

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 14th December 2025

Services In Our Churches This Sunday

- Breakfast Church at All Saints, 8am.
- Christingle at All Saints, 10am. Dawn Perry will be speaking.
- Holy Communion at St John's, 10am. Peter Walley will be speaking.
- Carols and Readings for Christmas, 6.30pm. Led by Peter Walley.



St Andrew's – There will not be a Holy Communion service this week. Join us for our Carols by Candlelight on Sunday 21st December at 4pm or on Christmas Day, 11am.

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

Collect

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the
way of your Son: give us courage to speak
the truth, to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

This Sunday's Reading

Isaiah 35: 1 - 10, Matthew 11: 2 - 11

Next Sunday's Reading

Isaiah 7: 10-16, Matthew 1: 18-end

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.

Talk by Ian Godlington

This time of year in the church calendar can be quite difficult for those who preach the word. During the church year John the Baptist shows up several times during advent and then during Lent. So, if you have to produce two or three talks on John during such a short time, and the passages are so familiar it is hard to inject fresh insights.

Now John the Baptist is quite an odd and puzzling character, until we start to pick up clues from the Old Testament. Firstly, John's taste in clothing for example.

According to Matthew, John wore clothing made from camels' hair, with a leather belt around his waist was probably like wearing sack cloth, which would irritate the skin.

If you look in 2 Kings chapter 1 verse 8, there you will find Elijah the Tishbite described as a hairy man with a leather belt around his waist. Another prophet with odd dress sense.

So now the enigma of John the Baptist begins to unfold. Strictly speaking John was a priest as his father had been. But God called him to go out to the Jordan River as a prophet, for John had an urgency to preach that the kingdom of heaven was close at hand.

In Malachi chapter 4 verse 5, you will find the prophet making it very clear how God will prepare for the kingdom.

"Lo I will send the prophet Elijah before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes". Powerful words I think you will agree.

Now John's choice of location for his preaching and teaching was a little strange. For John ignored the city of Jerusalem and the temple as the obvious places for prophetic utterances. John preferred the wilderness.

In Isaiah chapter 40 verse 3. There you will see God's promise of future hope when a voice cries out.

"A voice of one calling: 'In the wilderness prepare the way for the lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God'".

John was busily engaged in baptising the people by dipping them in the Jordan River, could John be the person mentioned in the book of Isaiah

If you look back into the book of Isaiah chapter 1 verse 16 it says, "wash and make yourselves clean, take your evil deeds out of my sight, stop doing wrong". The prophet here was instructing God's people to prepare for the coming of the kingdom, exactly what John was preaching.

John the Baptist certainly held a magnetic appeal to the ordinary people of his day. Matthew states that the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him on the bank of the Jordan river. There John baptised them.

John clearly developed a new and attractive ritual which he conducted in the full gaze of public attention. John spoke with conviction in the name of God. He confronted head on the spiritual and public leaders of his day, in fact he insulted most of them to their faces.

He clearly called for men and women to repent of their sins, he demanded that they all should re-evaluate their lives. In fact, he confronted them with the awful spectacle of divine judgement.

He pointed to a God who would separate the wheat from the chaff.

John having built up for himself such a high profile, suddenly pointed away from himself to the Christ. We often think of John being a signpost pointing towards Jesus, this was his divine calling. We can be signposts just like John and point others to the one who offers salvation, Jesus Christ.

John had a specific task to do announcing Jesus to the world and he put all his power and strength into doing just that.

The people were moved by John's words, because he spoke with authority. He spoke the truth. The message of Matthew's gospel can be quite difficult to hear. Repent for the kingdom of God is near.

This invitation seems gentle and inclusive, perhaps a gospel of repentance is easy to proclaim. Or maybe not.

Repentance means to turn away from our old sinful ways. A person who repents stops rebelling and begins following God's way of living.

John challenged people to repent and be baptised, they responded in their hundreds. Is there anything that we need to repent? If so, bring it with you when you come up for communion and ask God for His forgiveness.

God has given each of us a purpose for living. And we can trust God to guide us. John did not have the complete bible as we know it, but John trusted God and focused his life on the truth he knew from the available Jewish scriptures.

We can still discover God's word of truth by reading the bible and then allowing those truths to work in us, then others may see that work in our lives and want to know more, then we can tell them the hope we have in God, and in his Son Jesus Christ.

But we must let God know that we are willing to follow him in our lives today.

There are a few things we can learn from John's life.

We, like John the Baptist, need to have spiritual discernment so that we will not be deceived by false teachers and false doctrines. We also need to have a level of spiritual discernment which will allow us to see the truth about ourselves.

It will I believe keep us from trying to make excuses for our sins. Because God is not interested in excuses.

Let's face the truth, God is only interested in our true repentance.

John's message in his day cut through all the hype of a secular kingdom to tell the people to change their hearts and their ways and it is the same message to us today in our society.

In this season of Advent, are we ready to hear and heed the call to repentance? It all boils down to the life giving call from our loving saviour. We must examine ourselves and also our lives.

We have to repent because the kingdom is already here, it is with us now. We need to choose to be fully fledged citizens of that kingdom.

In advent we are called on to look at our souls and clear the way for God to reign in our hearts. If you think about it this fits in with the nature of John's message, a mission of preparation.

It is a beginning not an ending, our confession of sin and our heart felt repentance must bear fruit.

We have to point others to Christ, and his life changing, life saving work. Then and only then will we have hope.

This will be much better than the injustice, and the suffering and violence in the world we find ourselves in today.

And there is no better time for us to change than in this season of Advent, when we prepare to celebrate the greatest Christian gift of all, the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Blessings this Advent and Christmas time. Rev'd Ian.

Notices

St John's Christmas and Craft Fair – Thank you to all who contributed and assisted at our Christmas and Craft Fair last Saturday. A very big thank you to all who helped to set up and especially those who helped clear and return the Church and Hall to normal!! We are delighted to report that we raised £1656.81. *Joy & Richard*

Midweek Matinee – Join us at All Saints Centre on Wednesday 17th December at 2pm to watch White Christmas on the big screen. Tickets £5 adults and £2 children (drink and popcorn included). Come along! There is a signup sheet at the back of All Saints church or let Janice or Rebekah know if you wish to attend so we know to expect you.

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 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 or under (on the door).

Poppy Appeal – Thank you to everyone who bought a poppy or donated to the poppy appeal at All Saints this year, £29.90 was raised. This is added to the overall district total which came to £22,353.23.

All Saints Christmas Card – If you would like to add your name to the All Saints Christmas card, it is at the back of church and will be taken away after the service.

| Upcoming Christmas Services at our Churches | | | |
|---|----------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Sunday 21st December | 10am | Nativity with JACK | St John's |
| | 4pm | Carols by Candlelight | St Andrew's |
| | 7pm | Carols by Candlelight | All Saints |
| Christmas Eve Wednesday 24th December | 2pm, 4pm & 6pm | Family Carols | All Saints |
| | 4pm | Carols Around the Crib | St John's |
| | 11pm | Midnight Communion | All Saints |
| | 11pm | Midnight Communion | St John's |
| Christmas Day | 10am | Holy Communion | All Saints |
| Thursday | 10am | Holy Communion | St John's |
| 25th December | 11am | Holy Communion | St Andrew's |