Welcome to our Churches

www.mickleoveranglicans.org.uk

All Saints
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St Andrew's
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St John's
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Sunday 1st November 2026

Services In Our Churches This Sunday

- Holy Communion at All Saints, 10am. Peter Walley will be speaking.
- Morning Praise at St John's, 10am. Helen Walley will be speaking.

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

Collect

God of holiness,
your glory is proclaimed in every age:
as we rejoice in the faith of your saints,
inspire us to follow their example
with boldness and joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday's Reading

Rev 7: 9 to end, Matt 5: 1 to 12

Next Sunday's Reading at All Saints

Thess 4: 13 – end, John 15: 9 - 17

Next Sunday's Reading at St John's

Amos 5: 18 – 24, Matthew 25: 1 - 13

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

Commemoration for the Bereaved – Sunday 15th November at 3pm at All Saints. There is a list at the back of the churches for the names of loved ones you wish to be remembered.

‘A Sign of Christ’s True Followers’ – 1 Thess 2: 1-8, Matt 22: 34-end

Our Thessalonians reading today has a very important message for us to take on board, it gives us crystal clear indications of how God wants us, the followers of His Son to behave – no deceit, no falsehood, or ulterior motives or trying to be someone else. **Love each other** unconditionally being the underlying principle we heard in our Gospel today.

So, what is the context of Paul’s thoughts to his friends in Thessalonica? Their recent visit had been brought to a sudden end, when the Jews decided to oppose the Gospel – they stirred up a public riot and brought charges against the two of them, baying for their blood, so Paul and Silas were helped to escape. They could have just disappeared, having no further contact, giving their enemies the opportunity to discredit them, sneering and saying things like: “*you can now see what they’re like, they fled and abandoned you and the church they started.”* But Paul was aware of this danger and wrote this letter attempting to remove all possible misconceptions. Explaining why they were forced to leave and reminding them of what happened and how they behaved while among them. Yet emphasising their longing to return. He wrote: ***“After we were separated from you for a little while (though our hearts never left you), we tried very hard to come back because of our intense longing to see you again”. V 17***
As I thought about this situation, I felt it described Paul’s example for us in two words, they are INTEGRITY and AUTHENTICITY. There was nothing false, or fake about him.

So, what can we learn from this? Paul was an open book, to them. They heard the good news of the Gospel from him, but they also saw the way he lived. What is it Kim Cooper often quotes? **“The only Gospel many people read is our way of life”**

Paul hadn’t used “words of flattery” or wanted to burden them.” He said, ***“Night and day we toiled to earn a living so that we would not be a burden to any of you”*** Then another wakeup call in v5 “***God alone examines the motives of our hearts”.*** He is saying God sees what other people cannot see. His conduct among them was open and transparent. Both the people and God witnessed it. His transparency was like our Lord while He was here on earth. That’s why they had to find people to lie at His trial; that’s integrity. I was reminded of what Peter said in his first letter: ***if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ.***

Some years ago, the New York Herald Tribune showed a picture of the Statue of Liberty, taken from a helicopter. From that angle, it showed the top of the statue’s head. They commented on the sculptor having done a painstaking job with the lady's face, arms and clothes. But he must have thought that the only eyes that would ever see the top of her head would be seagulls. Because he couldn’t have conceived of anyone flying over its head. Yet he took as much care sculpting the hair, scalp and shoulder folds as he had to all the areas people would easily see from their viewpoint on the ground. Christians, acknowledge God is always watching and sees everything, but does it make a difference?

Paul sets a very high benchmark, but this is what we ought to strive for – to be open,

truthful and transparent in life and witness. That's only possible with the Holy spirit's **hourly** help, but it's the mark of a true disciple and follower of Christ. So how does this apply to us? The late John Stott commented: *"No church can spread the gospel with any degree of integrity, let alone credibility,* ***unless it has been visibly changed by the gospel it preaches****. We need to look like what we are talking about. It is not enough to receive the gospel and pass it on; we must embody it in our common life, our love, our joy, our peace, and hope."*

Earlier, we used the word AUTHENTICITY—meaning the opposite of fake. Before coming to Thessalonica, Paul and Silas had suffered persecution in Philippi. They had been beaten, insulted and thrown into prison into stocks. But we know they were praying and singing at night when an earthquake struck and then the jailor and his family accepted Christ, directly because of the authenticity of Paul and Silas's Christian life. Similarly, when they came to Thessalonica, they met again with strong opposition. Yet eventually there were many believers and the young church grew. Paul said, "…***God gave us the courage to declare his Good News to you boldly***" (2:2). He couldn't control the circumstances of how people responded to the Gospel, but he could decide how he approached sharing it.

