

Hello everyone,

This week in our Diocesan cycle of prayer we are asked to pray for the work of the Bishop's Children and Youth Council and their intergenerational work with schools and church groups. In the past 18 months, BCYC listening projects have involved more than 750 young voices from across the city and county seeking to explore various topics. You can learn more about their work and how to get involved here: <https://www.leicester.anglican.org/info-for-parishes/children-families-and-young-people/bishops-children-and-youth-council-bcyc/>



Services this week:

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

Looking ahead:

Another busy Wednesday with:

- Midweek Holy Communion at 10.00am at Donisthorpe;
- Packington have a coffee morning in church from 10.00am to 12.00noon;
- Appleby also have Coffee & Chat in the church hall from 10.00am to 12.00noon;
- Activeage meet again at 11.00am in Measham Church Hall;

On Thursday, Kids' Kingdom Baby & Toddlers meet from 9.00am to 11.00am in Appleby Church Hall.

Woodfield Singers meet every Thursday evening at 7.30pm in Swepstone Church Hall.

This year's Lent course, 'From Now On', is based on the film *The Greatest Showman*, looking at hope and redemption. Sessions continue on Thursdays at 10.30am (27th March, and 3rd & 10th April) in Donisthorpe Church and at 7.00pm on Thursday evenings on Zoom - please email Revd Rick woodfieldteamvicar@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Next Sunday (30th) is Mothering Sunday with 10.00am services at Appleby, Donisthorpe, Measham, Packington and Swepstone.

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 23rd March - the Third Sunday of Lent

Eternal God,
give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Reading for 23rd March - Isaiah 55.1-9 New International Version (UK)



Invitation to the thirsty

55 'Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without cost.

² Why spend money on what is not bread,
and your labour on what does not satisfy?
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,
and you will delight in the richest of fare.

³ Give ear and come to me;
listen, that you may live.

I will make an everlasting covenant with you,
my faithful love promised to David.

⁴ See, I have made him a witness to the peoples,
a ruler and commander of the peoples.

⁵ Surely you will summon nations you know not,
and nations you do not know will come running to you,
because of the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel,
for he has endowed you with splendour.'

⁶ Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.

⁷ Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the unrighteous their thoughts.

Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

⁸ 'For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,'
declares the Lord.

⁹ 'As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.'

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:

- Faithful God, we pray for the Church, that through its prayers, actions, and public statements it may continue to work towards a world where all are free from the pain of hunger and the terror of war. Help us to be true disciples of Jesus, living the gospel and bringing social change in an unjust world.
- Creator God, we pray for the world, its peoples and leaders, especially Ukraine and the Middle East. Be with all those people who live in places troubled by war and disaster, natural or man-made. As we watch and read the news, we see the brokenness of our world and that for many life is more dangerous than ever before. We pray for the restoration and repairing of the world.
- Loving, God help us to love more generously and speak up more loudly for those who are treated unjustly. We pray for people in our own community - those who live on very little, children who are vulnerable and older people who are lonely.
- Merciful God we raise before you those we know and love who are ill or in need at this time, and we pray for all who care for them at home or in hospital.
- Gracious God, we pray for those who have died especially those who have died recently and for all who mourn their passing. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.
- Almighty God, help us to thirst for you, first and foremost in our lives, and recognise that your loving-kindness is better than life itself.

Amen.