

# 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 24<sup>th</sup> May 2026

### Services In Our Churches This Sunday

- Morning Worship at All Saints, 10am. Dawn Perry will be speaking.
- Holy Communion at St John's, 10am. Ingrid Munro will be speaking.
- BCP Evening Prayer at St Andrew's, 4pm. Led by Clare Owen.

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May** – Joint MA Holy Communion at All Saints. No service at St John's.

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

### Collect

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,  
ignite in us your holy fire; strengthen  
your children with the gift of faith,  
revive your Church with the breath of love,  
and renew the face of the earth,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### This Sunday's Reading

Acts 2: 1 to 21,  
John 20: 19 to 23

### Next Sunday's Reading

2 Corinthians 13: 11 to end  
Matthew 28 16 to end

### 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. (2<sup>nd</sup> + 4<sup>th</sup> Thur of month)

Fridays: ***St John's Rest Stop Café*** 10am – 12pm in the Link.

## Sermon May 17<sup>th</sup> 2026 Easter 7 following Ascension Day

On Thursday May 14<sup>th</sup> the church celebrated Ascension Day.

In our modern five day working week these midweek festivals tend to get overlooked which is a shame especially for something as important as the Ascension. In days gone by Ascension Day would have been important enough for the Derby Telegraph to have had a front page spread showing the Bishop blessing the wells at Tissington. The well dressing continues every Ascension Day but the Derby Telegraph's attentions are now elsewhere.

When I was a chorister our practices were held on a Thursday and so we did have an Ascension service. Inevitably we would sing "God is Gone Up with a merry noise (and the Lord with the sound of the Trumpet)". There are two excellent versions by Gerald Finzi and Arthur Hutchins.

For us Ascension is a positive experience. Our saviour has not only risen from the dead he has visibly ascended into heaven to return to the Father. We have read the book, seen the trailer and watched the full length feature film. Yet how confusing it must have been for the disciples, their emotions must have been conflicted despite what Jesus had already told them. On the night before he died in John 16 vs 16 he had told them "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me." In vs 18 in the same chapter we are told that the disciples "kept asking, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We don't understand what he is saying."

In the gospel reading from chapter 17 Jesus had prayed to the Father in front of the disciples and in vs 11 he had pointed towards his resurrection and ascension in his prayer "I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you." He then prayed for the father to protect them.

Even if the disciples had fully grasped all of this their emotions must have been all over the place. They had gone through the pain and despair of the crucifixion. They had felt abandoned. Then they had enjoyed the euphoria of the empty tomb, the Emmaus Road appearance and the appearance at breakfast on the shores of Galilee. And now? Just when they thought they had got him back for good, He's gone again. Or at least he's gone physically. One commentator described the Ascension in terms of Jesus becoming the first person to invent working from home as! Perhaps at that point the disciples were beginning to understand what Jesus had told them in those hours leading to his arrest and crucifixion, but it was not yet fully clear to them.

We know that they still did not fully understand because in Acts 1 vs 6 they ask him "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" Jesus quickly moves them on from this narrow political view and instead refocuses them on being witnesses from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth, empowered by the Spirit rather than focused on timing. Jesus commands the apostles to wait in Jerusalem for the "Promise of the Father" (the Holy Spirit). This highlights that ministry success relies on God's power rather than human ability. Waiting times are necessary preparation, not wasted time.

The disciples were at that point in danger of wasting time. They kept their gaze heavenward. They have been doing so for some time had they not been interrupted. In verses 10 and 11 we are told: “They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. Men of Galilee, “they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” The disciples had been given a commission which was more than just standing, staring and waiting.

That, of course is an important lesson for all of us- not to be passive but to take on the commission given to us by God through the Holy Spirit.

When they were ‘woken up’ and their minds brought back to earth they returned to Jerusalem to begin their work. The believers—including the apostles, women, and Jesus' brothers—meet in an upper room. They are described as being "continually united in prayer". This unity in prayer is seen as a model for the church, seeking God’s guidance for what is to come.

