

Hello everyone,

This Sunday is Mothering Sunday. Let us pray for mothers everywhere, remembering all that they do for us, and also for those for whom this is a difficult day whether through bereavement, infertility and baby loss, or complicated family relationships.



Services this week:

This Sunday there will be 10.00am services at Appleby, Donisthorpe, Measham, Packington and Swepstone.

Looking ahead:

There will be midweek Holy Communion at 10.00am at Appleby on Wednesday;

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

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

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

On Friday, Little Fishes pre-school group will be in Measham Church Hall from 10.00am.

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 (3rd & 10th April) in Donisthorpe Church and at 7.00pm on Thursday evenings on Zoom - please email Revd Rick woodfieldteamvicar@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Next Sunday (6th April) we have services of Holy Communion at Measham and Snarestone, Morning Prayer at Donisthorpe and Normanton, and Breakfast Church at Packington, all at 10.00am.

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 30th March - Mothering Sunday

God of love,
passionate and strong,
tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us
all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Reading for 30th March - John 19.25-27 New International Version (UK)



²⁵ Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing near by, he said to her, 'Woman, here is your son,' ²⁷ and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

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:

- Today on Mothering Sunday we give thanks for our Church and earthly families and especially pray for our Mother-churches where we first got to know you and our saviour Jesus Christ.
- Father God, your Son, was born into the human family of Mary and Joseph; bless all those that we live amongst who are parents and all who care for children in our local communities. Strengthen all families who are living under stress and shine your love into homes where no human love is found.
- Merciful God, we pray for those who are in need of a healing touch today, for children who are hungry, for families threatened by war or insurrection, for the sister who is very ill, for the father who soon will be dwelling in your kingdom, for the prodigal who left home in haste leaving behind uncertain parents, for the mother who is living in a house of fear especially as the war continues in Ukraine and the Middle East.
- Loving Father, we pray for all mothers of children suffering from serious illness, recognising not only their anguish but also the way that their love and determination really makes a big difference to chances of recovery. We thank you for the many hours our parents spent caring for us when we were ill, and thank you too for the many children who grow up to be their parents' carers in later life.

- Everlasting God, we remember before you those who brought us into this world, raised and cherished us and made us what we are today especially those who we love but see no longer and we ask that you be close to all those who are grieving today over the loss of a loved one. For those who are mourning or who find this time of year difficult, lead them gently through this time of darkness into the light and peace of your enduring love.
- Heavenly Father, you watch over your children with tender love and compassion. We thank you for hearing our prayers. We ask that you use them to enrich, strengthen and bless both those for whom we have prayed and ourselves that we might enable your will to be done in our lives.

Amen.