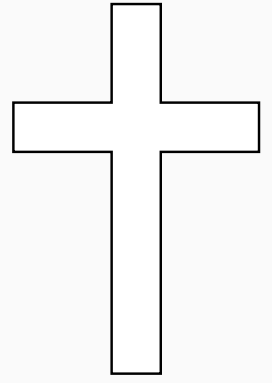


THREEFOLD

AUGUST 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: Janice Toplis & James Bowles

wardens-allsaints@mickleoveranglicans.org.uk

St Andrew's:

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:

All Saints: 01332 510446 admin@mickleoveranglicans.org.uk

St John's: 01332 515293

hallbookings-stjohns@mickleoveranglicans.org.uk

Safeguarding:

All Saints: Lindsay Nicklin 07716378308

safeguarding-allsaints@mickleoveranglicans.org.uk

St John's: Kim Cooper 07732 798163

safeguarding-stjohns@mickleoveranglicans.org.uk



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 with JACK, 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

EDITOR'S SCRIBBLES

Dear Readers,

August is famously the season of holidays and "staycations." For many of us, it offers a rare, precious opportunity to pause, take a breath, and step away from our usual routines.

In the busyness of daily life, it can be incredibly difficult to hear that "still, small voice" of God. We fill our schedules with work, errands, and commitments, often leaving little room for stillness. Yet, rest is not a luxury; it is a fundamental part of our faith journey.

Throughout the Bible, we see the importance of stepping back. The Sabbath is a divine commandment meant to remind us that we are human beings, not human doings. Jesus himself regularly withdrew from the crowds to lonely places to pray and connect with His Father. He offers us an invitation: ***"Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest"*** (Mark 6:31).

As we navigate this quiet month, I encourage you to use this time not just to relax, but to intentionally "be still." Whether you are taking a trip, enjoying a walk in the beautiful Derbyshire countryside, or simply sitting in your garden, use this season to:

Be Present: Put away the distractions and focus on the beauty of God's creation around you.

Reflect: Take time to review your life, pray, and thank God for His enduring faithfulness.

Recharge: Use this temporary break from church activities to replenish your spiritual cup so you can return refreshed.

James

The deadline for the next magazine will be 17th August

AUGUST

CHURCHES' CALENDAR

Monday - Friday

9.30 - 3.30pm

Open Church

St John's

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

10am - 12pm

All Saints Café

All Saints

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 2nd

10am

Holy Communion

All Saints

10am

Morning Praise

St John's

Thursday 4th

10.15am

CTiM Prayer Walk

Meet @ All Saints CP

Saturday 8th

9am - 2pm

All Saints Tidy Day

All Saints

Sunday 9th

10am

Morning Worship

All Saints

10am

Holy Communion

St John's

11am

Holy Communion

St Andrew's

Wednesday 12th

2pm

Coordinators

St John's

Thursday 13th

10.30am

CTiM Bible Study

St John's Link

Saturday 15th

10am - 3pm

Maker's Market

All Saints Centre

Sunday 16th

10am

Holy Communion

All Saints

10am

Morning Praise with JACK

St John's

2pm

Sunday Afternoons in the Link

St John's

Monday 17th

7pm

Standing Committee

All Saints

Sunday 23rd

10am

Morning Worship

All Saints

10am

Holy Communion

St John's

4pm

BCP Evening Prayer

St Andrew's

Wednesday 26th

7pm

Midweek Soirée - Andre Rieu

All Saints Centre

Thursday 27th

10.30am

CTiM Bible Study

St John's Link

PRAYER CHAIN

All Saints

Marion Godlington
Denise Martin
Helen Walley
Steph Brinklow

St John's - Please text or call
Helen Walley (Co-ordinator)
07725740408 or email
helenwalley@btinternet.com

*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.*



Dear Lord,
as we step into August,
I invite your peace into my heart
and home.
Please guide my steps, grant me
wisdom for the days ahead,
and fill me with fresh hope
and strength.
Thank you for your continued
blessings. Amen.



