

Hello everyone,

This week it is Safeguarding Sunday. With difficult news this week in the Church of England it is more important than ever that we pause and reflect on all the responsibility of us all, individually and collectively, to care for and safeguard others. Please take a moment to remember the survivors of abuse and pray that God will be with them in the long journey of healing. We pray that lessons can be learnt from past mistakes and failures to act so that we as a Church can do better.

Please pray for the vulnerable and all those who work protecting them, for safer cultures and communities for all, and for a world free from harm and neglect.



### **Upcoming Services:**

This Sunday we have services of Holy Communion at Swepstone, Morning Worship at Normanton, Breakfast Church at Measham, and a lay led service at Donisthorpe, all at 10.00am.

### **Looking ahead:**

On Wednesday Swepstone have Coffee, Cake & Chat at 10.30 to 12.00noon in the Church Hall.

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

Later on, Appleby have Community Lunch at 12.30pm in their Church Hall.

In the afternoon on Wednesday, Packington & Normanton Ladies' Group meet in Church at 2.30pm to hear about the work of Dementia UK and Admiral Nurses.

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

Packington's 'Come and See' for school years 7-9, is later on Thursday at 3.45 to 5.00pm.

Next Sunday (24<sup>th</sup>) we have 10.00am services of Holy Communion at Appleby, Donisthorpe and Packington, and lay led Morning Prayer 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 17<sup>th</sup> November - The Second Sunday before Advent

Heavenly Lord,  
you long for the world's salvation:  
stir us from apathy,  
restrain us from excess  
and revive in us new hope  
that all creation will one day be healed  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen**

### Reading for 17<sup>th</sup> November - Mark 13.1-8 New International Version (UK)



#### **The destruction of the temple and signs of the end times**

13 As Jesus was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, ‘Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!’

<sup>2</sup> ‘Do you see all these great buildings?’ replied Jesus. ‘Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.’

<sup>3</sup> As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked him privately, <sup>4</sup> ‘Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled?’

<sup>5</sup> Jesus said to them: ‘Watch out that no one deceives you. <sup>6</sup> Many will come in my name, claiming, “I am he,” and will deceive many. <sup>7</sup> When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. <sup>8</sup> Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth-pains.

#### **Prayers for today:**

We pray:

Loving God, we offer our prayers for all people and their situations; for lives that are going through upheaval or distress; for circumstances which only you can change:

- We pray for the Church throughout the world, remembering those Christians in countries where their beliefs make them vulnerable and in danger. Uphold and strengthen all who are persecuted for their faith. We pray for hostages and their families and loved ones from whom they are separated.
- Creator God, we pray for peace in the world, for understanding between nations, religions and factions, and for an end to war. We think especially of those in present danger: the people of Ukraine, Israel and Gaza. Keep them safe in the midst of trouble.
- We continue to pray for all those in our own country who are at risk, are abused, or otherwise helpless, for those who offer guidance through the dark and those who endeavour to safeguard the vulnerable. Help us to remember that we have a duty to love one another, to look out for one another, and be full of care for one another. May we all be led into safe and sound living.
- May those who are learning to live a new pattern of life feel that you are walking beside them. We especially pray for the sick and suffering in our churches and communities, and give you thanks for those who are on the road to recovery.
- Merciful God, we remember those who have died and those who are bereaved. May the light of Christ which eternally shines bring hope to their dark places. We especially pray for those whose anniversary falls at this time.
- Gracious God, forgive us when we only turn to you when things trouble us and when we forget to thank you for your blessings. Help us to see how precious and worth protecting all the wonderful people and things in our world are. Give us your strength for today, your hope for tomorrow, and the light of your love to guide us in all things.

**Amen.**