

Hello everyone,

This Sunday is Christ the King, an opportunity for us to wait in hope and expectation as we move into the last week before Advent, and to be reminded that Christ is King over all. Looking forward, please pray that our churches will be places of welcome: to our Christmas services and events next month, and as beacons of light in a dark winter.



Services this week:

This Sunday we have 10.00am services of Holy Communion at Appleby, Donisthorpe and Packington, and lay led Celtic Morning Prayer at Measham.

Looking ahead:

On Wednesday there will be midweek Communion at Donisthorpe.

Packington also have a Coffee Morning in Church at 10.00am, as do Appleby, also at 10.00am in the Church Hall on Wednesday.

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

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.

On Saturday 30th, Measham have a coffee morning with a very Christmassy feel in the Church Hall from 10.00am to 12.00noon. Do some Christmas shopping, have a go on the tombola, take a punt on the raffle and enjoy a cup of coffee (perhaps with cake) with friends.

Next Sunday (1st December) at 10.00am we have services of Holy Communion at Measham and Snarestone, Morning Prayer at Donisthorpe, and a Tree Service at Normanton. At 4.00pm Packington have a Christingle Service with Ashby Youth for Christ, and Swepstone have Carols with the Light Switch on at 4.30pm.

There is a Christmas Tree Festival being held in Swepstone Church on Saturday 30th November and Sunday 1st December and the following weekend Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th December from 10.30am until 4.30pm. Admission is free and light refreshments will be served. The Big Switch On will be at 4.30pm on Advent Sunday (1st December), when you can enjoy free mulled wine, hot chocolate and mince pies before the Switch On at 5.00pm. There will be a couple of carols for you to sing and a countdown to the Switch On. Do please wrap up warm as you will be outside for the actual Switch On.

Donisthorpe is also holding a Christmas Tree Festival in conjunction with the community group on Friday 6th December to Sunday 8th December. The church will be open daily from 3.00pm to 7.00pm. On Sunday 8th it will be followed at 6.00pm by 'Carols and Christmas Trees'. There will be refreshments and tombola for children and adults.

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 24th November - Christ the King

God the Father,
help us to hear the call of Christ the King
and to follow in his service,
whose kingdom has no end;
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, one glory.
Amen

Reading for 24th November - John 18.33-37 New International Version (UK)



³³ Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?'

³⁴ 'Is that your own idea,' Jesus asked, 'or did others talk to you about me?'

³⁵ 'Am I a Jew?' Pilate replied. 'Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?'

³⁶ Jesus said, 'My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.'

³⁷ 'You are a king, then!' said Pilate.

Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.'

Prayers for today:

We pray:

We pray to our Everlasting God, through our Saviour Jesus, who is both Christ the King and the Son of Man and who understands our needs and the needs of this world.

- Holy God, we raise before you your churches here in the Woodfield Team, of which your Son is King. We pray that you will draw us together and unite us in the love of Christ, that we may proclaim with one voice your justice and righteousness in a broken world.
- Loving God, we pray for your world, of which your Son is King. We pray for peace, reconciliation, and healing in places of war, hatred, and terrorism. We hold before you the peoples of Ukraine and Russia, and Gaza and Israel. Keep them safe in the midst of trouble.
- We pray that the nations of this world may be united and subject to the rule of Christ the King, through whom and for whom all things were created. We pray for earthly monarchs especially Charles our King, and all those in positions of power. May they be guided and influenced by the example set by your son who lives and reigns as King of Kings.
- Father God, we pray for our communities, of which your Son is King. We pray for the communities of our friends and families, our church team, and our places of work and study. Help us to know the people around us to be our brothers and sisters in Christ, and to serve them as He would serve them.
- Loving God, we pray for all those who suffer, among whom your Son is King. We pray that they will know the presence of your Son alongside them and the power of Christ the King within them, bringing peace and healing for them, and help and encouragement for those caring for them at this time of need.
- Merciful God, we raise before you all who have died and who are now with your Son the king. We pray for those who have recently died and for their resurrection into the kingdom of God, and for those whose anniversary falls at this time.
- Dear Lord, thank you for your promise to hear our prayers and provide for us. We praise you for all you have done in the past; we look forward with gratitude for all you will do in the future; and we thank you for all the good things that have happened during the past Church year.

Amen.