CTIM PRAYER WALK

Date: Thursday 6th August

Time: 10.15am

Meeting at: All Saints
Car Park



We will walk for about an hour
praying God's blessing upon
the people and businesses in
the 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 Devonshire Drive.

*If you plan to join us please let
me know by email or phone or
text. Thanks, Ray Lee*

LIFE EVENTS

Congratulations

Andrew & Lucinda

on their wedding at All Saints
on 25th July



RIP

Mavis Deeley

The funeral was on
24th July



Midweek Soirée

at

All Saints Centre



**Showing:
Andre Rieu in concert**

Wednesday

26th August at 7pm

**This is a special evening showing
Dress Code: Smart!**

**£5 Adults, £2 Children
evening 'nibbles' included**

Makers Market

**All Saints Church,
Etwell Rd, Micklegate
15th August, 10am - 3pm**



Join us for our first ever Makers Market with various stalls selling hand crafted goods including jewellery, engraved glass, bath, body and home products, pebble and driftwood art, artisan food, crochet/knitted items, wax melts and candles, cards, refreshments and much more!

Stalls are still available, contact the office or Karen
01332 510446 admin@mickleoveranglicans.org.uk

On the 20th June, I took part (as Chaplain to Mickleover RBL) leading prayers in a service at Acres Engineering in Melbourne. This was to be the start of the Derby Sea Cadets sponsored walk to RBL Branch in Poppyfield Drive to help pay for our own Remembrance here at All Saints in 2026.

Commemoration of the sinking of the Lancastria and dedication of a new memorial which is going in the National Memorial Arboretum



RMS Lancastria was a British ocean liner launched in 1920 as Tyrrhenia and later renamed Lancastria in 1924. Originally a passenger ship, she was requisitioned by the British government during World War II to evacuate troops and civilians from France following the fall of Dunkirk. By June 1940, she was part of Operation Aerial, tasked with evacuating British nationals and remaining troops from western French ports. The ship was loaded far beyond its official capacity of 1,300 passengers, with estimates ranging from 5,000 to 7,200 people aboard, including soldiers, air force personnel, embassy staff, civilians, and their families. Early on 17 June, she was attacked by German Luftwaffe bombers. The ship was hit by three or four bombs and sank within 15–20 minutes. Many passengers died instantly, while others succumbed to drowning, hypothermia, or inhaling fuel oil. Some survivors were reportedly machine-gunned in the water by enemy aircraft. Approximately 2,477



people were rescued, while modern estimates suggest 4,000 to 7,000 perished, making it the deadliest maritime disaster in British history. We have all heard of Dunkirk, but it wasn't until after the end of the war that details of this disaster were published, for Churchill didn't

want national morale to sink any further in June 1940.

Luke Parker, MD of Acres Engineering had a Great Uncle who died in this tragedy but we were honoured to have his younger brother, Luke's grandfather with us.

A prayer

Jesus, you said that 'Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.' We thank you for their sacrifice and the sacrifices made then to rescue survivors who had suffered mental and physical injuries during the chaos of war. We also think of those who were left as orphans, who never saw their parents following the disaster. Come and bring your comfort and peace. Amen.

Almighty God, you say 'blessed are the peace-makers'. We pray for true peace across your troubled world. We pray for all conflicts to end so that people can rebuild their shattered lives. May good triumph over evil and may all of us always seek the good of all. Amen.

PETER WALLEY

Explore life, *faith* & meaning

Christian Basic Course

From Wednesday 9th September at 7pm

On behalf of Christians Together in Mickleover, we will be hosting a new Alpha course at **All Saints Church**.

If you would like to attend please speak to Reverend Peter Walley know on 07725740407.

