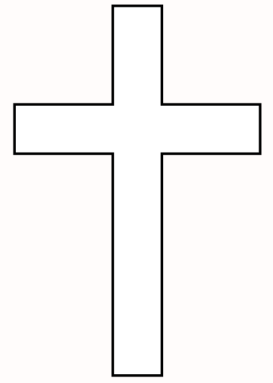


THREEFOLD

MAY 2026



ALL SAINTS, MICKLEOVER
ST ANDREW'S, RADBOURNE
ST JOHN'S, MICKLEOVER



OUR CHURCHES

www.mickleoveranglicans.org.uk



ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Etwall Road, Mickleover, DE3 0DL

01332 510446

allsaintsadmin@mickleoveranglicans.org.uk

Office Hours: 9am - 3pm on Tuesdays - Thursdays

Open Church: Enquire at the office

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

School Lane, Radbourne, DE6 4LY

Open Church: Monday - Friday

9am - 3pm



ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Devonshire Drive, Mickleover,

DE3 9HD

01332 513363

admin-stjohns@mickleoveranglicans.org.uk

Office Hours: Monday 9am-5pm and Friday 9am-4pm

Open Church: Monday-Friday 9.30am-3.30pm

CONTACTS

Clergy clergyteam@mickleoveranglicans.org.uk

Vicar: Rev'd Canon Peter Walley - 01332 513793

Vicarage, Etwall Rd, Mickleover, DE3 0DL

Assistant Curate: Rev'd Clare Owen -

Associate Priests:

Rev'd Mary Staunton -

Rev'd Ian Godlington -

Rev'd Paul Pritchard -

Rev'd Alun Rowlands -

Retired Priest: Rev'd Ingrid Munro -

Readers: Helen Walley, Dawn Perry, John Foxon

Judi Witcomb, Karen Cowgill

Wardens:

All Saints: Ian Nicklin & Janice Toplis

wardens-allsaints@mickleoveranglicans.org.uk

St Andrew's: Diana Rose rosediana1947@gmail.com

St John's: Wendy Lee & Michael Vick

wardens-stjohns@mickleoveranglicans.org.uk

Treasurers:

All Saints: Brian Devenport

treasurer-allsaints@mickleoveranglicans.org.uk

St Andrew's: Olivia Keep

treasurer-standrews@mickleoveranglicans.org.uk

St John's: Barrie Witcomb

treasurer-stjohns@mickleoveranglicans.org.uk

Hall Bookings:

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St John's: 01332 515293

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Safeguarding:

All Saints: Lindsay Nicklin 07716378308

safeguarding-allsaints@mickleoveranglicans.org.uk

St John's: Kim Cooper 07732 798163

safeguarding-stjohns@mickleoveranglicans.org.uk

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USUAL SERVICE TIMES

1st Sunday:

Holy Communion, 10am - All Saints
Morning Praise, 10am - St John's

2nd Sunday:

Morning Worship, 10am - All Saints
Holy Communion, 10am - St John's
Holy Communion, 11am - St Andrew's

3rd Sunday:

Holy Communion, 10am - All Saints
Morning Praise, 10am - St John's

4th Sunday:

Morning Worship, 10am - All Saints
Holy Communion, 10am - St John's
BCP Evening Prayer, 4pm - St Andrew's

5th Sunday:

Holy Communion, 10am
*alternating between
All Saints and St John's*

Tuesdays:

Morning Prayers, 8am - All Saints Vicarage

Wednesdays:

Holy Communion, 9.30am - All Saints

*Please see the website/newsletters for
occasional service details*

www.mickleoveranglicans.org.uk

PRAYER CHAIN

All Saints

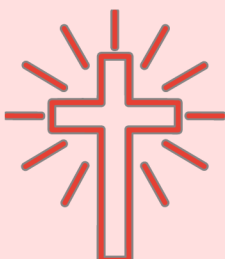
Marion Godlington
Denise Martin
Helen Walley
Steph Brinklow

St John's - Please text or call Helen Walley (Co-ordinator) or email.

