

Welcome to our Churches

www.mickleoveranglicans.org.uk

All Saints

Etwall Road, Mickleover,
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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 1st February 2026

Services In Our Churches This Sunday

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

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

Collect

God of heaven, you send the gospel
to the ends of the earth
and your messengers to every nation:
send your Holy Spirit to transform us
by the good news of everlasting life
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

This Sunday's Reading

1 Cor 1: 18 to end, John 2: 1 to 11

Next Sunday's Reading

Rom 8: 18 to 25, Matthew 6: 25 to end

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.

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!

Readings: 1 Cor 1: 10 – 18, Matt4: 12 - 23

If I use the word 'Belonging' what words spring to your mind?

A dictionary definition that I found is this: **'Belonging is a feeling of being happy or comfortable as part of a particular group and having a good relationship with the other members of the group because they welcome you and accept you and you welcome and accept them: A sense of belonging I think you would agree is one of humanity's most basic needs.**

Unfortunately, in many places across the world today and in our own communities, that sense of belonging is being challenged by difference. The church of Jesus Christ had to face many of the same issues that affect us today. Different people coming together from very different backgrounds with all the challenges that brings in terms of creating a shared identity. The 'raising of the flags' is just the latest signal that all is not well in terms of community cohesion.

In the first part of this first chapter that we heard last week, Paul reminded the new church that in believing in Jesus: they have already received the grace of God; he tells them that that there will be a day called 'the day of our Lord Jesus Christ' when all things will be put right and; that in the mean time they have been called into fellowship with each other in Jesus Christ. You can sum this up by saying that as Christians we need to: know who we are; know what God is doing; and recognise that in Christ **we are all one.**

But, in these verses that follow that we have heard this morning, Paul has to address the age-old problem that has infected the church from the very beginning: conflict. Some people say, "wouldn't it be marvellous if we could get back to being like the early church?" as if the early church enjoyed a pure untroubled honeymoon in those first decades. The evidence is the opposite. You cannot really imagine that so soon after the church was founded, people were moving apart.

Back in 1991, Helen and I were part of a group that was charged with planting a new church in a school in the New Territories in Hong Kong. The Committee had not just Anglicans but people from other protestant backgrounds. Some were quite strident in their doctrine that they felt they couldn't compromise on, so some early planning meetings were a bit tense. But then I remembered back a further 9 years to the time when I was in London and I was staying with the Pastor John and his wife Doreen of a new church based in Kentish Town. The pastor and his wife were older, but they had drawn alongside them some younger leaders. But one thing they said to me was that the leaders had covenanted to only do new things if they were all in prayerful agreement.

So, having brought this memory to mind in Hong Kong, as a committee we agreed that we would adopt the same principle. I think in those early days that was what held the new church together. Shatin Anglican Church was formed and by the time we left in 1996 had over 40 nationalities worshipping together.

The context to this letter is that Paul isn't any longer in Corinth, having moved on to

Ephesus after spending several years building up the new church but he has learned from some of Chloe's Household (vs 11) that since he left, the church had split into factions (vs 12): 'I follow Paul! I follow Apollos! I follow Cephas (Peter)! I follow Christ!'

Apollos had arrived from Alexandria, and he was a great speaker. Reading between the lines of the New Testament, Paul wasn't. Luke records an incident when a young man called Eutychus fell asleep and fell out of an upstairs window because 'Paul was going on and on' (Acts 20: 9).

It is such a human temptation to prefer one leader over another. Of-course we all have our preferences which come for a variety of different reasons and when there are different leaders working alongside one another, we make comparisons. But a team that works well and values the different gifts each brings is a gift to the Church. It has been a real joy to be able to facilitate the development of the team that serves both All Saints and St Johns and now St Andrews as well over these past 14 years. But if our preferences lead us to take things a step further and seek to forment division, then Paul tells us in no uncertain terms that we are out of order.

Why is our unity so important? **Because it reflects the unity between God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit – three persons, one God.**

The Devil loves it when we as Christians fall out because our witness is compromised. In John's gospel, in the upper room, right after Judas had left to betray him, Jesus said to the rest of his disciples:

Jn 13:34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Jesus had to make sure that the rest of the disciples were clear that loving one another is basic to being a disciple, it is basic to human relationships, it is basic to our relationship with God, and it is basic to relationships within the Church. It is basic to the flourishing of wider society.

If you ask my son's generation what is the greatest sin, they would say 'discrimination'. They may well be right, but for the gospel to have any force today, or our witness any acceptance, we have to start right where Jesus started – by treating others with whom we disagree with dignity and love.

Notices

Matt Barnes Visit to St John's - we are pleased to welcome Revd Canon Matt Barnes to be our speaker at St Johns this morning. Matt is Director of Mission, Evangelisation and Parish Revitalisation for the Diocese of Derby. Matt will be giving us pointers as to what we need to be thinking about in terms of praying for our future. We hope as many of the St Johns fellowship will be able to come. Peter

All Saints Car Park - an area of the car park has been roped off following strong winds on Monday night. A major branch is hanging on a thread from the Atlas Cedar Tree. A tree surgeon will be coming next week. Parking in our car park will be limited on Sunday morning. As soon as the work is done, the cordon will be removed. *The Wardens*

All Saints Stickers – Will be selling their items during the All Saints Café on Wednesday 4th February 10am – 12pm and St John's Rest Stop Café on 20th February 10am – 12pm. There will be some half price items and also their Easter crafts.

CTM Prayer for Mickleover - 5th February 10:15am in St John's Link. During the winter months we suspend our prayer walks but still meet to pray for our community. 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. *Ray Lee*

Prayer Exhibition during Lent - We are planning to put up a display about Prayer in the Link during Lent. Please share any inspirational quotes, thoughts, images or familiar and favourite prayers with us. Deadline for material is Friday 13th February. We may not use everything but are hoping to include as much as we can. *Alun Rowlands and Joy Templer*

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.

Our Love Prayers and Sympathy to the families of:

- **Marion Fogg** – the funeral will be on 4th February at 3pm at Markeaton Crematorium, Round Chapel.
- **Peter Wade** – the funeral will be on 9th February at 12pm at All Saints Church.
- **John Godfrey** – the funeral will be on 17th February at All Saints Church at 1pm followed by committal at Nottingham Road Cemetery.
- **Jeremy Allum** – The funeral will be on 6th February at the Cathedral.

Margaret's Funeral – Thank you to all of you, who came and made it a memorable occasion. You gave £653 to Margaret's favourite charities, Marie Curie Nurses and The Children's Society. Thank you. *Michael Huggett*

Beetle Drive – Thank you to all those who came and supported the Beetle Drive at All Saints last week, it was a very enjoyable evening. Thank you to Joyce for organising and running the event.