

Hello everyone,

This Sunday is Racial Justice Sunday, and we are invited to pray for healing and reconciliation, for restorative practices in our churches and globally, and a renewed commitment to bringing God's love and justice into the world for all. Right from Leviticus the biblical principles of inclusivity and empathy, respect and love for the other are clear - *"The stranger who dwells among you shall be to you as one born among you, and you shall love him as yourself."* (Lev. 19.34)



Services this week:

This Sunday there will be Holy Communion at Appleby and Donisthorpe, Morning Worship at Packington, and BCP Morning Prayer at Measham, all at 10.00am. Kids Kingdom Sunday School also meet at Appleby from 9.45am.

Looking ahead:

On Wednesday there will be Activeage at 11.00am in Measham Church Hall.

Later on Wednesday, Packington & Normanton Ladies Group meet at 2.30pm in Packington Church with guest speaker Martin Grant from REMAP (Rehabilitation Engineering Movement Advisory Panel).

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

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

Further ahead, it's Snarestone Panto time - don't miss the magic of Cinderella! Performances are on Wednesday 19th to Saturday 22nd February 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.

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 February - the Fourth Sunday before Lent

Lord of the hosts of heaven,
our salvation and our strength,
without you we are lost:
guard us from all that harms or hurts
and raise us when we fall;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Reading for 9th February - Luke 5.1-11 New International Version (UK)



Jesus calls his first disciples

⁵ One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding round him and listening to the word of God. ² He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.'

⁵ Simon answered, 'Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.'

⁶ When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷ So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

⁸ When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, 'Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!' ⁹ For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰ and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.' ¹¹ So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

Prayers for today:

We pray:

Everlasting God, thank you for welcoming us in love, hear us as we pray for the good of the church, the world, and for all in need:

- Holy God, whenever we fail to care for our brothers and sisters throughout creation, the way is opened to destruction, and hearts are hardened. We recognise our responsibility to encourage and uphold one another and to live together in peace and love. We also recognise our needs and our human weaknesses and come to you now with our prayers.
- Creator God, thank you for our world and the places where we live. Help us all to be mindful that we are all created equal in your sight and accept our deep regret that despite this there is still so much inequality to be found. Help us to remember that you want us to be good stewards of your creation, living responsibly in the lands and seas of the earth. May all future growth be sustainable and may we ensure that its abundance is fairly shared for the good of all.
- God of every land and nation, you spoke your word and revealed your good news in Jesus Christ. 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, friend of those in need, your Son Jesus can free us from our burdens and heal our bodies and spirits. We pray for those still burdened, those seeking healing, those in need within the church and the world.
- Merciful God, when death separates from us those we love and we find it hard to live without them, help us to remember that death has no power at all over the peace you give and that the love we shared with the loved ones we see no more goes beyond the grave.
- Everlasting God, in the week ahead help us to conduct our lives with dignity, always giving and expecting respect, always praying before taking action and following each action with prayerful thanksgiving.

Amen.