

Hello everyone,

This Sunday is International Day of Education and the Diocese's Calendar of Prayer invites us to think about and pray for racial diversity and equity in our schools, our churches, and our communities. You can read more here:

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/everyday-faith/calendar-or-prayer/>



### Services this week:

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

### Looking ahead:

A quieter week across the team this week. On Wednesday Activeage meet again at 11.00am in Measham Church Hall.

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

Next Sunday (2<sup>nd</sup> February) there will be 10.00am services of Holy Communion at Measham and Snarestone, Morning Prayer at Normanton, a service to celebrate Candlemas at Appleby, an service with the Air Cadets at Donisthorpe, and Breakfast Church at Packington. Later, Swepstone have a Christingle service at 4.00pm.

### 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 26<sup>th</sup> January - the Third Sunday of Epiphany

God of all mercy,  
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,  
release to the captives,  
and freedom to the oppressed:  
anoint us with your Holy Spirit

and set all your people free  
to praise you in Christ our Lord.  
**Amen**

### Reading for 26<sup>th</sup> January - Luke 4.14-21 New International Version (UK)



#### **Jesus rejected at Nazareth**

<sup>14</sup> Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. <sup>15</sup> He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

<sup>16</sup> He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

<sup>18</sup> 'The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners  
and recovery of sight for the blind,  
to set the oppressed free,  
<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

<sup>20</sup> Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. <sup>21</sup> He began by saying to them, 'Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.'

#### **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 our church leaders, clergy, and lay ministers. We pray for all who preach your word, who inspire, lead, and grow us as disciples as we reach out to those in need in our communities and in our world.
- 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.

- Holy God, although we are sometimes separated by language and culture from others who live in our world, we long to see your will done here on earth as it is in heaven. We pray for our neighbours, both near and afar, not only with words but day by day, moment by moment, in the things we do and the way we do them.
- Merciful God, we raise before you those who are sick, sad, or lonely, and those who are brave and patient when things are going wrong. We pray that they may be aware of your comforting presence and know that in your hands they are safe and loved.
- Loving Father, at the end of our days on earth, be with us and with those we love. May those who have gone before us rest in your eternal peace. We remember before you those who have died, and we pray for all whose life is saddened by the death of a loved one. Be with them in their loneliness and grief.
- 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.**