

Hello everyone,

This week we pray for the cessation of hostilities in Israel and Gaza, for the safe release and return of hostages to their families, and hope for the beginnings of a lasting peace in the region after so much devastation and violence.



Services this week:

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

Looking ahead:

This Wednesday we have:

- Midweek Communion at 10.00am at Donisthorpe;
- Coffee and Chat in Appleby Church Hall from 10.00am to 12.00noon;
- and Activeage meet again at 11.00am in Measham Church Hall.

Kids Kingdom Baby & Toddler group meet on Thursday morning from 9.00am to 11.00am in Appleby Church Hall.

Little Fishes will be on Friday in Measham Church Hall from 10.00am.

Next Sunday (26th) there will be services of Holy Communion at Appleby, Donisthorpe, and Packington, and Morning Prayer at Measham at 10.00am. Kids Kingdom Sunday School also meet at Appleby at 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 19th January - the Second Sunday of Epiphany

Eternal Lord,
our beginning and our end:
bring us with the whole creation

to your glory, hidden through past ages
and made known
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Reading for 19th January - John 2.1-11 New International Version (UK)



Jesus changes water into wine

² On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ² and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, 'They have no more wine.'

⁴ 'Woman, why do you involve me?' Jesus replied. 'My hour has not yet come.'

⁵ His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'

⁶ Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from eighty to a hundred and twenty litres.

⁷ Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water'; so they filled them to the brim.

⁸ Then he told them, 'Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.'

They did so, ⁹ and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realise where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside ¹⁰ and said, 'Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.'

¹¹ What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Prayers for today:

We pray:

Lord encourage us, when we are worried about the future and distracted by the past, to sit and rest in your presence in the present, to be renewed in faith, guided by your love, and strengthened for service.

- We cannot see all you have in store for us, help us to hold on to your promises, declared to the whole world through Jesus Christ, your Son. Help us to trust your plans for us and to be thankful for your steadfast love.

- Creator God, we pray for this world in its brokenness. We pray for all who work for justice and solidarity, and for world leaders that they will continue to seek an end to the suffering caused by war and violence, injustice and inequality, disease and prejudice, poverty and hopelessness, and bring healing to the world. Grant peace to those parts of the world where it has been absent for far too long. We pray especially for the ceasefire announced this week and that it will be kept so peace can return to the region. We pray for hostages returning home to their loved ones, that they will be able to adjust to life at home again and that healing of trauma can begin.
- Generous God, as we remember the presence of your son Jesus Christ at the Wedding at Cana, we pray for all we know who are preparing for marriage and those who are beginning their married life together. May they experience the love of God, and the support of family and friends. We also pray for any we know who are experiencing marital problems, that they may find a way forward through their present difficulties.
- Merciful God, we raise before you those who are sick, sad, or lonely, and those who are brave and patient when things are going wrong. We pray that they may be aware of your comforting presence and know that in your hands they are safe and loved.
- For those who are mourning, lead them gently through this time of darkness into the light and peace of your enduring love. To you, our God of unending being, we pray for those whose earthly lives have ended. We give thanks for lives well lived and for happy memories. May they find rest in the eternal joy of heaven and may all who grieve their passing find comfort and peace.
- Father God, your Son Jesus began his ministry at a wedding celebration and through the miracle of the wine showed us the abundance of your wonderful love for us. May Jesus continue to transform the water of our everyday lives into the new wine of your kingdom on earth, transforming by his love the ordinary into the extraordinary.

Amen.