There is also a book and prayer board at the back of Church for you to add a person's name. Those in the book will be included in our prayers on a Sunday morning during the service.



Risen Christ,
you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven: help us to seek and serve you, that we may join you at the Father's side, where you reign with the Spirit in glory, now and for ever.
Amen.



CTiM PRAYER WALK



Date: Thursday 7th May

Time: 10.15am

Meeting at: The Great Northern Car Park

We will walk for about an hour praying for God's blessing on our community, the local businesses, schools etc. listening for anything the Holy Spirit might want to reveal to us. **If you are not able to walk far but would still like to pray, you can meet with others at St John's.**

If you would like join the walk please contact Ray Lee so that I know to expect you. 01332 239645, or 07766927539, or email ray_lee16@yahoo.co.uk

LIFE EVENTS



RIP

Eileen Wade

CONGRATULATIONS

Jude on your baptism at St John's on Sunday 17th May

May the blessings on this wonderful day fill your life with joy and peace forever.



EDITOR'S SCRIBBLES

Thank you to all our contributors to this May issue which reflects all that we have going on in our parishes over the next month or so. I mention here some of the highlights we have covered in this Threefold.

Do read the piece on Christian Aid Week which is 11-16 May this year and focuses on the plight of poor women in Kenya attempting to provide for their extended families.

We welcome Clare back to our ministry team writing about her experience on secondment at the Cathedral over the last couple of months.

Thinking of the international situation, particularly the situation of Christians in the Middle East, we have included a letter from Archbishop Hosam in Jerusalem asking for prayers.

The Radbourne Fete has been moved forward this year to Saturday 9th May – a special opportunity to see the grounds of Radbourne Hall and to support St. Andrew's.

There are important church festivals this month. The Church celebrates Ascension Day on 14th May, forty days after Easter, and then ten days later Pentecost or Whitsun. The “Thy Kingdom Come” ecumenical initiative www.thykingdomcome.global covers these ten days and invites Christians around the world to pray for friends to find faith. See Matt Barne's Diocesan message on the back page. Copies of prayers guides are available in church.

All Saints' Annual Meeting is on Sunday 10th May and St John's on Sunday 17th, both at 11.30 after the morning service. These are important occasions to hear about the work that has gone on over the past year to sustain our church communities and to think about how we can contribute in the coming year.

So a great deal to read and reflect on this month.

Richard

The deadline for the next magazine will be 18th May

MAY

CHURCHES' CALENDAR

Monday - Friday	9.30 - 3.30pm	Open Church	St John's
Monday - Friday	9am - 3pm	Open Church	St Andrew's
Mondays	10am - 12pm	Internet Café	St John's Link
Tuesdays	8am	Morning Prayers	Vicarage
Wednesdays	9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints
Wednesdays	10am - 12pm	All Saints Café	All Saints
Wednesdays	2pm	Friendship Group	St John's Link
Fridays	10am - 12pm	Rest Stop Café	St John's Link

For more info, please visit the website www.mickleoveranglicans.org.uk

Sunday 3rd	10am	Holy Communion	All Saints
	10am	Morning Praise	St John's
Wednesday 6th	7pm	PCC Meeting	St John's
Thursday 7th	10.15am	CTM Prayer Walk	Great Northern
Saturday 9th	8.15am	Who Let the Dads Out?	All Saints Centre
	1pm	Radbourne Fete	Radbourne Hall
	2.30pm	New Opera Company Concert	All Saints
Sunday 10th	8am	Breakfast Church	All Saints
	10am	Morning Worship	All Saints
	10am	Holy Communion	St John's
	11.30am	APCM	All Saints
Thursday 14th <i>Ascension Day</i>	10.30am	CTiM Bible Study	St John's Link
	7.30pm	MA Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday 17th	10am	Holy Communion	All Saints
	10am	Morning Praise with JACK	St John's
	11.30am	APCM	St John's
	2pm	Board Games Afternoon	St John's Hall
Monday 18th	7pm	PCC Meeting	All Saints
Sunday 24th <i>Pentecost</i>	10am	Morning Worship	All Saints
	10am	Holy Communion	St John's
	4pm	BCP Evening Prayer	St Andrew's
Wednesday 27th	2pm	Midweek Matinee	All Saints Centre
Thursday 28th	10.30am	CTiM Bible Study	St John's Link
Sunday 31st	10am	MA Holy Communion	All Saints