Or if you would like to help host, please speak to Peter.

admin@mickleoveranglicans.org.uk

Alpha

PCC NOTES

Meeting held at: All Saints on 6th July 2026

Full minutes available at the back of Church and on the website

During the meeting we discussed:

- Matt Barnes will be visiting All Saints on 13th September.
- With the help from the money we have sent to Burundi, 63 families were helped last month. Unfortunately, there is a serious Cholera outbreak and so the charity is looking to sink a fresh water well. The cost of this will be £6k. We hope to raise money to help with this.
- Planning is moving forward with the new glass doors in church.
- Offers of help for grass cutting is very much appreciated. More volunteers are needed. A working party will be advertised.

Meeting held at: St John's on 15th July 2026

Full minutes available at the back of Church and on the website

At our July meeting along with other routine business we:

- Heard that Catherine Atkinson, our MP, has been in touch to arrange a return visit to a Rest Stop Café session.
- Welcomed Michael's report that the organ has been repaired and is now back in use.
- Had a long discussion on detailed proposals from the Planning Group to improve our welcome and publicity for worship and community events. It was agreed to consult the congregation on a plan for banners on the front of the building. We also approved a budget for publicity and minor furniture items.
- Received a list of community events for the rest of 2026.

TRUTHS

I believe that we all possess 'personal truths' – things that we have either learned from experience or adopted from things that we have maybe read or spoken about with others - and, consciously or unconsciously, much of our day-to-day behaviour is founded on these truths.

Such truths are, of course, very personal and it's likely that we're careful about how we share them – they can maybe reveal too much about our inner attitudes and personality!

That said, I have a couple of personal truths (among several other more 'private' ones) that I aim to live by and that I'm willing to share:

- 'Stuff' happens – sometimes it's 'good stuff' and sometimes it's 'bad stuff' but, either way, it happens without any apparent rhyme or reason. Don't fret about why it's happened and always be ready to adjust your plans in response to 'stuff' that's happened.
- The most important thing in my (physical) life is my next breath – without that I can do nothing.

John Ortberg (the author of the book that I reviewed in last month's magazine) has had the courage to share several of his personal truths – these were published in the 29th May UCB 'Word for Today' www.ucb.co.uk/word-for-today/192964. I felt that they deserved to be shared further and (with permission from UCB) offer them here:

1. God is always present and active in my life, whether or not I see Him.
2. Coming to recognize and experience God's presence is learned behavior; I can cultivate it.
3. My task is to meet God in this moment.
4. I'm always tempted to live 'outside' this moment. When I do that, I lose my sense of God's presence.
5. Sometimes God seems far away for reasons I don't understand. Those moments, too, are opportunities to learn.

6. Whenever I fail, I can always start again right away.
7. No one knows the full extent to which a human being can experience God's presence.
8. My desire for God ebbs and flows, but His desire for me is constant.
9. Every thought carries a 'spiritual charge' that moves me a little closer to or a little further from God.
10. Every aspect of my life, work, relationships, hobbies, errands – is of interest to God.
11. My path to experiencing God's presence will not look quite like someone else's.
12. Straining and trying too hard do not help. So, the word for today is – God is working in you, with you, and through you!

I can see why he's a book author and preacher and I'm not! What an encouraging foundation upon which to live a Christian life. (I especially like the respect for others imbued in 'Truth 11' and the overall sense of God's loving forgiveness that permeates all of them.)

I think that it's pretty clear from these truths that John feels that God is a good and loving friend – one that can be relied on when needed and who never 'goes off in a huff' if he's ignored or disregarded.

That then makes me wonder; if God and I are friends, then how should I behave towards Him? I love and respect my friends, but I don't worship them – even the ones that are so much stronger, cleverer and more loving than I am that I sometimes wonder why they accept me as a friend. I'm relaxed in the presence of my true friends – I don't panic if they see me in my pyjamas and I don't rush to get out the best tea-service when they arrive.

