

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 30th August 2026

Services In Our Churches This Sunday

- MA Holy Communion at St John's, 10am. Dawn Perry will be speaking.
- *No service at All Saints this Sunday.*

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

Collect

Almighty God,
you search us and know us:
may we rely on you in strength
and rest on you in weakness,
now and in all our days;
through Jesus Christ our lord. Amen.

This Sunday's Reading

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

Next Sunday's Reading

Rom 13: 8 to end, Matt 18: 15 to 20

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

Talk by Peter Walley

In our reading, Jesus asked his disciples, 'who do people say that I am?'

It is also a question we consider when putting together a tribute to someone who has passed away. The best tributes at a funeral in my view are the honest ones. I still remember entering a house in Exeter, during my curacy, and before I even sat down, a family member said to me. 'You won't say anything nice about the old bat will you?!' I think I responded along the lines of I am sure we can honestly reflect on her character without having to be nasty!

But what do we think of Jesus? People then, as people today have all sorts of ideas about who Jesus might be. Often when asked we will say: 'A good man'. If you ask a Muslim who Jesus is, they will say to you: 'A prophet', others will say, 'a good Teacher' or a 'miracle worker' and of course Jesus is all of those.

Some of these were titles he gave himself, probably the most familiar is 'the good shepherd' picking up the image of Psalm 23, or maybe, 'the living bread' a phrase we sometimes use when we come to remember Jesus sacrifice' by taking the bread and wine. but Jesus has many more titles. Someone has estimated that there are over 200 titles for him in the Bible.

Here, Jesus starts by talking about one of those titles - 'the Son of Man'.

This is a striking phrase. In the Old Testament, which was the Bible that Jesus knew, he may have been thinking back to Psalm 80 verse 17 where the Psalmist wrote: 'Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand, the son of man you have raised up for yourself'. Here, the Psalmist was crying out to God to act through a specific individual anointed to bring deliverance.

Here at the very northern end of Israel, the source of the River Jordan, at Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asks his disciples, 'who do people say that the Son of Man is?' and they come up with several suggestions. John the Baptist (whom Herod had beheaded, could he have been raised to new life?), Elijah (who was the greatest old testament prophet and had ascended into heaven in a chariot) or maybe one of the other prophets such as Jeremiah.

This gives us an interesting insight into the people's view of Jesus – it was certainly not along the lines of 'gentle Jesus, meek and mild', beloved of the Victorian hymn writers. OT prophets didn't usually have encouraging things to say to rulers or the people of their day. Jesus' teaching was equally challenging and the people recognised that.

Jesus asks them again and Peter blurts out. 'You are the Messiah, the Christ, the Son of the living God.' Finally, one of the disciples had understood. But Jesus recognised that Peter hadn't said that by his own reflection, rather, God the Father had whispered the title in Peter's ear. Jesus then blesses Peter and through him, all people of Christian faith by telling him and through him, us, that the church that Jesus will found, will be based upon faith alone.

In another place in John's gospel (John 6:29), Jesus is asked, 'what must we do to do the works that God requires?' and Jesus' 'Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

Our reading ends with Jesus telling the disciples not to share this insight with anyone. Why was that important? Very simply, Peter makes this declaration at Caesarea Philippi. If you have ever been to Israel, you will know that the River Jordan comes out of a cave here under Mount Hermon. A century or two before, the Greeks had set up a temple to their god Pan at the entrance to the cave, but during Jesus' lifetime, the Romans had also built a huge temple to the latest addition to their god's pantheon, namely the Emperor Augustus. All citizens of the Empire, with the exception of the Jews had to declare during public worship that Caesar is king or Lord. So, for Peter to make the declaration that he did at Caesarea Philippi that Jesus was the Messiah right by a temple dedicated to the Roman Emperor would have been dynamite.

So, Jesus told them to keep quiet. He knew that there were some in the crowds listening to him that would have tried to make him King by force there and then. So, for now, the disciples were to keep this to themselves.

But the question is still there for all of us? Who do I say Jesus is? Who do you say that he is? And if our answer, like Peter's – whatever particular words we use - stumbles towards:

"You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God", then we too are blessed – and on that declaration of faith in Jesus, God will build the church, grow his Kingdom and transform others' lives.

A prayer for each day. Gracious God, encourage us with faith, transform us with hope and inspire us with love, that we may be bearers of your good news for the world. Amen.

Every blessing. Peter

Notices

Internet Café – at St John's will be closed on Monday 31st August for the Bank Holiday.

CTiM Prayer Walk – Thursday 3rd September at 10.15am. Meeting at All Saints car park Etwall 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*.

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

Men's Breakfast - The next church men's breakfast will be on Saturday 19th September, 9:00 at Java. If anyone would like to come along, please speak to Mike Shooter.

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*.

A Night of Comedy with Paul Kerensa – at St Helens Church, Etwall at 7.30pm on 26th September. Come to hear this national Christian comedian entertain us. Tickets £15, book in advance or on the door. Contact 07791001415 or 07969757449.

All Saints Harvest Lunch – Sunday 27th September at 12.30pm in the Centre. Bring your own picnic, tea and coffee will be served.

Beetle Drive & Themed Quiz! – Saturday 3rd October at 6.30pm at All Saints Centre. Come along for a fun evening with a quiz and beetle drive. £5 each, light refreshments included. Teams of 4. Don't worry if you don't have a team, let us know, there will be others that you can make a team with on the day.

Our Love Prayers and Sympathy – to the family of Jim Collyer. The funeral will be at St John's on Wednesday 30th September at 2.30pm following on from a family only service at the crematorium.