

# 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



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**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

### Services In Our Churches This Sunday

- Breakfast Church at All Saints, 8am.
- Holy Communion at All Saints, 10am. Ian Godlington will be speaking.
- Morning Praise with JACK at St John's, 10am. Karen Cowgill will be speaking.

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

### Collect

Holy God, you know the disorder  
of our sinful lives:  
set straight our crooked hearts, and  
bend our wills to love your goodness  
and your glory  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### This Sunday's Reading

2 Peter 1: 16 - end Matthew 17: 1 - 9

### Next Sunday's Reading

Romans 5: 12 – 19, Matthew 4: 1 - 11

### 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.

**‘Love will have the final word’ - “In this world you will have trouble but be brave! I have defeated the world.” John 16.33**

We are all fully aware of the concerns and challenges that our friends and family are facing at present. It may be illness, strife in families, cost of living challenges, or an abhorrence to the wars and unspeakable cruelty which we see in the media every day. Today’s readings confront this subject head on! So, the question often raised is why does God allow suffering and evil in this beautiful world and the incredibly amazing people He has created? It isn’t just a sceptics question. It belongs just as much to believers. Faith doesn’t exempt us from asking it, we are often the ones who struggle hardest when the world seems to contradict what we believe about Him. The questions are asked in sitting rooms, hospital wards and at funerals. It comes to us in the middle of the night when sleep won’t come and to people who continue to worship even when they have breaking hearts.

Scripture doesn’t shy away from it. The Psalms are filled with cries of confusion and protest. The prophets speak honestly about injustice. Jesus, hanging on the cross, says: **“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”** That cry matters. It tells us that the question of suffering is not a rebellion against God. It is not a failure of faith. It is part of the human condition, and God doesn’t forbid it.

This is where we struggle. If God is all loving, why doesn’t He act? I have thought that numerous times over Gaza, Ukraine, Iran. These questions reach into the character of God Himself. The Bible describes evil as a force that corrupts, destroys, and deceives. Creation itself, Paul tells us, groans under its weight. Bodies fail through incurable illnesses. Children get Cancer, many die young. Relationships breakdown. Justice causes some to be punished when innocent.

Yet Scripture is equally clear that evil devours God’s wonderful creation and twists it from its intended purpose. Genesis describes the world as GOOD, so, it’s not part of God’s design. We attempt to solve evil as though it were a puzzle, we look for explanations. But it is not a mathematical or scientific problem. We aren’t given an easy way to solve it. But, given a story which at the centre stands a cross. At Calvary, God doesn’t distance himself from human pain or offer immunity from suffering; He shares it. So, as God suffers, we can’t say He doesn’t care. Evil isn’t restricted to violence and injustice, it’s also seen in fear, selfishness, resentment, and despair. The Bible never minimises it. It distorts what is good and destroys so much.

The question isn’t whether God created evil, but how evil began. It came from the misuse of freedom. God didn’t create us as robots, but people with freewill, because **‘Love that is real requires choice.’** God created us to love, and capable of rejection. Without freedom, there can’t be trust. Without trust, there can’t be love. Evil appeared when freedom turned away from love.

God is **“slow to anger and rich in mercy”** and He responds to evil not with

destruction, but by entering himself into a broken world. So, Christ confronts evil, not responding with violence, or hostility, but in love. This is incomprehensible to a world accustomed to strength defined by control. But the cross not only exposes the nature of evil; it also reveals the heart of God. Jesus didn't resist arrest, nor call angels to His defence, or bargain for His life. Instead, He entrusted Himself to His Father and absorbed the violence directed toward Him. The resurrection confirms this, the empty tomb reveals that God's self-giving love is victorious. The scars remain, but they are no longer wounds. For those who suffer, it doesn't erase our pain. The risen Christ will return bearing the marks of what He endured. Telling us that God does not forget our wounds. This is why the cross stands at the centre of our Christian faith. It doesn't answer every question, but it helps with a key one. It tells us that whatever evil may cause, it will not have the final word. Love will. The cross reveals how God confronts evil and shows us how to live in a world where evil still operates.

