

Hello everyone,

As we reach the time of year when our PCCs are holding their annual meetings, please pray for all those in our team involved in keeping our churches open ensuring they are welcoming spaces for all to come and meet with God. We pray especially for our PCC and DCC members, as well as for the many other volunteers who help out every week, and for all who benefit from our services and the support our churches give to our local communities.



Services this week:

This Sunday at 10.00am we have Holy Communion at Snarestone, Baptism with HC at Measham, Morning Worship at Normanton, Morning Prayer at Sweptstone and Donisthorpe, and Breakfast Church at Packington.

Looking ahead:

On Wednesday we have Midweek Communion at Appleby Church at 10.00am.

Activeage meet again at 11.00am in Measham Church Hall also on Wednesday.

Kids Kingdom meet at 9.00am to 11.00am in Appleby Church Hall

Woodfield Singers meet every Thursday at 7.30pm in Sweptstone Church Hall, all welcome.

Next Sunday (11th) we have services of Morning Prayer at Measham, Baptism at Donisthorpe, and Holy Communion with Kids Kingdom at Appleby, all at 10.00am. At 10.30am at Packington there will be a special Songs of Praise service for the 80th anniversary of VE Day, followed by a ploughman's lunch.

Woodfield Team prayer

God our Father, you long to draw all people into your love.

Increase in number your church throughout the Woodfield Team;

deepen us as followers and learners of Christ;

and give us courage to share the good news of your kingdom.

We pray this in the power of your Spirit,

to the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect for Sunday 4th May - The Third Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ,

you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:

strengthen us to proclaim your risen life

and fill us with your peace,

to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**



Jesus and the miraculous catch of fish

21 Afterwards Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: ² Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. ³ 'I'm going out to fish,' Simon Peter told them, and they said, 'We'll go with you.' So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus.

⁵ He called out to them, 'Friends, haven't you any fish?'

'No,' they answered.

⁶ He said, 'Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.' When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

⁷ Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, 'It is the Lord,' he wrapped his outer garment round him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. ⁸ The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred metres. ⁹ When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

¹⁰ Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish you have just caught.' ¹¹ So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' None of the disciples dared ask him, 'Who are you?' They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Jesus reinstates Peter

¹⁵ When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?'

'Yes, Lord,' he said, 'you know that I love you.'

Jesus said, 'Feed my lambs.'

¹⁶ Again Jesus said, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?'

He answered, 'Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.'

Jesus said, 'Take care of my sheep.'

¹⁷ The third time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?'

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, 'Do you love me?' He said, 'Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.'

Jesus said, 'Feed my sheep. ¹⁸Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.' ¹⁹ Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, 'Follow me!'

Prayers for today:

Eternal Lord, you are our creator and sustainer. We bring before you the needs of our church, our world, our communities, and ourselves.

- We pray for our team of churches, and especially for all those on our PCCs and DCCs running our churches. Help us to recognise and give thanks for all the hard work shown by so many who give of their time and energy, quietly supporting the day to day activity of our churches so that they may be places of welcome to all.
- Creator God, we thank you for the example of leadership given to us by your Son, Jesus Christ, in his life on earth and how, in a very practical sense, he showed his followers a new way to fish. We pray for the peoples of the world who are learning to do new things with their lives and we continue to pray that such changes will hasten the day when all of your world has enough of the basic essentials and comforts of life.
- We pray for the peoples of the world that they may enjoy safety and security, and especially for the people of Ukraine, Sudan, and Gaza at this time. We pray that those who use violence to bring about their desires and those who then so readily seek revenge may instead pursue all that makes for peace.
- Almighty God, you have called us to follow in the way of your risen Son, and to care for those who are our companions, not only with words, but with acts of love. As we seek to be true friends of all, we pray for our families, our friends and our neighbours especially in areas where there are problems with our relationships. Let us always be the ones to make the first steps towards reconciliation.
- Loving God, we pray for all who bear the burdens of pain, bereavement, anxiety and depression. We pray that they may have an awareness of your presence and an understanding that you are bearing those burdens with them and always working towards their healing and wholeness.
- Merciful God, we remember with thankfulness and gratitude all those who have left their mark on our lives by giving us love and laughter, but who have now gone before us to be with Christ. We hold them in our hearts, knowing that you, Lord, hold them in yours.
- Faithful God, we offer you our prayers and ourselves, that we may play our part in your response. May we be steadfast in faith and active in service. Show us, as you did with your fishermen friends, the practical steps we need to take so that we can change the ways in which we do things and so develop consistency and integrity in all that we do in our lives.

Amen.