AN UPDATE FROM CLARE

I have missed you all during my placement at the Cathedral since Christmas, but will soon be returning to Mickleover until I am appointed to my first incumbency. I thought this would be a good time to update you with what I have been doing.

My time at Derby Cathedral has been extremely busy, however I have loved my time there and have learnt a great deal about Cathedral Ministry – It has been a wonderful experience. I have led or participated in the daily offices, including leading Morning Prayer, Evensong, and Compline, and have been Cantor for both Evensong and a Compline service. I have presided at lunchtime and evening Eucharist services, and on my final Sunday I will preside at the main 10:45 service. I have already preached at another main Sunday service, taken three Baptism services; and participated in Civic services. I have been given the opportunity to be Deacon at main services, including Ash Wednesday, and the Liturgy of the Passion on Good Friday, both of which were extremely moving experiences. Being able to participate in all the services of Holy Week, and listen to the different preachers, was so very special, even if the gale-force winds on Easter Eve meant that the Paschal Candle had to be lit inside the building from a candle, instead of from a fire outside!

In addition to the main services, a real highlight has been listening to the wonderful music, and seeing the remarkable working being done by the music department, especially with young people. When I began my journey to ordination, I did not imagine that I would one day be sitting in the retrochoir of a cathedral surrounded by babies, toddlers, their parents and carers being introduced to the joys of music. The music during Holy week was particularly spectacular.



The Dean has been so generous with his time, as has the acting Precentor, and with the access they have given me to meetings, services, groups, and the daily life of the Cathedral, I feel I now have a good grasp of what Cathedral ministry involves, and that this may well be the direction I am being called to in the future. From planning development projects, attending Mothers' Union meetings; spending time with the Embroidery group; attending and leading the Lent Course; preparing candidates for Baptism; daily contact with the

Vergers and volunteers, and working with the highly skilled office staff, this has been an extremely fruitful placement for my future ministry. I have also been given other wonderful opportunities, which I do not have space for here – Please do ask me about them when I am back!

During my time away from Mickleover I have also submitted my Curacy Portfolio, demonstrating what I have learnt since ordination as Deacon (a huge thank you to you all for your support during my journey so far, and especially to those who completed feedback forms and wrote reports for me). I have also had my end of curacy meeting with the Bishop. My next step is to apply for roles that I feel I may be being called to, and to see what God has planned for me next.

I look forward to seeing you all very soon.

Blessings
Rev. Clare



Saturday 13th June, 2pm
at All Saints Church

POT POURRI

A showcase of talent within our three churches



We have a wealth of talent, of all ages, across the congregations, whether spoken word, sung word, instrumental musicians, crafters and more! If you would like to share your talent let Janice Toplis or Rebekah know. If you want to come along to celebrate others' talents, make sure to note the date!



The Radbourne Toad Patrol

A bucket in the left hand and a torch held in the right,
Lighting the road ahead at the start of the night.
Rhythmically sweeping across the darkening country road,
Looking for a perky, amorous little toad.

They don't like it clear, and they don't like it cold.
Only when they're warm, do the toads get quite bold.
Creeping out of fields where once grew wheat or corn,
Looking for the local ponds where they had once been born.