I'm reminded of a line in Jefferson Airplane's 'Somebody to Love': "... and your friends, baby, treat you like a guest". Are we guilty of treating our friend God, 'like a guest'? Maybe that's a good question for some 'friendly' discussion.

With love. *Paul G. ("Tall Paul")*



Paint a 'Something'

St John's Church Hall

Sunday 13th September
from 2 - 4pm

Enjoy a relaxing afternoon
painting bags, hats, stones,
pots and more!

£6
on the door

Refreshments included



STARTING YOUR DAY WITH GOD

If you're not a 'morning person', don't put pressure on yourself to have an extended time of reading Scripture and praying first thing in the morning. Frank Laubach, a modern-day master of practising the presence of God, said, 'If you are tired of some sleepy form of devotion, probably God is as weary of it as you are.' Instead of forcing yourself in the morning, try to arrange – as early as you can – to have just a few minutes alone with God.

Do three things:

- First, acknowledge your dependence on God.
- Second, tell Him about your concerns for the day.
- Third, invite God to spend the day with you.



Mavis was a very special neighbour who became part of our family and after her husband Roy died she came every year for Christmas dinner. We generally kept an eye on her along with other neighbours at No. 2 Onslow Rd.

During Covid we did shopping for her. Each week in the shopping order there would be a request for a large bag of sultanas. How could one person eat so many sultanas? Then Mavis explained about her blackbird. It used to sit on her windowsill and when it saw activity inside the house would tap on the glass and request feeding. Hence the sultanas. One year it even brought its wife and children to be fed. Mavis loved poetry and has written poems most of her life, as the mood took her. This poem was inspired by the blackbird and she could recite it quite readily until her memory failed. *Judi Witcomb*

A Spring Song

The blackbird has unpacked his flute
There's joy and he's no longer mute
The liquid music flows once more
And reaches to our very core.

The winter months were cold and dark
The vegetation mostly stark
It was a time to silent be
And just contain all energy.

But come the lengthening of days
When earth shows forth it's silent praise
Each living thing can share the light
And thus give forth to their delight.

And so the blackbird calls the tune
His energy is to us a boon
At first he practices for ages
Until he has the perfect phrases.

It's then his song he sings with glee
From post or pole or tops of trees
His joy is there within the song
He'd like to sing it all day long.



*In memory and written
by Mavis Deeley*

WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

Matthew 16. 13-20

What was the most important question you were ever asked? Will you marry me? Shall we buy this house? Is that really what you did? If so, we are finished!

The question that Jesus asks the disciples is one of the most important questions we will ever have to answer. What interested me was where Jesus asked it.

The question that Jesus asks the disciples is one of the most important questions we will ever have to answer. What interested me was where Jesus asked it.

He didn't ask it in Jerusalem, in the temple, nor in Galilee, but in Caesarea Philippi. It seemed odd until I discovered the context! Caesarea Philippi is about 25 miles north of the Sea of Galilee, at the base of Mount Hermon. Massive cliffs rock towered over the city. But what made it significant was not geography, but idolatry. For centuries, this site had been associated with pagan worship.

In Old Testament times, the area was linked to Baal worship, then under Greek influence, it became Paneas, after the god Pan. There was and still is a massive cave at the base of the rock cliff. Water flowed from it into what appears a bottomless abyss. The locals believed it was the entrance to the underworld—the “gates of Hades.”

Then came Herod the Great, building a temple to honour Caesar Augustus, but his son Philip renamed it Caesarea Philippi—to honour Caesar and himself. So here in the centre of paganism, Jesus asks: **“Who do people say that I am?”** Do you see the enormity of this? He didn't ask it in neutral territory, but in enemy territory. In front of the gate of Hades, He asks **“Who do people say that I am?”** It's not a casual question. It is the biggest wake up call, because how you identify Jesus, determines one's perspective and purpose in life. Caesarea Philippi was full of people who were totally confused about their purpose of life - just as so many are today.

