

Hello everyone,

As we continue to pray for our walk through Lent, let us pray for those countries where it is dangerous, even forbidden to be a Christian and for our brothers and sisters in Christ who are persecuted for their faith.



### Services this week:

This Sunday 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.

### Looking ahead:

A busy Wednesday with:

- Midweek Holy Communion at 10.00am at Packington;
- Swepstone have Coffee, Cake & Chat in the Church Hall from 10.30am to 12.00noon;
- Activeage meet again at 11.00am in Measham Church Hall;
- Appleby have Community Lunch at 12.30pm in the Church Hall

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

Woodfield Singers meet every Thursday evening at 7.30pm in Swepstone Church Hall.

This year's Lent course, '*From Now On*', is based on the film *The Greatest Showman*, looking at hope and redemption. Sessions continue on Thursdays at 10.30am (20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> March, and 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> April) in Donisthorpe Church and at 7.00pm on Thursday evenings on Zoom - please email Revd Rick [woodfieldteamvicar@gmail.com](mailto:woodfieldteamvicar@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.

Little Fishes pre-school group meet this Friday at 10.00am in Measham Church Hall.

Next Sunday (23<sup>rd</sup>) there will be services of Holy Communion at Appleby, Donisthorpe, Measham, and Packington all at 10.00am. Kids Kingdom Sunday School will also meet at Appleby from 9.45am.

### 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 16<sup>th</sup> March - the Second Sunday of Lent

Almighty God,  
by the prayer and discipline of Lent  
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,  
and by following in his Way  
come to share in his glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen**

## Reading for 16<sup>th</sup> March - Genesis 15.1-12,17-18 New International Version (UK)



### The Lord's covenant with Abram

**15** After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision:

‘Do not be afraid, Abram.  
I am your shield,  
your very great reward.’

<sup>2</sup> But Abram said, ‘Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?’ <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, ‘You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.’

<sup>4</sup> Then the word of the Lord came to him: ‘This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.’ <sup>5</sup> He took him outside and said, ‘Look up at the sky and count the stars - if indeed you can count them.’ Then he said to him, ‘So shall your offspring be.’

<sup>6</sup> Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup> He also said to him, ‘I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it.’

<sup>8</sup> But Abram said, ‘Sovereign Lord, how can I know that I shall gain possession of it?’

<sup>9</sup> So the Lord said to him, ‘Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon.’

<sup>10</sup> Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. <sup>11</sup> Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup> As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him.

<sup>17</sup> When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking brazier with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. <sup>18</sup> On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates -

### **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:

- Mighty God, you spoke to your servant Abram telling him not to be afraid, to use you as his shield, and to expect a great reward. Help us in our times of fear and worry, and constantly remind us of the reward of everlasting life that we can expect through faith in your son Jesus Christ.
- 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 pray for the world, its peoples and leaders, especially Ukraine. Be with all those people who live in places troubled by disaster, natural or man-made. As we watch and read the news, we see the brokenness of our world and that for many life is more dangerous than ever before. We pray for the restoration and repairing of the world.
- We pray for our brothers and sisters around the globe, who face oppression and discrimination because of their faith, or who simply do not share the wealth and privileges we take for granted. Give them refuge under the shadow of your wings that they might have sustenance, shelter, and freedom from persecution.
- Merciful God we raise before you those we know and love who are ill or in need at this time, and we pray for all who care for them at home or in hospital.
- Gracious God, we pray for those who have died especially those who have died recently and for all who mourn their passing. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.
- Loving God help us to remember that you do infinitely more for us than we can ask or imagine. Hear our prayers for all your creation and gather us in the embrace of your abundant and life-giving Spirit.

**Amen.**