

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



admin@mickleoveranglicans.org.uk

Sunday 10th May 2026

Services In Our Churches This Sunday

- Breakfast Church at All Saints, 8am.
- Morning Worship at All Saints, 10am. Mary Staunton will be speaking.
Followed by All Saints APCM.
- Holy Communion at St John's, 10am. Peter Walley will be speaking.
- Holy Communion at St Andrew's, 11am. Led by Alun Rowlands.

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

Collect

Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed
your call to your disciples:
help your Church to obey your command
and draw the nations to the fire of your love
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

This Sunday's Reading

Acts 17: 22 to 31, John 14: 15 to 21

Next Sunday's Reading

Acts 1: 6 to 14, John 17: 1 to 11

Midweek Services and Groups

- Mondays: **St John's Internet Café** – 10am – 12pm in St John's Link
- Tuesdays: **Prayers** 8am at the Vicarage
- Wednesdays: **Holy Communion** 9.30am at All Saints.
- Wednesdays: **All Saints Café** 10am – 12pm in the Centre.
- Thursdays: **CTiM Bible Study** 10.30am at St John's Link. (2nd + 4th Thur of month)
- Fridays: **St John's Rest Stop Café** 10am – 12pm in the Link.

Talk by Clare

I find myself using Google Maps a great deal at the moment. I have reached the point in my curacy when I am looking for my first incumbency (that is, the first parish that I will run myself), and as I search through adverts, one of the first things I have been doing is searching for where the churches advertised are, and then where that is in relation to places I know that I will want to visit regularly. I know, for example, that wherever I end up, I will always want to travel to Dunstable (where I grew up and where I still have relatives). Two Sundays ago, I travelled there after my final service at the Cathedral, and when asked by my Uncle when they should expect me, I was able to give an eta which ended up being out by only five mins. This is because I have travelled there so many times from Derbyshire that I knew the route I would take, from the time I would be leaving, would be able to estimate the amount of traffic I would encounter, and if I needed to stop on the way, where I would do so. I know that journey like the back of my own hand, so the only times I am wildly out with an eta are if there has been an accident, there are roadworks that I do not already know about, or if there is suddenly a storm that I have to drive through.

When deciding whether or not to apply for a post in a different area, I am checking how long it will take to reach Dunstable, what routes are available and whether or not I will have to navigate the M25. If the M25 is involved I will need to think very carefully as to whether there are things about the parish which outweigh the difficulties, I will face every time I wish to visit family.

Journeys can have a profound impact upon us. Many of us will have been on journeys which open our eyes to new experiences; some of us may have been on a journey where we have met someone who has had a profound impact upon us; perhaps you may have been on a journey which has made you decide to completely alter the course of your life? As Christians we are on a far more important journey than any of these: The journey of Hope outlined in our Gospel reading this morning. Our Gospel today takes us back in the Easter story, to just after Jesus has washed his disciples feet, and before the passion. Jesus tells his apostles that he is going to prepare a place for them, and that he will return so that they can also then go where he is going. Jesus' statement 'I will come' is directed not simply to those present, but to all of us. This is the hope that we as Christians carry with us each day.

The hope that the Lord will return for us, is not simply a personal hope for us to live out alone, but a hope for the entire church, waiting for the time when Jesus will return. Jesus goes on to say 'where I am going, you know the way'. Thomas then replies to Jesus 'master we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?' This is an entirely reasonable question to ask! If I were to say to you, 'I'm going on holiday. Why don't you join me?' but then don't tell you where the holiday will be, you might reasonably be confused! We must remember that at this point in the Gospel, Thomas probably thinks Jesus is talking about a physical journey: this is before the crucifixion, and before the resurrection. Thomas can only think in terms of a physical journey, going from place A to place B. Jesus, however, is not talking about a physical journey, he is talking to us about our lives, and our ultimate destinations.

In response to Thomas' question Jesus says 'I am the way!' meaning how we journey through life: how we lead our lives, and whether the focus of our lives is him. Do we live lives in which

we are in love and charity with our neighbours? Do we live lives which we live out the fruits of the Spirit? Do we live lives in which we constantly journey with a hope of becoming closer to Christ?

The late Pope Francis wrote that Christians who do not journey forward in the Christian life, are actually un-Christian, that they are like spiritual mummies. He then goes on to explain that a person who lives their life not doing anything bad, but also not doing anything good; living a life that does not bear fruit; living a life that spiritually is immobile; is not living a fully Christian life!

