

Hello everyone,

This week is Volunteer Week. The label 'volunteer' covers a multitude of roles. Many in Church circles would not define themselves as volunteers - as they see it, they just serve in their local Church - as Wardens, sidespeople, servers, on the coffee rota, safeguarding co-ordinators... and so on. These are really ministers, in one shape or another - people giving their time tirelessly to the enhancement of God's Kingdom here on earth. Called to these roles. We should give thanks for them, encourage them in this ministry and pray for them.



### Services this week:

This Sunday at 10.00am we have Holy Communion at Measham and Snarestone, Morning Prayer at Donisthorpe and Swepstone, Morning Worship at Normanton, and Breakfast Church at Packington.

### Looking ahead:

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

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

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 Saturday (7<sup>th</sup>) there is a concert to mark Christian Aid's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday at 7pm at Ashby Methodist Church. Tickets £10 available from Doreen Gasson at Packington.

Next Sunday (8<sup>th</sup> June) is Pentecost and there will be services of Holy Communion at Appleby and Donisthorpe, and Morning Worship at Packington and Measham.

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> June - The Sunday after Ascension

Eternal God, giver of love and power,  
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world  
to preach the gospel of his kingdom:  
confirm us in this mission,  
and help us to live the good news we proclaim;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Reading for 1<sup>st</sup> June - John 17.20-26 New International Version (UK)



### Jesus prays for all believers

<sup>20</sup> 'My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup> that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one - <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me - so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

<sup>24</sup> 'Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

<sup>25</sup> 'Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.'

### 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 we pray for your church throughout the world; for all those who seek God at home, at work, in the streets, and in the pews, for all who search for life. We pray for volunteers in our local communities and all those in our churches that keep everything going. May they receive your blessing so that they may continue to be a blessing to others.
- Creator God, we pray for our troubled world: its peoples and their leaders. We pray for those caught up in war, and violence, and hatred; especially the innocent victims of these evils and those who are persecuted because of their faith. Father, the world so often seems to be a dangerous and fearful place. Give us the strength to love our enemies and to pray for those who by violence and acts of terrorism damage and distort your wonderful creation.

- We pray for the peoples of the world that they may have safety and security, and especially for the people of Israel and Gaza at this time. We pray that those who use violence to bring about their desires and those who so readily seek revenge may instead pursue all that makes for peace.
- Father God, we pray for all the people that we encounter in our daily lives. Help us to recognise Christ in one another however stressed and tired we and they may be. We ask that you help us to recognise the risen Christ in the face of someone we meet today and give us an opportunity to brighten their day with a smile or a word.
- Loving God, we pray for all those in need; for those who are filled with guilt; who are broken-hearted; who are confused and afraid; or saddened because a relationship has broken down. We pray for all suffering from illness, particularly those requesting our prayers and give joyful thanks for those on the road to recovery.
- Merciful God, we pray for those whose hearts have been saddened by the death of someone close and dear to them, for members of our families who have died and whose anniversary we recall.
- Faithful God, we offer you our prayers and ourselves, that we may play our part in your response. Help us to keep your commandments and to love one another as you love us.

**Amen.**