But when they reach the road they take a deadly chance,
Risking life and limb for the sake of a swift romance.
So along comes the Toad Patrol – that great supporting band,
And help the toads fulfil what nature had always planned.

But every now and then a car comes racing by,
With no thought for little toadies – all we can do is sigh.
The signs are clearly visible – 'There's a toad patrol tonight',
But 4x4s keep hurtling through – adding to their plight.

There's no romantic shanties coming from the males
Neither are there any exaggerated sea-faring tales
There's very little wooing – it's not very dignified
When a male jumps on a female hoping for a ride!



We pick them up one by one and pop them in two pails.
One bucket for the ladies and another for the males.
The girls are all quiet but the boys are all hard wired.
They are very noisy but the females just look tired!

The folk songs we sing today mean nothing to those creatures
Though really both our lives have many common features
It's still about love and loss, life, death, boy meets girl
And here we are in the middle of this never-ending whirl

But let's return to our tale of gathering in those toads
As we wend our way through winding, darkened country roads
A pheasant squawks, an owl hoots, a dozen noises out of sight
As we stop and listen to the sounds made through the night

Then the toadies in the buckets are carried to their ponds.
When lowered in, they swim away to make their nuptial bonds.
Next year in the springtime when you're on an evening stroll,
Look out for the volunteers of the Radbourne Toad Patrol.

Peter Branson (2026)



Midweek Matinee

at

All Saints Centre



SHOWING

QUARTET 2pm 12

WEDNESDAY 27TH MAY

£5 Adults, £2 Children

Theatre snacks included

Board Games Afternoon

Sunday 17th May at 2pm

St John's Link

£3 adults, 50p children on the door

Games for all ages and abilities!



Admission: £10
PLEASE BOOK IN ADVANCE

St John's Church Hall
SUNDAY 7th JUNE, 2pm – 4pm

Join us for a
STRAWBERRY TEA with TREV'S TRIO
(Back with us by popular request!)

Enjoy a relaxing afternoon listening to a selection of swing-based music, chatting to friends (old and new) and eating a splendid strawberry-based tea!

Contact: **Richard Finch 01332 493939** so we can sort seating & catering appropriately or email events-stjohns@mickleoveranglicans.org.uk

WHERE ARE YOU?

One day, a worm met another worm. "Oh my," he cried, "you are so lovely, let's get married!" "Don't be silly", came the reply, "I'm your other end!"

I grew up understanding that God lived in 'Heaven Above'. My schooldays included, from the start, a Morning Assembly at which readings were taken from The Bible and hymns were sung that all reinforced this idea. God was inaccessible, remote – as Cliff Richard sang in Julie Gold's song, "God is watching us, from a distance." Living in the Great Britain of my childhood meant living in what was essentially a spiritual monoculture – even to the extent that Roman Catholics were somehow 'different' and excluded themselves from the aforementioned school assemblies for fear of somehow becoming contaminated with Anglican ideas. (Yes, really, 'contaminated' was the exact word used by my school's authorities to explain this separation.) Until at-least my mid-teens I had little opportunity myself to become 'contaminated' with foreign ideas about spirituality – God was a Christian and He lived in Heaven – end of discussion.

Heaven was 'above' (let's not worry about how it's also 'above' the Australians – five-year-olds in my day were much more parochial than today's children – to a child living in Kent even Sussex was 'far away'). Then, on 4th October 1957, our world-view changed. I was asleep in bed but my parents shook me awake to come and hear the bleeps that heralded the advent of a new age – Sputnik 1 was orbiting The Earth!

But hang on... Sputnik was in Heaven but where was God? No sign of Him and... as space exploration progressed further and further out, even to beyond The Solar System, still no sign of Him! Oops. Maybe God doesn't exist! It was probably in my early twenties that I was introduced to the idea that God somehow 'lived' where science, technology and humankind had so-far failed to explore – the 'God of The Gaps'. In my view a most unsatisfactory explanation.