When Jesus asked his disciples this question, He recognised their confusion, hence their responses. “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah” etc. These were respectful answers. No one says: “You are a fraud or a liar or a madman, they don't insult Him, they are respecting him but....!”

This is why so many down the ages have totally misunderstood who He is. Many speak well of Him but misunderstand Him completely. They recognised similarities with John, Elijah and the prophets, in His boldness and confrontation of injustice, prophetic authority, someone sent by God, someone with divine attributes but they stopped short of identifying Him as **the** Messiah.

This is the major distinction: If Jesus was only a prophet, His purpose was just to speak truth!

If He was a teacher, He would just instruct. If He was just a reformer, He would try and improve society.

If He is not the Christ, why the cross? If He is not the Son of God, then what's the relevance of the resurrection? If He is only inspirational, then obedience is optional. If He is only moral, then repentance is negotiable. This illustrates why our response to who Jesus Christ was and is, is not meaningless but has consequences.

We live in our own Caesarea Philippi. Temples and shrines look different, but idols are everywhere: material success, social media, celebrities, personal truth, broad spirituality.

Our culture says: *"Jesus is loving, inclusive, compassionate, a wonderful teacher."* All respectful answers, but all incomplete. Half-truths about Jesus mislead about who He is and what He came to do. CS Lewis said: *"You must make your choice: either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse..... But let us not come with any patronising nonsense about him being a great human teacher. He has not left that option open to us. He did not intend to."*

Do we reduce Jesus to something manageable, more comfortable to fit our preferences? If we don't know who He is, we won't know who we are, and that is exactly why Jesus asked: **"But who do you say that I am?"** Looking them straight in the eyes which removed any chance to sit on the fence! He didn't ask "do you like my teaching?" "Or appreciate my miracles?" "But who do you believe I am."

Peter eventually says: **"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God"** - Not a prophet, Not Elijah, but the promised Messiah, the One Israel had been waiting for. Peter is saying, "You are the answer to God's eternal plan." In a city filled with dumb and dead idols, Peter identifies the living God.

When Peter becomes clear about who Jesus is, he becomes clear about why Jesus came; to fulfil God's promises. He won't let us rely on others' views or to follow one's family, or church leaders, or to just respect Jesus. We must answer the question: **"Who do you say I am?"** We cannot remain neutral, we either crown Him, or sideline Him. When Peter answered as he did, his life was radically changed, irrespective of his past! Jesus said: **"You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You didn't learn this from any human being!"** God's Spirit revealed it to you.

Jesus continues **"You were Simon; now you are Peter."** **"On this rock** (not this traitor or impetuous fool) **I will build My church."** They were standing in front of that rock?" I'm going to build something stronger. Not a temple to Pan or Caesar, or a shrine to human power, but MY church - and nothing will overpower it.

He says, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven." Peter is no longer just a fisherman. He now has kingdom responsibility. When we become clear about who Jesus is, we discover who we are!

We are not defined by our past, our failures, our culture. We are defined by Christ himself, His love and promises. So, If Jesus is building His church, we are no longer spectators, but participators.

The church is not a weekly event; it is a kingdom movement. We proclaim His gospel; we live under His authority and help Him in what He is building. Our world is confused about Christ, are we?

People search extensively for meaning, but Jesus said: **"I am the way the truth and the life."** When we know who He is, then we know who we are, and we will know what we're here to do.

A reflection by Rev Paul Pritchard which he shared at St Johns on 28th June

SUNDAY AFTERNOONS in the Link

Spend a couple of hours relaxing with others in a friendly atmosphere at the Games Afternoon on the 3rd Sunday of the month from 2 - 4pm in the St John's Link.

A variety of games for all ages and abilities, or bring your own favourite game. If you would prefer, just come to chat with others.

Cakes and unlimited tea, coffee or squash will be served throughout, along with a good selection of cakes or biscuits.

