

Hello everyone,

With conflict and uncertainty ever present in the news, please continue to pray for peace this week: that the ceasefire in the Middle East will hold, and that just and meaningful steps can be taken towards ending the ongoing war in Ukraine.



Services this week:

This Sunday at 10.00am there will be Holy Communion at Normanton, Norton, and Swepstone, Breakfast Church at Measham, and a lay led service at Donisthorpe.

Looking ahead:

Snarestone Panto is here - don't miss the magic of Cinderella! Performances are Wednesday to Saturday this week at 7.30pm with additional matinee on the Saturday at 2.00pm. Tickets are £7.50 for adults, £5 seniors, and £4 for children. Family tickets for the matinee also available.

And a busy Wednesday all round:

- there will be midweek Communion at Packington Church at 10.00am;
- Swepstone have Coffee & Chat at 10.30am to 12.00noon in the Church Hall;
- Activeage meet again at 11.00am in Measham Church Hall also on Wednesday;
- Appleby have Community Lunch on Wednesday in the Church Hall at 12.30pm

Packington have Toastie Thursday in church with toasties, cake, and crafts for all ages from 12.00noon to 2.00pm.

Little Fishes (& Big Fishes) meet at 10.00am in Measham Church Hall on Friday for half-term fun for families with pre-school and primary-age children.

Next Sunday (23rd February) we have Holy Communion at Measham, Packington, and Donisthorpe, and Morning Prayer at Appleby, all at 10.00am.

Further ahead, on Friday 28th February from 12.30 to 2.00pm in church, Donisthorpe have Lunch Light, a monthly get together to support those bereaved, whether recently or not. Come for a chat, company, support and 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 16th February - the Third Sunday before Lent

Eternal God,
whose Son went among the crowds
and brought healing with his touch:
help us to show his love,
in your Church as we gather together,
and by our lives as they are transformed
into the image of Christ our Lord.

Amen

Reading for 16th February - Luke 6.17-26 New International Version (UK)



Blessings and woes

¹⁷ He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, ¹⁸ who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, ¹⁹ and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

²⁰ Looking at his disciples, he said:

‘Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ Blessed are you who hunger now,
for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² Blessed are you when people hate you,
when they exclude you and insult you
and reject your name as evil,
because of the Son of Man.

²³ ‘Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

²⁴ ‘But woe to you who are rich,
for you have already received your comfort.

²⁵ Woe to you who are well fed now,
for you will go hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you,
for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

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:

- Gracious God, we pray for your blessing to be upon our Woodfield team of churches and upon our mission to serve the communities we belong to. We pray for your presence to be seen vividly in what we do and say each day. We pray that your joy and your love will flow freely in and through us and that we might never be seen by those around us as falling short of the teachings of Jesus Christ our Lord.
- Creator God, drive away despair from our politics, revive our dreams of justice and truth, and restore our passion for what is good and right. Establish your just and gentle rule throughout the world especially where there is conflict; where peace seems so far away and so many have lost everything, even the faint hope of a peaceful future.
- We pray for our troubled world, its peoples and their leaders. We pray for those caught up in war, violence, and hatred; and all the innocent victims of these evils. Grant peace to those parts of the world where it has been absent for far too long, especially in Israel and Gaza, and in Ukraine.
- Father God, Lord, help us to use our influence within our families and communities to bring peace, joy and fun into people's lives, instead of stirring up strife. Help us be reliable and honest in what we do, and friendly to all who we meet in our daily lives.
- Loving God, we ask for your healing touch on all who are ill or suffering. We especially pray for any we know who are experiencing emotional pain, or are broken in spirit through personal or family problems.
- Merciful God, give courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that by casting their cares on you they may find the strength to face the days ahead.
- Everlasting God, send us out into the world this week, renewed and strengthened by our prayers, so that we may be a testament to the Gospel of your son Jesus Christ and determined to bring healing and reconciliation to our wounded world.

Amen.