Of course, by the time that I was in my twenties, British society had rapidly evolved from the monoculture of my childhood and, as a spiritual 'seeker' I had been exposed to a broad spectrum of spiritual perspectives, and not all of them purely Christian. I had also seen the Anglican church's public role in secular society substantially diminished – vicars were no longer recognised as the stern authoritarians of my childhood. A key perspective (for me) that I first picked up from other spiritual sources was that, if one is looking 'elsewhere' for God, one is looking in the wrong place. An absentee God is a very useful concept if you are a religious leader looking to make a living out of people's hunger to experience, 'something more'. If God is far away then ordinary people are going to need agents to communicate with God on their behalf and, of course, those agents will, most reasonably, expect to be paid for their efforts. It's also much easier for a 'distant' God to be authoritarian and strict in His demands – undoubtedly requiring penances if He is to be appeased. I believe that, on the whole, Anglican churches are still perceived by 'outsiders' as churches of an absentee God. (I am not qualified to express any view regarding other denominations – I have insufficient personal experience.) Is this perhaps a key factor in understanding the declining attendances that the Established churches are experiencing?

Those that know me personally (or who have read some of my other ‘thoughts’) will know that I am unable to believe in a ‘one size fits all’ God. For me, our one God has many faces and many names – I believe that He (I’ve previously covered my gender caveats, I use ‘He’ here in the conventional sense) shows Himself to each of us as individuals in the way that best meets our current spiritual needs. What follows is my personal perspective – it has much in common with many others’ beliefs and experiences but it isn’t either the right way to know God or the only way to know God – God has as many faces (and ‘mansions’) as He has lovers – my appreciation of His appearance can, without doubt, be highly similar to other people’s (thereby facilitating common worship and shared experiences) but I believe that it’s wrong to require it to be identical.

My God is bigger than the cosmos, beyond both time and space, but He is also the cosmos in its entirety. ‘Seeking God’ is an oxymoron – one cannot ‘find’ God because God is here – it’s like trying to ‘find’ the air that we breathe! While we all fall a long way short of our potential godliness, in my view (this is an idea that I was first exposed to in Robert Heinlein’s, ‘Stranger in a Strange Land’). “Thou art God” is no more than a simple truism. Some tell me that this perspective makes me a pantheist. Others tell me that it makes me a heretic. Fortunately, in the UK, heresy isn’t (currently) illegal!

In my understanding (and, clearly, given what I’ve written above) I do not believe that I need any other individual to ‘speak to God’ on my behalf – and my reading of the Gospels tells me that this is what Jesus is saying. I value and cherish our modern-day priests, readers and other licensed ‘spiritual guides’ as people called and qualified by their (considerable) efforts to help me understand my relationship with God and to help me speak to God ... but I no longer see them as somehow having a privileged access that requires me to use (and pay for) their services to make myself ‘right with God’. We might all, in some way, ‘be’ God but our understanding of God is, of course, limited – and our desire to know more of God and become more attuned to God will, of course, never be fully satisfied – and that’s where, for me, our church plays its part. The church is where, in discussion, fellowship and celebration, we can safely together share our spiritual journeys and express these ‘dangerous’ ideas and perspectives, thereby in some strange way becoming, ‘nearer to God’ (perhaps better expressed as, ‘more open to God’). This is something that, in my opinion, would have been strongly frowned upon by the church of my childhood where one was definitely expected to, ‘Toe the Party Line’. I hope and pray that I am correct in believing that our Anglican church is now sufficiently mature to embrace the challenges of allowing us to, think – and speak - for ourselves.

ooO---Ooo

I would dearly love these thoughts to simply be a ‘discussion-starter’ with further contributions and alternative perspectives shared in future editions of the magazine. I personally believe that all perspectives are equally valid (‘If it works for you...’) with God’s only constraint being that, while it’s good to share, we should not impose our views on others. If you feel moved to write down your own perspective but are afraid then, please, be brave! (What’s the worst that can happen? Excommunication?)