There will be no specific charge – just a donation to cover costs



THE VICARAGE BARBECUE

On Sunday 12th July about 60 parishioners enjoyed a barbecue lunch in the Vicarage garden. The food was great, expertly cooked by Peter, and efficiently served by Helen and helpers. The company was good and there was plenty of comfortable shade to sit in and enjoy the occasion.

Our thanks to Peter and Helen and their team of helpers for making this a happy church family time.



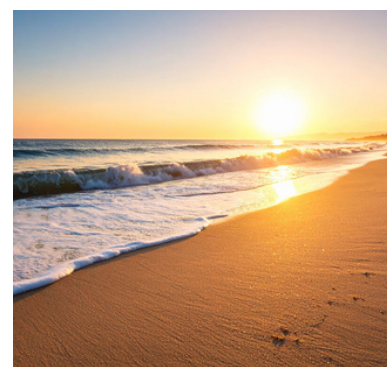
ALL SAINTS TIDY DAY

We will be having a maintenance/church and grounds tidy day on Saturday 8th August from 9am – 2pm. If you can help, even if for a couple of hours, please sign up at the back of church. Refreshments will be provided. We are having a skip so we would appreciate your help in filling it! *James Bowles*



PAUSE & PONDER

Cameras at the ready! We would love to see and include your holiday photos in our September Pause & Ponder at All Saints Churchyard. Please send them to the office or to Janice Toplis (Churchwarden) by 30th August.





Christians Together in Mickleover are running two activity mornings

Where:

**St John's Church,
Devonshire Drive, DE3 9HD**

Time:

10am to 12pm

3rd August:



10th August:



Children must be accompanied by an adult.

To reserve a place please contact:-

Paula Whitley via WhatsApp or email

ccow@mickleovermethodist.org.uk

07443 760886

**BREAST
CANCER
NOW**

**Rest
Stop Café**

10AM - 12PM
every Friday at
St John's

Coffee Morning
during Rest Stop Café at St John's
from 10am - 12pm
in support of Breast Cancer Now
Friday 14th August

Breast Cancer Now are funding life-saving science. From uncovering how breast cancer develops and spreads to new and better treatments that can find and destroy cancer cells.

Enjoy a few hours of escapism at

St John's-on-Sea
Café and Fish & Chip Lunch



Friday 21st August
at St John's Church Hall
10am - 2pm

Hot food will be served from 12.30pm - 2pm
Rest Stop Café open from 10am - 12pm as
usual. There will also be a quiz and bingo!

£6

**Food must be booked
in advance**



MICHAEL'S 8 DAY RETREAT

I arrived at St Beuno's on Monday 15th June for my 8 day individually guided prayer retreat. St Beuno's was built in 1848 as a seminary for training young Jesuit priests and brothers, but with the decline in numbers of young people becoming Jesuits it was thrown open as a spirituality centre welcoming all Christians, see the website www.beunos.com

It specialises in 4, 6 and 8 day individually guided retreats, where retreatants meet their spiritual director daily and share their present life experience, The term, spiritual director, sounds forbidding but in reality it is not. What it means is that the spiritual director aims to help you discover where the Spirit is leading you.

Built as a seminary for students the rooms are very spacious and there is everything you need, including a kettle to make drinks whenever you want. The food is buffet style and self-service, very Mediterranean and Asian, and so very suitable for mass catering, but I often had no idea what I was eating. Being older I have a much reduced appetite and eat more slowly so that I often found myself the last one sitting at my table, and as the meals were in silence one could come and go as one wants. The grounds were a mixture of gardens and woodlands, and the house being built like a stately home had stone walls two feet thick and was always cool.

I met my spiritual director Alan on the Tuesday morning. He was a Jesuit brother in his eighties, he had been a teacher, and had ended up as director of Jesuit schools in England. He was very friendly, good humoured, caring and affirming, and he listened intently to what I had written after my times of prayer, emphasising my highlights, and relating them to Jesuit spirituality which is very much concerned with consolation and desolation.

