

Hello everyone,

Please continue to pray for peace as global issues and conflict continue to dominate the news headlines. Pray for the innocent, the women, men and children who are displaced, whose lives are disrupted, and who live in fear of the atrocities of war. Pray for those with power, that they may actively seek peaceful solutions to dispute and disagreement. Pray that there may be a recognition of common and shared humanity and God's promise of flourishing life for all people.

At this time of great uncertainty, we place our hope and trust in God, whose love never fails. Lord, have mercy...



Upcoming services:

This Sunday there will be services of Holy Communion with Kids Kingdom at Appleby, Morning Prayer at Measham, Morning Worship at Packington, and a Baptism at Donisthorpe, all at 10.00am.

Looking ahead:

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

Packington & Normanton Ladies Group also meet on Wednesday afternoon at 2.30pm in Packington church where there will be a guest speaker from Leicester Cathedral followed by refreshments.

Kids' Kingdom Baby & Toddlers meet on Thursday from 9.00am to 11.00am in Appleby Church Hall.

This year's Lent course, '*From Now On*', will run during the weeks leading up to Easter. It is based on the film *The Greatest Showman*, looking at hope and redemption. Sessions will take place on Thursdays at 10.30am (13th, 20th, 27th March, and 3rd & 10th April) in Donisthorpe Church and at 7.00pm on Thursday evenings on Zoom - please email Revd Rick woodfieldteamvicar@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Next Sunday (16th) there will be 10.00am services of Holy Communion at Appleby, Normanton, and Swepstone, a Baptism with Holy Communion at Norton, a lay led service at Donisthorpe, and Breakfast Church at Measham.

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 9th March - the First Sunday of Lent

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Reading for 9th March - Luke 4.1-13 New International Version (UK)



Jesus is tested in the wilderness

⁴ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

³ The devil said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.’

⁴ Jesus answered, ‘It is written: “Man shall not live on bread alone.”’

⁵ The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And he said to him, ‘I will give you all their authority and splendour; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. ⁷ If you worship me, it will all be yours.’

⁸ Jesus answered, ‘It is written: “Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.”’

⁹ The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ‘If you are the Son of God,’ he said, ‘throw yourself down from here. ¹⁰ For it is written:

“He will command his angels concerning you

to guard you carefully;

¹¹ they will lift you up in their hands,

so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”’

¹² Jesus answered, ‘It is said: “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”’

¹³ When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

Prayers for today:

We pray:

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

- Loving God, bless and guide our ministers and leaders as we enter the Lenten season of penitence and discipline, help us to be alive to your Spirit, who searches all our hearts and renews our lives as we offer our faith and obedience. We especially pray for the success of the team's Lent Course starting this week.
- Gracious God, we pray for your church, and the churches in our local community asking that there will be a growing desire to get together. We give you thanks for those who come up with fresh ways of making your name known to the wider community.
- Creator God, we know that we are part of the problems that the world faces, and we know that wherever there is resentment between people there will be tension. We pray that those who lead us and the other nations of the world will always try to solve issues in a peaceful way, and intervene in the world's conflicts with forethought and sense.
- Everlasting God, your son Jesus Christ was tried and tempted by the devil. May we never be ashamed of temptation but saved from the weakness of giving in. Help us choose the way of faithfulness rather than popularity, service rather than fame, and sacrifice rather than power.
- Loving God, we pray for those who are ill or in pain, longing to live full lives, for those who are sad and hurt longing for comfort, and for those in hospital awaiting treatment. May we always offer gentle support to those in trouble, sensitive encouragement to those in need, and strength and support to those in weakness.
- Merciful God, we pray for those saddened by the death of someone close to them. Give them your comfort as they mourn for their loved ones and turn their darkness into light. We commend to your everlasting love and care those who have died and pray that they will rest in the light of Christ.
- Gracious God, help us to see this time of Lent as an opportunity to develop our discipleship and discipline and as your Son Jesus showed us how to reject temptation, fill us with grace to be faithful to his example in this Lenten season and the years ahead.

Amen.