

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 18th January 2026

Services In Our Churches This Sunday

- Holy Communion at All Saints, 10am. John Foxon will be speaking.
- Morning Praise with JACK at St John's, 10am. Karen Cowgill will be speaking.
- United Service: Holy Communion with Methodist Covenant Prayer at Mickleover Methodist Church, 6.30pm. *Part of Christian Unity Week.*

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

Collect

Eternal God,
our beginning and our end:
bring us with the whole creation
to your glory, hidden through past ages
and made known
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

This Sunday's Reading

1 Corinthians 1: 1-9, John 1: 29 - 42

Next Sunday's Reading

1 Corinthians 1: 10-18,
Matthew 4: 12-23

Midweek Services and Groups

Mondays **St John's Internet Café** 10am – 12pm in 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.

Baptism of Christ. Isaiah 42:1-9. Matthew 3:13-17

The words that stood out for me from the Matthew reading are: *And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I'm well pleased.'* These very words take us right back to around 680BC and our first reading from Isaiah. The first verse used words given to the prophet. *'Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.'* In this Isaiah reading we have a road map of what Jesus came to do and therefore the way we who claim to follow him must attempt to live out our lives. It's the first part of four sections together known as Isaiah's "Servant Songs." The other songs for your homework are found in chapters 49, 50, and 52-53. Together these songs serve as a prophetic glimpse into the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, the ultimate servant of the Lord. The songs are set in a time of exile and darkness for the people of Israel. They had been taken captive by the Babylonians and were longing for deliverance and restoration. God uses Isaiah to prophesy to coming hope by revealing God's plan to send a servant who will bring justice and light to the nations.

I said, verse 1 begins with the words, *"Here is my servant, whom I uphold."* The term "servant" is significant, as it evokes the idea of humility, obedience, and devotion to God's purpose which Jesus faithfully worked out as he served God's people. History gives us so many other examples of people who tried to do the same with God's power. Just a few examples from the Old Testament are Moses, Isaiah himself and David and the New Testament gives us the Apostles, Paul etc. and of course there have been many more people since too which I'm sure we can all think about. The passage goes on to describe the servant as one in whom God's soul delights. This points to the divine approval and pleasure that God takes in His chosen one. Subsequent verses emphasise how the servant will operate in the world. We read he will 'not cry aloud or lift up his voice in the street.' This emphasizes the servant's gentle and humble nature. Jesus' healed and taught with compassion and gentleness, not seeking public acclaim. We heard that a 'bruised reed that the servant will not break, and a faintly burning wick that he will not quench.' This describes the servant's compassion and care for the weak and vulnerable which Jesus demonstrated throughout His ministry by reaching out to those who were broken and marginalized. Further we are told that the servant 'will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice on the earth.' The Gospel accounts are full of Jesus continuously challenging adversity. Behind everything of course is always God, the Creator of the heavens and the earth and the passage underlines this divine authority and sovereignty.

This thought continues by Isaiah emphatically stating that 'God's glory and His name He will not give to another.' This reaffirms the unique and divine nature of God and emphasizes that the servant, while exalted, is not a rival deity but an instrument of God's purposes. This truth aligns with Jesus' declaration that He and the Father are

one. And then the last verse, verse 9, tells us that God's authority is the One 'who knows the end from the beginning.' The fulfilment of these prophecies in Jesus Christ demonstrates the divine foresight and sovereignty of God. Surely as we reflect on these powerful verses from Isaiah 42:1-9 we can't fail to appreciate a portrait of the servant of the Lord, a figure whose mission and qualities find their ultimate fulfilment in Jesus Christ. We are invited to recognise and embrace the divine purpose, compassion, and authority of our Saviour Jesus Christ and to join in declaring His praise to the ends of the earth.

So, what lessons should we take away from today. Well, God has a plan and purpose for every individual. Just as God chose and delighted in his servant, he also has chosen and delights in each one of us. We are called to fulfil the purpose he has for our lives. God's power is available to us through the Holy Spirit. He will equip and empower us for the work He has called us to do. Justice and righteousness are essential. As followers of Christ, we are called to promote justice and righteousness in our actions and interactions with others. God's salvation is for all nations. We are called to share the message of love and salvation with everyone we encounter. God's faithfulness and sovereignty. We can trust in his faithfulness and sovereignty, knowing that he will always fulfil his plans and purposes.

God bless. Alun

Notices

Our Love Prayers & Sympathy – to the family of Muriel Burton who passed away on 1st December following a brief illness.

All Saints Christmas Carols – This year at the Christmas Eve Carol services £1166.64 was raised for Derby Food 4 Thought. Thank you to everyone who came and donated.

Christmas Card Appeal – Thank you to those who donated towards the Christmas card appeal at St John's. The charity this year was The Children's Society. £147.50 was raised.

Vicarage Home Group – started 14th January at 7.30 - 9pm and will meet for 6 sessions, every two weeks until 25th March. We will be looking at the topic '**Struggling with Judgement**'. Many have questions about how a God of love can be a God of judgement, particularly as we read the Old Testament? If this is a question you have, or struggle with like me, then please come and join this informal and friendly group. Meeting at The Vicarage, Etwall Road, Mickleover DE3 0DL. Helen Walley (contact through the church office)

Our Love Prayers & Sympathy – to the family of John Roper. Funeral details to follow.

Brunch and Bible Study - Due to the diminished numbers we are discontinuing the Brunch and Bible Study at St John's on a Friday. We hope to do something during Lent, but it will be at a different time and day.

Beetle Drive – Saturday 24th January 2026 at All Saints Centre, 6.30pm. Come along for various refreshments and friendly competition. Tickets £5 speak to Janice or Rebekah for more information.

Our Love Prayers & Sympathy – to Celia Cullen following the death of her mother Mary Lofthouse. The funeral will be on Tuesday 27th January at 1.30pm at Markeaton Crematorium, main chapel.

Midweek Matinee – Wednesday 28th January at 2pm All Saints Centre. This month's film is 'Calendar Girls'. Tickets £5 adults and £2 children (drink and popcorn included).

Our Love Prayers & Sympathy – to the family of Norah Appleby MBE. The Thanksgiving service will be at Mickleover Methodist Church on Friday 30th January at 11am. Parking is limited, please walk or take the bus if you are able to do so.

Paint a Pot – Sunday 1st February at St John's Church Hall, 2pm. We have a range of pots to paint from children's money boxes to trinket boxes and mugs. All the materials are provided and refreshments. Suitable for all ages. Come and join us!

Our Love Prayers & Sympathy – to the family of Marion Fogg. The funeral will be on Wednesday 4th February at 3pm at Markeaton Crematorium, Round Chapel.

Our Love Prayers & Sympathy – to Eileen and her family following the death of Peter Wade. The funeral will be on 9th February at midday at All Saints Church.

Men's Breakfast - Following the successful Church Ladies night out at the end of last year, I thought it might be a good idea for the church men to also have a time out. I wondered about a breakfast at the Great Northern one Saturday in the next month or so. To co-ordinate, I want to set up a WhatsApp group so we can sort out the best date, but I would need everyone's mobile number for that. If you are interested, please let me have your name and mobile number. I am on 07504041046 or mikesooter@hotmail.co.uk

Afternoon Tea & Concert – A Pot-Pourri of words and music on Saturday 28th February at 2.30pm at All Saints Church. Showcasing the wealth of talent among our three churches across all ages. Tickets £5 available on the door or in advance from the office, profit going to All Saints Church. If you would like to take part, please let Janice or Rebekah know by 14th February.