It is at that point that Peter takes leadership. If we look just beyond the set reading to verses 15 to the end of the chapter we see that Peter uses scripture to explain that Judas 'betrayal was part of a larger plan foretold by the Holy Spirit through David.

What can we take away from the account of the Ascension in Acts 1 4-14?

- Dependency: The church's work must be done in the power of the Holy Spirit, not human strength.
- Prayer: Active, unified prayer is the necessary precursor to doing God’s work.
- Scripture: Peter uses the Old Testament to understand the events unfolding around him, highlighting the importance of Bible knowledge.

Are we going to be one of those who stand and stare upwards or are we going to be one who Acts in the name of the risen and ascended Jesus, in the power of the Spirit through prayer and scripture?

*John Foxon*

## Notices

**Great Big Green Fun Day** – Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 12 – 4pm at Vicarage Park in Mickleover. Bring a picnic and explore the outdoors. This is a free event.

**Tuesday Morning Prayers** – At St John’s on 26<sup>th</sup> May. Not at the Vicarage this week.

**CTiM Bible Study** – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May, 10.30am at St John’s Link. Everyone welcome.

**Thy Kingdom Come** – For Thy Kingdom Come prayer resources, download ‘TKC Prayer’ from your app store on your smartphone. If you haven’t already picked up a prayer journal from the back of church or in the Link, please pick one up to help you with your own prayers and devotions.

**CTiM Prayer Walk** – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June at 10.15am. Meeting at the Honeycomb car park Ladybank Rd. We will walk for about an hour in the Silverhill area, praying God's blessing upon the people and businesses in this area, and listening to God's Holy Spirit as we go. If you are unable to walk but willing to pray, join with others at St John's. If you plan to join us, please let me know by email ray\_lee16@yahoo.co.uk, or phone or text to 07766927539

**Derbyshire Community Male Voice Choir Concert** – at St Andrew's Church on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm. Tickets are £12 on the door or purchased in advance from Diana on 07854809690 or rosediana1947@gmail.com or from Rebekah in the office. Refreshments will be served and all funds raised will be in aid of St Andrew's Church.

**Strawberry Tea with Trev's Trio** – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June at St John's Church Hall 2pm- 4pm. 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! Tickets £10, please book in advance so we can sort seating and catering appropriately. Contact Richard on 01332 493939 or email events-stjohns@mickleoveranglicans.org.uk

**Pot-Pourri Words & Music Concert** – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2pm at All Saints. Please see separate letter for more information. Tickets £6 on the door.

**Men's Breakfast** - The next church men's breakfast will be on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> June. Please see Mike Shooter if you are interested in joining us.

**Mickleover Fete** - This year's Fete is on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June. We need help to erect, staff and dismantle our gazebo. Please see Mike Shooter if you can help in any way.

**St Andrew's Fete** – A fabulous £8,068.84 was raised for St Andrew's Church funds. Thank you for all the work carried out behind the scenes in advance and on the day to make this such a success.

**Thank You** – for the lovely gift and card you gave to me, it was very kind of you. Also, to all who have supported me over the years. Without you, there would be no flowers in church at St John's. Thank you again, *Eunice*.

**Christian Aid** - Thank you everyone from St John's who contributed to Christian Aid. £92 was given in envelopes, £74.55 donations from Rest Stop Cafe, and £100 was added from St John's Charitable Giving. Christian Aid can claim £13.75 gift aid, making a total of £280.30. Thank you to everyone from All Saints, £99 has been given to Christian Aid.

**Thank You** - It has been a privilege to have served as a Churchwarden from 2020 to 2026. Thank you to everyone who has helped and supported me over the years. Special thanks to Lindsay for her support. Ian Nicklin.

**Benefice Picnic** – Following the MA service at All Saints on May 31<sup>st</sup> it is intended to have a picnic lunch... bring your own food, we'll supply the teas/coffees etc. Weather dependent it will be held in the Centre or part of the car park. Or a combination of both.