

Hello everyone,

Please pray for the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza, especially remembering the families and children without food or drinking water. Pray for those who are terrified, mourning and suffering. Pray for the work of aid agencies working in difficult and restricted conditions to bring supplies and hope so desperately needed. Pray for world leaders with influence in the region to make wise decisions that will bring an end to the conflict and allow hostages to return home to their families. Pray for a lasting peace, and the healing and restoration of communities in the region that today seems so far off.



### Services this week:

This Sunday there will be services of Holy Communion at Donisthorpe, Measham, and Packington, and a Baptism at Appleby, all at 10.00am.

There will also be an Ascension Day service on Thursday (29<sup>th</sup>) at 7.00pm at Donisthorpe.

### Looking ahead:

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

There are Coffee Mornings on Wednesday from 10.00am to 12.00noon in Appleby Church Hall and Packington Church.

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

Toastie Thursday is from 12.00noon to 2.00pm in Packington Church with food and fun for all ages.

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

Little Fishes meet at 10.00am on Friday in Measham Church Hall.

Donisthorpe have Lunch Light from 12.30pm to 2.00pm in Church on Friday for chat, company, and support with bereavement.

Next Sunday (1<sup>st</sup> June) at 10.00am we have Holy Communion at Measham and Snarestone, Morning Prayer at Donisthorpe and Swebstone, Morning Worship at Normanton, and Breakfast Church at Packington.

### 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.*

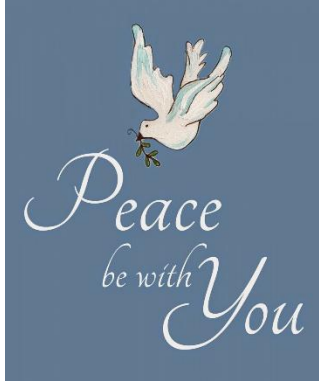
*We pray this in the power of your Spirit,*

*to the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## Collect for Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May - The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ,  
by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples:  
help your Church to obey your command  
and draw the nations to the fire of your love,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
**Amen.**

## Reading for 25<sup>th</sup> May - John 14.23-29 New International Version (UK)



<sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, ‘Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. <sup>24</sup> Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

<sup>25</sup> ‘All this I have spoken while still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

<sup>28</sup> ‘You heard me say, “I am going away and I am coming back to you.” If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup> I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe.

### 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 our own ministry team, 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.**