas Tree Festival – Sunday 30th November – 7th December at All Saints. The festival will begin with a carol service with Newmount Brass Band during the Our Mickleover Christmas Fair on 30th Nov at 4pm. All Saints Stitchers will be in the Centre selling their crafts and refreshments 3 – 6pm. The church will be open daily until 7th Dec to view the Christmas trees and vote for your favourite. See leaflets for opening times.

Our Love Prayers and Sympathy – to Michael following the death of his wife, Margaret Huggett. The funeral will be at St John's on Wednesday 3rd December at 11.30am followed by committal at Markeaton Crematorium at 1pm.

New Opera Company - are back at St John's on Saturday December 6th at 2.30pm. We have a programme full of seasonal favourites including several items for everyone to sing. Do join us. Tickets £10 on the door including light refreshments or from 01332557096 or 882637. We are also welcoming our new Music Director Morris Fisher.

Decorating for Christmas – We will be decorating All Saints for Christmas on Saturday 13th December at 10am. We hope to use greenery, if anyone has long lasting greenery it would be most welcome. Help is also very welcome, do come along. *Celia Cullen*

Christmas Carol services - Sunday 21st December at 4pm at St Andrews and 7pm at All Saints. We are gathering a choir to lead the music. If you have not joined before but think you might like to, please have a word with Stephen Johns at the organ after the service. It helps if you can read music, but it is NOT essential, we would enjoy some new members.

Reverse Advent Calendar – Derby Food4Thought have launched their reverse advent calendar again this year to be given out to families in need in Derby. Posters in All Saints and St Johns and lists of items needed too. If you want to find out more, www.derbyfood4thoughtalliance.org.uk. They would like donations to be collected and given to them by December 5th. Let's make a real difference this year. *Peter*

New Year Course - Peter will be hosting the Bible Society's Bible Course in the Vicarage starting on Tuesday 6th January from 7.30pm. The course aims to deepen understanding of the Bible and it is suitable if you're new to the Bible, just curious about it or you've been reading it for years. This is an 8 session, small group resource and it includes video teaching, discussions, a reading plan, a handbook (£10) and extra content. Please do get in touch with Peter, peterwalley@btinternet.com or phone him on 07725740407 if you are interested.

Christmas Bells Aren't Ringing - All Saints Church Mackworth is raising money to repair their wear and tear on their 400 year old bells, taken down after the 2020 arson attack. To support this appeal, a great local band UNTRACEABLE are playing covers from a range of artists at the Folly at the Farmhouse, Mackworth on 16th January 2026 at 7.30pm. Ticket prices £7 adult and £4 age 16 and under. Tickets on the door.

CTM Prayer for Mickleover - 4th December 10.15am in St. John's Link. During the winter months we suspend our prayer walks but still meet to pray. We will spend about an hour praying for our community, businesses, schools, etc. listening for anything the Holy Spirit reveals. If you plan to come, please contact me at ray_lee16@yahoo.co.uk or phone 239645 (answerphone screened), so I know to expect you. Thank you. Note we will not be meeting in January. (New Years Day!) so the next one will be Feb 5th 2026 again in the link.