Love, “Tall Paul”

NEW OPERA COMPANY DERBY

Reg. Charity 260253



The Bartered Bride

by
**Bedrich
Smetana**

Selections

2.30pm
Saturday
9 May 2026



Lilac Time

by
**Franz
Schubert**

Selections



Tickets
£12

Tea,
coffee,
squash,
biscuits
included

All Saints Church

Etwall Road, Mickleover, Derby DE3 0DL

Supporting Derby Food 4 Thought

Book in advance 01332 557096 or 01332 882637 or buy tickets at the door

HOW DO WE DEMONSTRATE GOD'S KINGDOM WHERE WE LIVE?

Every time you are in conflict with someone, but you go to them and seek reconciliation and forgiveness – the kingdom is breaking into this world. Every time you have some money and decide to give significantly



to somebody who is hungry or homeless or poor – the kingdom is breaking into the world. Any time someone has an addiction and wants to partner with God so much that they are willing to get help from a loving community – the kingdom is breaking into the world. Every time a workaholic parent decides to stop idolising their job, rearranges their life, and begins to love and care for the family entrusted to them – the kingdom is

breaking into the world. Every time you include someone who's lonely, every time you encourage someone who's defeated, every time you challenge somebody who's wandering off the path, and every time you serve the needy – the kingdom of God is once more breaking into the world. Jesus taught us to pray: 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.' Notice He didn't tell us to pray, 'Get me out of here so I can go up there!' His prayer was,

'Make up there come down here. Make things run down here, in my life, the way they run up there.' The answer to this prayer begins with you personally: your body, your mind, your appetites, etc. Then it spreads to your workplace, your family, your neighbourhood, your church, and your sphere of influence. And it all starts by asking yourself this question: 'Where do I want to see God's presence and power break into my world?'



Coming to St Andrew's

Derbyshire Community Male Voice Choir

Celebrating 75 years of performing

Refreshments will be served - All funds raised in aid of St Andrews' Church

Friday
5th June

St Andrew's Church
Radbourne

7.30pm

Tickets: £12

Contact: Diana on 07854809690 or rosediana1947@gmail.com
or the office: admin@mickleoveranglicans.org.uk

Sponsored by



Brindle
& Green

RADBOURNE

Saturday 9th May 1pm
Radbourne Hall

fete

CASH
ONLY

- Cream Teas & Cakes
- BBQ & Beer Tent
- Plant Stall
- Bouncy Castle
- Rock Choir
- Tiptoes School of Performing Arts

Dog Show
starts 1.30pm



FLOWERS





CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10-16 MAY

Who will Christian Aid Week support this year?

From the Christian Aid website

This Christian Aid Week, your support could help mothers in Nairobi, Kenya, facing the devastating reality of urban poverty and the daily struggle to feed their children.

In the crowded and bustling settlements of Nairobi, most parents wake every single day knowing that they must go and earn money, otherwise their children won't eat that evening. It's a precarious and frightening daily struggle that no family should have to face. But with tools and training from our partner, Beacon of Hope, parents are farming vegetables in a small city plot to feed their families and earn an income.

By funding urban farming projects alongside specialist training from our partner Beacon of Hope, we can help parents fight food insecurity, grow fresh vegetables in small city spaces and earn an income to support their families.

