

Hello everyone,

With so many coughs, colds and viruses around at the moment, please do take care to keep yourselves warm and well. Thank you for your patience as the team administrator catches up having been poorly and away from the office the past week.



Services this week:

This Sunday there will be 10.00am services of Holy Communion at Measham and Snarestone, Morning Prayer at Normanton, a service to celebrate Candlemas at Appleby, a service with the Air Cadets at Donisthorpe, and Breakfast Church at Packington. Later, Swepstone have a Christingle service at 4.00pm.

Looking ahead:

On Wednesday there will be midweek Communion at Appleby at 10.00am.

Snarestone have a coffee morning from 10.30am to 12.00noon on Wednesday at Valley Farm Bungalow.

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

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

Next Sunday (9th February) 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.

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 2nd February - Candlemas

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God.
Amen

Reading for 2nd February - Luke 2.22-40 New International Version (UK)



Jesus presented in the temple

²² When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord’), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: ‘a pair of doves or two young pigeons’.

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹ ‘Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss^[c] your servant in peace.

³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel.’

³³ The child’s father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: ‘This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her

marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on 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:

- Faithful God, we thank you for the example of Simeon and Anna, and their faithful service and witness, for their patient waiting for Christ to be revealed. Help us to serve you faithfully and patiently, watching for you to be revealed in our own lives.
- Holy God, as we remember the older and retired people in our churches, we give you thanks for all that they do in our Sunday worship, in our church fellowship and in our communities. Send your Holy Spirit to inspire them to use and share their life experiences with wisdom, humility and gladness.
- 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, we pray for our Church communities, that each of us might make use of our individual talents enabling each church group to flourish as a witness to the "One Body" of the church. Help us to spread the warmth of your love to everyone we meet.
- Gracious God, we pray for the work and service of all care homes and day centres for elderly and sick people, and for the charity organisations and shops who raise money to help. We pray for all finding their life painful, lonely or uncertain, especially those who are ill or vulnerable. Help them to sense your comfort in times of need and bless their families and carers.
- 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.
- Lord God, we pray for ourselves; as we start the week ahead, we ask that in all we do we may walk more closely with you at our side, help us to share your Good News with all whom we meet.

Amen.