As Christians, we must continually work for a life that is both fruitful and moving closer to Christ. However, just as with physical journeys, we might take a wrong turn, suddenly finding ourselves somewhere we do not want to be. If we do, the important thing is to not simply sit there dazed, but to do something to get ourselves back onto the correct route. When I worked for Customs and Exercise, I would spend days on the road, going to places I had never been before, with only A-2-Zs of Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire to navigate with. What I relied upon when I invariably became lost was the advice my grandfather had given me as a young girl: 'if you're ever lost, you have a tongue in your head - ask someone for help!' As Christians, being part of a community is so important so that when we take the wrong turn in our lives, we can ask one another for help to get back onto the right road. We also need to remember that the Holy Spirit is there to help us and guide us, all we need to do is ask, and then listen for the response.

There are other times when we don't get lost but get distracted by something. The something might not be negative, perhaps an experience which brings Joy, teaches us something, or is simply beautiful and uplifting. Perhaps our journey is so long and tiring we need to stop, sit down for a moment, and regain our strength, before setting off once again. I remember clearly the first time I climbed Mount Vesuvius. I was a staff member on a school trip, and as I am asthmatic, it was decided that I would be the one to walk at the back of the group chivvying stragglers. Somebody needed to do this, but it also meant that should I need to stop, I would be able to do so without slowing everyone else down. Inevitably, I need to stop a number of times, but the first time I did so I looked up from the path and out at the landscape properly for the first time. I can still see in my mind's eye the most stunning view of the bay of Naples on that bright sunny June morning. It metaphorically took my breath away, and I lost track of time for a while before continuing up the volcano. In our lives as Christians, it is okay to pause, to take time to reflect, to compose ourselves or take in the beauty, yet making sure that we do not become too mesmerised and forget that we have further to go.

As we journey throughout life, there is usually not simply one way of reaching your desired destinations. As Christians, our ultimate destination is Christ, but there are many many paths upon which to reach him, and many ways in which we can be diverted on the way. Today's gospel reading is a reminder consider where we are on our journey's as Christian's. Am I standing still? Have I gone astray? Am I aimlessly wondering? Or, do I have my mind focused upon our ultimate destination, taking the opportunities as they arise to enjoy God's creation? Always moving forward, whilst living out the fruits of the spirit! As we continue as a church to journey through Easter Tide, I invite you to ask yourselves the question: How am I walking?

Yours in Christ, Rev Clare

Notices

Radbourne Fete – Saturday 9th May at Radbourne Hall from 1pm. Cash only.

New Opera Company Concert - Saturday 9th May at 2.30pm at All Saints, featuring Smetana's 'The Bartered Bride' a tale of intrigue and misunderstanding and 'Lilac Time' based on the lovely music of Franz Schubert. Tickets on the door or in advance via: jannice@read55.plus.com or 01332 557096 or 01332 882637 or email.

Office Closed – On Monday 11th – Wednesday 13th May.

Thursday 14th May: Ascension Day – Joint MA Holy Communion at St John's, 7.30pm.

New CTiM Bible Study – will be meeting on 14th and 28th May, 11th and 25th June and 9th and 23rd July at 10.30am at St John's Link. Put the dates in your diaries. For more information, please speak to Judi Witcomb.

Our Love, Prayers and Sympathy – to the family of Eileen Wade. The funeral will be on Wednesday 20th May at All Saints at 12pm. Followed by committal at Markeaton.

All Saints Electoral Roll – Has been revised and can be viewed at the back of church.

Group Outing! - a few of us are getting a Hawkes Tours bus to Tissington and Buxton on Thursday 14th May, pick up time is 9.40am in Mickleover. It costs £20, if you want to come along phone Hawkes on 01332 205400 or 01332 202726 to book your place. *Lindsay Nicklin*

St John's Annual Meeting - is on Sunday 17th May 11.30am in church starting with the Annual Meeting of Parishioners to elect churchwardens, followed by the Meeting of Church Members. Agenda and papers have gone out to the St. John's mailing list and hard copies are also available in the Link. There are 5 vacancies on the PCC to be filled (nomination forms are available in the Link) and we shall also be electing 2 members to the Deanery Synod.

Board Games Afternoon – Sunday 17th May, 2pm at St John's. Games for all ages and abilities! £3 for adults and 50p for children. Pay on the door. Everyone welcome!

St John's Electoral Roll - The Electoral Roll has now been revised. Please take the opportunity to check that the roll is correct and if any mistakes are found, please inform Andrew Templer (Tel: 01332 515293 or andrew@templerfamily.co.uk) as soon as possible.

Quiz Night with Pie n' Peas – Thank you to everyone who came to the Quiz Night at All Saints on 26th April, it was a very enjoyable evening. Big thank you to Zoe & James!

Pot-Pourri – Saturday 13th June, 2pm at All Saints. Please see separate letter for more information. If you would like to take part, please let Janice or Rebekah know by 19th May.

Christian Aid Week - For more information about Christian Aid's work see flyers in church, the article in Threefold for May, or their website. www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week Do consider making a donation, envelopes are available in church.