This May, we invite you to help mothers like Fridah Moraa living in crowded informal settlements so they can protect their children from hunger and grow a more hopeful future. In the informal settlement of Dagoretti in Nairobi, many parents wake each morning knowing they must earn money that day. If they do not, their children may not eat that night. For Fridah Moraa, this pressure is constant. She is a recently widowed grandmother and the sole provider for her family. Rent, school costs, water and food all depend on what she can earn. She says: *"When I wake up, I have a lot of worries. Sometimes I don't have food. Now I'm responsible for everything."*

In prayer, we place before God the world as it is – and the world as it could be. In Nairobi, Fridah is growing food in crowded, uncertain conditions. Her work begins small, but it is rooted in patience, care and hope. It reminds us of Jesus' words:

'It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree.' - Luke 13:18 (NRSV)

In prayer we sow our own small seeds: naming injustice, holding suffering before God, and trusting that God is at work, often beyond what we can see. This Christian Aid Week, pray that parents living with the relentless stress of food insecurity can access training and tools that will support them to provide for their children.

To contribute use Christian Aid envelopes available in church or go online to the Christian Aid website <https://caw.christianaid.org.uk/>

*Notice in the entrance to Grasmere Church
A Message for Our Time*

The World in which we live is a dangerous and unpredictable place; sometimes as a result of nature; sometimes as a result of humankind. In the light of recent events please feel free to stay for a while and offer prayers for the bereaved, the hurt and the bemused. While you pray remember that the sun will rise in the morning, the rain will still fall, and following the cold of winter the spring brings Resurrection and new life.

NEW

CTiM

Churches Together in Mickleover

BIBLE STUDY

Starting 23rd April



**Meeting every 2nd and 4th Thursday
at St John's Link
10.30am - 12.00pm**

For more information, contact Judi Witcomb on 07531495891



A letter from Archbishop Hosam in Jerusalem

28th February 2026

Dear Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you are all now painfully aware, in the early hours of this morning, February 28th, a coordinated and massive military assault was launched by the United States and Israel against numerous cities and installations within Iran. This operation, described by the leaders of the two nations as a ‘pre-emptive’ attack, has brought fire and destruction to the heart of Tehran, Isfahan, and beyond, striking at the very centers of governance and civilian life. Moreover, just prior to these events, Israel had also ‘pre-emptively’ attacked various targets in southern Lebanon, where the number of casualties has yet to be determined.

Tragically, the cycle of violence has expanded with terrifying speed. In the hours following, Iran launched a widespread reprisal, with missiles and drones targeting Israel and U.S. military assets across the Gulf—striking installations in Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Kurdistan-Iraq, Jordan, and Qatar. Sirens also blared across the Holy Land, warning of incoming missiles from Iran. Suddenly, our people from the Mediterranean to the Persian Gulf find themselves once again huddled in shelters, fearing for their lives as the shadow of a total regional war looms over us.

These developments strike at the very soul of our Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Every single nation now engaged in this combat, and those bearing the brunt of the retaliatory strikes, resides within our ecclesiastical boundaries. Our brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Iran are currently enduring the terror of aerial bombardment; our members in the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf are witnessing the arrival of war at their doorsteps; and our faithful in the Diocese of Jerusalem—extending across Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria—face an unprecedented threat of military escalation.

In the face of such overwhelming force, we recall the words of our Lord Jesus Christ: ‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God’ (Matt 5:9). Today, that calling feels heavier than ever before. When the ‘spirit of fear’ threatens to consume our hearts, we must anchor ourselves in the ‘spirit of power, and of love, and of a sound mind’ (2 Tim 1:7).

First, I call upon the global Church to join us in urgent, unceasing prayer. We implore God to protect the innocent—the mothers, the children, and the elderly—who are caught in the crossfire of this ‘Operation Epic Fury’ and the subsequent ‘crushing responses.’ We pray specifically for a ‘sound mind’ for the leaders of the United States, Israel, and Iran, that they might recognize the futility of this bloodshed and turn back from the precipice of a global catastrophe.

Second, we must offer each other the sanctuary of Christian love. I therefore urge our clergy and laity to be beacons of comfort. In a time of ‘regime change’ rhetoric and military ultimatums, let our message be the unchanging promise of Christ’s peace: to build each other up (1 Cor 8:1), for our hope is not in the strength of armadas or missile shields, but in the Prince of Peace.