I had written to him beforehand about my bereavement and I took with me photos of Margaret. He thought she was lovely, and he wanted to know more about my background, and so he set me four prayer exercises to describe my past.

1. How did I come to give myself to Christ?
2. How did I come to marry Margaret?
3. How did I come to be ordained?
4. How am I living my life without Margaret?

Each time of prayer was about 20 minutes, and then I would spend 40 minutes writing up what had happened and what it meant for me. Next day I would read out what I had written, and he would give me 3 or 4 more exercises, so that I spent 3-4 hours each day in prayer. The rest of the time I spent resting, reading, walking in the grounds, and I found Margaret's two favourite spots – the rose terrace and a clearing in the woodland overlooking the river Clywd, and attending the daily Eucharist, where all Christians are welcome.

After my first prayer time about me we moved on to passages from the Bible, and many of them were imaginative contemplations where I imagined myself as a participant or a witness. After my imagining I asked myself what fruit I had gained from it and then had an imaginary conversation with Jesus. My favourite was the Samaritan woman at the well, where Jesus began a conversation with a woman, who was clearly on her own, lonely and miserable, and he transformed her life by sharing the Gospel with her. For me it showed the importance of entering into conversation with someone, who is on their own, and I have found that I ended up with a good friendship.

I ended my retreat feeling transformed. Since Margaret's death on 2nd November I have carried on as best I could, but now I felt I had a purpose in life – to treasure my past and to live my new life with joy, sharing my faith with the people of St John's and my house group, members of the Derby Anglican Cursillo and Mickleover Careers Group, my three lovely directees, who come for spiritual direction, and my neighbours and friends. I was very grateful for friends from St John's who took me to St Beuno's and then returned to fetch me so that I didn't have to cope with a complicated rail journey at the height of the heatwave. How good it is to have friends at St John's and have had a life-changing retreat.

Michael Huggett

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!

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!*

Rest Stop Café



10AM - 12PM
every Friday at
St John's

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

EVERYONE WELCOME



CTiM

Churches Together in Mickleover

BIBLE STUDY



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

For more information, contact Judi
Witcomb on 07531495891
see calendar for dates

Walking the Camino

‘Blessed are those whose strength is in you; whose hearts are set on pilgrimage’ Ps 84:5

Towards the end of May, just a few weeks after starting as Acting Bishop of Derby, I spent a week on pilgrimage. My heart had been set on walking the Camino do Santiago (‘The Way of St James’) for many years – and retirement offered the opportunity.



I wanted to make space for reflection on the pilgrimage of life. I hoped to connect with God and my Christian heritage, seeking wisdom and spiritual insight. And I wanted to walk those ancient paths in the company of fellow pilgrims. It is a matter of God’s sense of humour that as I embarked on my travels, I found myself called into ministry in the Diocese of Derby.

This is how life is as people of faith. We trust our ways to God and trust God’s timing too. In the end, it was the perfect time to reflect on being back in Derby, on God’s providence in the twists and turns of the journey of life.

On the sixth day, our last day of walking, our guide gave clear instructions – though we had walked at our own pace up until now, for the very last section of the day, the two miles into Santiago de Compostela, we would walk together. Our group had bonded, with deep conversations at times, and companionable silence at others. To arrive together, at our destination, was a moment of great joy, and tears – we had done it. We had come to the holy place. That evening many of us attended the Pilgrims’ Mass in the Cathedral – people of all nations and many languages, united in our worship and gratitude.

A prayer at the end of the Mass was said in English: ‘As you kept them safe on their Camino way, may you keep them safe on their journey home; may they live the gospel of Jesus as their Camino of life continues.’

As we journey together in the diocese for this season, may we, as God’s pilgrim people, live the gospel of Jesus.

With gratitude for our companionship and with prayers and blessings for the journey we share.

The Rt Revd Jackie Searle Acting Bishop of Derby