

Hello everyone,

We are approaching times of change in our churches as we consider the next phases of forming Minster Communities in the coming months. With so much uncertainty around us, it may be natural to feel unsettled, but one thing is certain: whilst we do not know what the future holds, we can know the One who holds the future, right there in His hands. So let us take a moment this week to pause and to pray; to think about where we are now, and where we are going; to listen for God's voice and what it might be saying to us in the midst of it all.



Services this week:

This Sunday is also St Peter's Day and we have opportunity to gather together for a united team service with Holy Communion at St Peter's Church, Swepstone at 10.00am.

Looking ahead:

Midweek Communion will be on Wednesday at 10.00am at Appleby.

Activeage is at 11.00am in Measham Church Hall on Wednesday.

Kids Kingdom Baby & Toddler group is on Thursday morning between 9.00 and 11.00am in Appleby Church Hall.

Woodfield Singers meet every Thursday at 7.30pm in Swepstone Church Hall, all welcome.

On Friday, at Measham Little Fishes meet at 10.00am and later there will be Afternoon Tea in Measham Church Hall from 2.00 to 4.00pm. All welcome.

Next Sunday (6th July) there will be 10.00am services of Holy Communion at Measham and Normanton, Morning Prayer at Donisthorpe and Swepstone, Breakfast Church at Packington, and Baptism with Holy Communion at Snarestone.

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 29th June - The Second Sunday after Trinity

Faithful Creator,
whose mercy never fails:
deepen our faithfulness to you
and to your living Word,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Reading for 29th June - Galatians 5.1,13-25 New International Version (UK)



Freedom in Christ

5 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Life by the Spirit

¹³ You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. ¹⁴ For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' ¹⁵ If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

¹⁶ So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹ The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

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.

- Holy God, thank you for giving us your Son to bring us into relationship with you. Thank you for giving us the Scriptures so that we can know you better and thank you for giving us your Spirit to guide us into the truth of what we need to know about you and your great love.
- Loving God, we pray for our church and for all those who live and work around us. We pray for the ongoing Minster Communities process, and for all those who are anxious and cannot see the way forward in this time of uncertainty and change.
- Creator God we pray for our world which seems to be forever caught up in violence and conflict. Through the news we are witnesses to violence in so many parts the world. As we continue to pray for peace and goodwill towards all people, we also pray for the innocent victims and their families caught up in conflicts which are not of their making.
- Powerful God, we pray for all who have influence and authority, through their political standing, fame or wealth; speak into their hearts of righteousness and justice, integrity and compassion.
- Father God, we pray for those whom we love, family and friends who are the special people in our lives. We pray for their hopes, their fears, their problems and their needs but most of all we thank you for each one of them and for what they give and mean to us.
- Loving God, bring healing in mind, body and spirit to all who are troubled. In lives afflicted by pain, illness, distress or grief bring comfort, hope and the courage they need for today and every day.
- We pray for those saddened by the death of someone close and dear to them, and for members of our families who have died and whose anniversary we recall. Help us to experience the comfort of the Holy Spirit within us, and the fellowship of the church family around us until we are reunited once more in your heavenly kingdom.
- Lord, we ask you to lead us into the coming week. Help us to believe that you are close by us. When we face hard decisions or difficult work, and when we enjoy ourselves and have fun with others, may we know that you share all these times with us.

Amen.