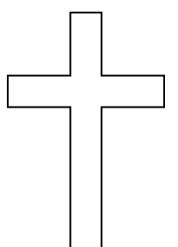
Finally, we must remain ‘Bridge Builders.’ Even as diplomatic windows seem to slam shut, the Church must keep the doors of reconciliation open. We refuse to see our neighbors as enemies, whether they be in Tehran, Tel Aviv, or the military bases of the Gulf. I extend an urgent invitation to the wider Anglican Communion and all people of goodwill: Intercede for us now. The hour is late, and the danger is great. We remain “battered and bruised, but not defeated.” May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

In Christ,

The Most Reverend Dr Hosam E. Naoum

Primate and President Bishop

The Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East



JACK

Jesus And Cool Kids

AT JOHNS

Join us for our interactive family-friendly service on the 3rd Sunday of the month St John's Church at 10am.

Enjoy crafts, worship and games with other children and families as the central part of the service.

INTERNET CAFE

Mondays 10am - 12pm
St John's Link



Help and advice for computers, laptops, smart phones, and tablets

Our helpers don't guarantee to have all the answers, but we may know where to start looking!

Bring along your own tablets, iPads and laptops or borrow one from us.

Refreshments served mid-morning.



Our friendly team is happy to help!

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Wednesdays 2pm - 4pm
St John's Link

Formed in 1975 for older people to meet up socially

Bingo, Dominoes and Cards

Tea and Coffee served



REST STOP CAFE

Fridays
10am - 12pm
St John's Link

Join us for a cup of tea or coffee, friendly conversation, and of course, delicious cakes!

EVERYONE WELCOME



Pause & Ponder

As you walk through the All Saints churchyard, take a moment to pause and ponder at our 16 stations with photographs and quotes.

ALL SAINTS CAFE

Wednesdays
10am - 12pm
All Saints Centre

Come for a friendly chat, tea/coffee with delicious home-made cakes and biscuits

Everyone welcome!



WHO LET THE DADS OUT?

2nd Saturday of the month
8.15 - 9.45am
All Saints Church Centre

A group for fathers, father figures and their children to have fun, form friendships and find support



01332 510446

admin@mickleoveranglicans.org.uk

Breakfast Church



2nd Sunday of the month
(full weekend)

Join us at 8am for breakfast, crafts, games and worship

All ages welcome!

DIOCESAN MESSAGE

MAY

Reverend Matt Barnes writes...

“Talk to God about men before you talk to men about God.” Those well-known words from E.M. Bounds capture something simple, profound, and deeply timely.

As we approach Thy Kingdom Come, we are invited once again into a season shaped not by pressure or performance, but by prayer. Sitting between Ascension and Pentecost, these days remind us that the disciples were neither inactive nor anxious. They waited. They prayed. They trusted that God was already at work, as He is today in our Diocese.



Thy Kingdom Come encourages us to do the same. At its heart is a very simple practice: to name five people we would love to see grow in faith—friends, family members, neighbours, colleagues—and to hold them before God day by day. Not to fix them, persuade them, or perfect our words, but to entrust them to the loving attention of God.

Prayer changes things. Sometimes it changes circumstances; often it quietly changes us. As we pray, hearts are softened, eyes are opened, and attentiveness to the Spirit grows. We become more aware of where God is already at work, and more ready to join in with what God is doing.

This season is a gift to the whole Church: a shared moment to pause, to hope, and to pray together across parishes, traditions, and generations. Whether you are confident in prayer or finding your way, whether your five names feel close to faith or far from it, God welcomes what you bring. We can pray alone, we can pray in groups, we can pray as a church or we can pray at one of our Diocesan events. However, and wherever, and with whom, please pray!

May this be a season where prayer is renewed, hope is rekindled, and love quietly grows.

Who are your five?

The Revd Canon Matt Barnes
Director of Mission, Evangelism & Parish Revitalisation