

Welcome to our Churches

www.mickleoveranglicans.org.uk

All Saints

*Etwall Road, Mickleover,
DE3 0DL*

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St Andrew's

*School Lane, Radbourne,
DE6 4LY*



St John's

*Devonshire Drive,
Mickleover, DE3 9HD*

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Sunday 23rd August 2026

Services In Our Churches This Sunday

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

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

Collect

God of constant mercy,
who sent your Son to save us:
remind us of your goodness,
increase your grace within us,
that our thankfulness may grow,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

This Sunday's Reading

Romans 12: 1-8, Matthew 16: 13-20

Next Sunday's Reading

Exodus 3 1-15, Matthew 16: 21-end

Midweek Services and Groups

- Mondays: ***St John's Internet Café*** – 10am – 12pm in the 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 (2nd + 4th Thur of month) in the Link
- Fridays: ***St John's Rest Stop Café*** 10am – 12pm in the Link

Matthew 14: 22 – 32 - ‘If you want to walk on water, you’ve got to get out of the boat’ (John Ortberg’s book of the same title)

I want to invite us to go for a walk – not one of Julia Bradbury’s Railway walks or even Alfred Wainwright’s walks in the Lake District, however inviting they are. Instead, we are going on a short walk with Peter as he undertook one of the most extraordinary walks of all time.

Peter’s walk stands in a line of unforgettable walks in the Bible. There was the long walk that Abraham took to get from Ur in modern day Iraq to Canaan. There was the liberating walk that Moses and the Israelites took to leave Egypt across the Red Sea to freedom, and the frustrating walk that took them around Sinai for the next 40 years. There was the disciples illuminating walk to Emmaus, not to mention Pauls interrupted walk to Damascus. And what about that final walk that Jesus took, so sad and holy that it received its own name, the way of tears or Via Dolorosa, from the Praetorium to Golgotha. But perhaps the most unforgettable walk of all was taken by Peter, the night he got out of the boat and walked on the water. It is unforgettable because of two facts, he was walking on the water, and he was walking with Jesus.

Whereas all the other walks had their challenges, Peter’s walk above all stands out as an example to all of us at one time or another to leave our comfort zones, walk out in faith and experience something more of the power and presence of God.

The context - The disciples had been sent by Jesus out across the lake whilst he went on his own to pray. A storm arose. Not a minor rain shower either like we had yesterday! The Greek says that the boat was ‘tormented’ by the waves. By the fourth quarter of the night, or 3am, we can imagine that the disciples weren’t thinking about getting to the other side, they just wanted to stay alive! Then one of them noticed a shadow moving towards them on the water. As it got closer it became obvious that it was a human being and he was walking on the water. Let’s take a moment to let that image sink in. They cried out in fear – ‘it’s a ghost!’ I think that would have been our reaction too.

They didn’t recognise that it was Jesus, how could they fail to recognise him? Maybe Matthew wants us know that sometimes it takes the eyes of faith to recognise when Jesus is around. Often, in the midst of the storms that swirl around us in our lives, we are no better at recognising his presence than they were. So, what was Jesus doing walking across the water at 3am? Mark’s account includes the interesting statement – “Jesus intended to pass them by” This phrase in the Bible is used to define those moments when God reveals his glory. I’m sure we remember that well known story of God putting Moses in a cleft in a rock, so Moses could see “while my glory passes

by'...The Lord passed before him." God told Elijah to stand at the entrance of the cave "for the Lord is about to pass by"

These appearances come when God is about to call his people to do something extraordinary. So, the same thing is happening here, Jesus goes to pass them by in order to reveal the power of God and at the same time challenge Peter to do something that no-one would ever think possible.

It is interesting to remember that the disciples entered the boat in the first place at Jesus' command. They would have to learn as do we, that obedience to God is no guarantee of being spared adversity. But now that the storm had their full attention, Jesus decided that his disciples needed to get to know a little more about the Rabbi they had been following. He was revealing himself to be God himself.

Alone out of the disciples it seems Peter spoke. "If it is you, command me....", Peter had learnt what we all need to learn, water-walkers need to discern between faith and foolishness. He makes sure that Jesus thinks this is a good idea. And in the darkness, maybe Jesus smiled, maybe he laughed. At last, one of the disciples has got it.

But put yourself in Peter's place for a moment. You have a sudden insight into what Jesus is doing – the Lord is passing by. He's inviting you to go on the adventure of your life. But at the same time, you're scared to death. What would you choose? the water or the boat?

The boat is safe, secure and usually comfortable. On the other hand, the water is rough, the waves are high. The wind is strong, you are in the midst of a storm. If you get out of the boat, there's every chance you will sink. But if you don't get out of the boat, there's a guaranteed certainty that you will never walk on the water. Therefore 'if you want to walk on the water, you've got to get out of the boat.'

To conclude: someone once spelt the word 'faith' as 'R I S K'.

Is that the kind of faith you relate to? Or would you rather be in the comfortable world of security and safety? Only you can answer that question.

Every blessing, Peter

Notices

Sunday 30th August – Joint MA Holy Communion at St John's, 10am. There will not be a service at All Saints next Sunday.

Midweek Soiree – this month we will be showing Andre Rieu in Concert. It will be a special evening showing at 7pm on 26th August in the centre with the chance to dress up for the evening! Entry £5 with evening nibbles included. If anyone needs transport, please let us know.

Alpha – Christian Basics Course. From 9th September (7pm Wednesday evenings) we are hosting a new Alpha course on behalf of Christians Together in Micklegate at All Saints. Speak to Peter if you are interested 07725740407.

Paint a 'Something' – Sunday 13th September from 2 – 4pm at St John's Hall. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon painting bags, hats, stones, pots and more. £6 on the door, refreshments included.

Our Love Prayers and Sympathy – to the family and friends of Jim Collyer who passed away last Monday. Funeral details to follow.

Breast Cancer Now Coffee Morning – Thank you to everyone who organised and came to the coffee morning at St John's Rest Stop Café last Friday. An amazing £271.28 was raised for Breast Cancer Now.

Harvest Festival – All Saints will be celebrating harvest on 27th September. Decorating church will be on Friday 25th Sept from 2pm, all help welcome. Donations towards the cost of flowers can be left with Rebekah in the office or with the of 'flower girls!' Any berries, greenery, dried flower heads etc would be great (may be less of it because of the heat). Thank you in anticipation. *Celia Cullen*.

CTiM Prayer Walk – Thursday 3rd September at 10.15am. Meeting at All Saints car park Etwell Rd. We will walk for about an hour in the 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 Devonshire Drive. If you plan to join us please let me know by email ray_lee16@yahoo.co.uk, or phone or text to 07766927539 Thanks *Ray Lee*.

"The Bible Comes Alive" - on 24 August at 10am at 12 Murray Road. Luke 22,24 -30. The call to discipleship. All welcome.

Makers Market – Thank you to everyone who supported the Makers Market last weekend at All Saints, it was very successful and enjoyable. We have even had requests to hold the event again soon! We raised £500 for church funds