Paul boldly shared the Gospel and lived it, nothing more, nothing less, so he could say: "***For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes***." Rom 1:16. Paul didn't try to mince his words, or avoid the core good news by sugar-coating it, or tricking people into believing. He did nothing out of selfish ambition; his motive was a genuine love and wanting the best for the people. Nothing false, nothing fake. That's the sign of a faithful disciple of Christ, who follows his Lord's example and takes his responsibilities seriously.

IN CONCLUSION Paul is here modelling for us the example of a true follower of Christ, seeking only to please his Lord, not his friends or peers. He Presented the truth of the Gospel with no compromises, no fear, no impure motives, no personal agenda. He alone knows the true motivations behind our words and actions. Our integrity and authenticity are what matters most to Him, not how others perceive us. This must ultimately define the outworking of our faith, which others see. Amen

Rev Paul Pritchard

Notices

Can You Help? – as welcomers and sidesperson at All Saints, especially as we approach the very busy Christmas period, starting with the Christmas Tree Festival on 29th November – 6th December. There will be a 'job description' on the info table at the back of church.

Friends of Mickleover Manor – would like to invite someone from All Saints to join their group to maintain and develop links with the church after Peter's departure in November. An interest in the woodlands is important and enthusiasm for the project. If you are interested, please contact the office and your details will be passed on to the group.

CTiM Prayer for Mickleover – 10.15am, 5th November in St John's Link. During the winter months we meet to pray. We spend an hour praying for our community, listening for

anything that the Spirit prompts. This is an opportunity for those less able to walk to join us. If you would like to join, please let me know, ray_lee16@yahoo.co.uk or 07766 927539.

Craft, Coffee & Tabletop Sale – Saturday 7th November in the All Saints Centre from 10am – 3pm. A range of craft and tabletop stalls with a light lunch available in the afternoon. *If you have any bric-a-brac you would be willing to donate to the table raising funds for All Saints Church, please contact the All Saints Wardens or Rebekah.* Thank you.

All Saints Stitchers – will be holding a stall at All Saints Café on Wednesday 11th November and at St John's Rest Stop Café on Friday 13th November, both 10am -12pm. There will be a variety of Christmas novelty items. Bring your friends, have a coffee and browse our stall.

St Andrew's Quiz Night – Friday 20th November at 7pm at St John's Hall. Teams of 6 max. £12.50pp, includes ploughman's platter. There will be a bar and raffle. Please email your team's name and numbers to Tim at: woodlandsgp@gmail.com

Paint, Sip & Smile – 21st November at 7 – 9.30pm at St John's. Decorate a tote bag as you sip your favourite tipple (bring your own drink), £5 per person. Please book in advance with the details on the front page.

All Saints Christmas Tree Festival – Sunday 29th November at 4pm. The Christmas 'carols and songs' themed tree festival will begin with a carol service with Newmount Brass Band during the Our Mickleover Christmas Festival. All Saints Stitchers will be in the Centre selling their crafts and refreshments. The church will be open daily until 6th December to view the Christmas trees and vote for your favourite, opening times to be announced.

Christmas Tree Decorating – help is needed to decorate St John's' tree for the All Saints Christmas Tree Festival (starting 29th Nov). This years' theme is Christmas carols and hymns. Please speak to Wendy Lee if you are interested or would like further details. Thank you.

Getting Ready for Christmas at All Saints – Thank you to everyone who helped with harvest flowers. Next, Christmas decorating and Christmas Tree Festival! We would like decorated gift wrapped (empty) boxes of various sizes for our windowsills and base of font. Any size, from margarine tubs and upwards, as long as they are beautifully wrapped for Christmas. We will start decorating on Friday 27th Nov 10am – 12pm prior to Tree Festival and complete the decorations on 8th December 2pm. Any help would be appreciated. For more details speak to Celia Cullen or phone 01332 514472 or any of the 'flower girls'. Thank you.

Guidance for Holy Communion from Bishop Jackie: "If intinction is your practice, I would like you to restore the common cup as the norm at Holy Communion. This is established Church of England practice. For those who would prefer not to receive the common cup, be assured that receiving in one kind is a full receiving of Holy Communion. As Common Worship says, 'Communion should normally be received in both kinds separately, but where necessary may be received in one kind, whether of bread, or where the communicant cannot receive solid food, wine.'" As a ministry team, we feel it is necessary to comply with her request. This means that we will stop intincting by the priest and instead offer either the bread on its own, or if you wish, with the common cup too.