One of the quiet truths Scripture teaches is that God often doesn't remove suffering but transforms people who experience it. This is not sentimental, it means that faith doesn't grow by escape, but by perseverance. The believer is not spared suffering but is accompanied through it. To follow Christ, is not to escape suffering, **but to refuse to let it define us**. God gives us Hope, not just optimism. It is confidence grounded in God's character.

But our sympathetic Lord knows how hard it is to live today in this broken world and not become like it; so, He provided us a Comforter, the Holy Spirit. "He doesn't want us left alone' - ***the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness***. Some believe a lottery win, a Gladiator body, celebrity or popularity are the keys to happiness. But experience tells us they only snare us in other ways. Paul constantly requested his thorn in the flesh to go; Moses' wanted to enter the promised land, and Jeremiah pleaded to save the Jews from the Babylonians, but the answer was "NO" from God, because He had much better things to offer them.

Jesus said in our Gospel – "***your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else....and he will give you everything you need***". Even when our needs go beyond our understanding or ability to express them, the all-knowing Spirit intercedes for us to get us help from God. The Spirit takes our flawed thoughts and words and transforms them into acceptable requests to God! "***For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers, in harmony with God's own will.***" Rom 8:26 No matter how bad life gets we must not forget that God has a purpose that will not be thwarted! Those who trust Christ are assured that in all situations their endurance and trust in God will be a blessing, because

**'Love will have the final word' Amen.**

*Reverend Paul Pritchard*

## Notices

**Ash Wednesday: 18<sup>th</sup> February** – Holy Communion with ashing at All Saints at 9.30am and also at St John's at 7.30pm.

**The Chosen: Lent Course** – A six-week journey through Scripture, with scenes from 'The Chosen' drama series. All Saints Church Centre Wednesdays 25<sup>th</sup> February – 1<sup>st</sup> April at 2.30 – 4pm, Mickleover Methodist Wednesdays 25<sup>th</sup> February – 1<sup>st</sup> April at 7pm – 8.30pm and St John's Thursdays 26<sup>th</sup> February – 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 10.30am – 12pm.

**Afternoon Tea & Concert** – My sincere apologies. After some deliberation, it has been decided to postpone the 'Pot-Pourri' afternoon. It will now take place in May or June, date to be confirmed after discussion with accompanists. Those of you who have volunteered to take part... I've got you on my list!! New date will be published as soon as possible. *Janice*

### **Our Love Prayers and Sympathy to the families of:**

- **John Godfrey** – the funeral will be on 17<sup>th</sup> February at All Saints Church at 1pm followed by committal at Nottingham Road Cemetery.
- **Ken Richards** – the memorial service will be on 19<sup>th</sup> February at All Saints Church at 12noon.
- **John Roper** – The celebration of life for John will be at the Royal British Legion on 20<sup>th</sup> February at 1- 4pm.
- **Michael Heap** – The funeral will be on 23<sup>rd</sup> February at Markeaton Crematorium at 1.30pm.

**From Mike & Joy Shooter** -We are adding an extension at the back of our bungalow and, looking to the future, are wondering about the benefits of including solar panels and a heat pump as part of the overall design. We wondered if anyone had experience (themselves or family members) that could help us decide and avoid any pitfalls. Thanks.

**World Day of Prayer Service** – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March at Derby Cathedral, 11am. Followed by light lunch.

### **Upcoming Events at Our Churches**

- Wine & Wisdom Quiz Night – St John's, Sun 14<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm.
- Stitchers Craft Sale – St John's, Fri 20<sup>th</sup> February, 10am – 12pm during RS Café.
- Midweek Matinee: Oklahoma – All Saints Centre, Wed 25<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm.
- Board Games Afternoon – St John's, Sun 1<sup>st</sup> March at 2pm.
- Cambrian Harp Ensemble – St John's, Sat 7<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm.
- Candlelit Music Night with Ryan Joseph – St Andrew's, Fri 13<sup>th</sup> March and 7pm.

*For further events details please see our magazine or website.*