

Sunday 17th August 2025

Sunday Services: This Sunday across the Team there will be these 10am services:
Morning Worship at Donisthorpe and Measham,
Holy Communion at Normanton-Le-Heath and Norton-Juxta-Twycross,
and a Baptism with Holy Communion at Swebstone

Collect for 9th Sunday after Trinity / Proper 15 (green)

Almighty God,
who sent your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of your Church:
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love and joy and peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Readings

Isaiah 5, v. 1 – 7



Listen while I sing you this song, a song of my friend and his vineyard: My friend had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug the soil and cleared it of stones; he planted the finest vines. He built a tower to guard them, dug a pit for treading the grapes. He waited for the grapes to ripen, but every grape was sour. So now my friend says, "You people who live in Jerusalem and Judah, judge between my vineyard and me. Is there anything I failed to do for it? Then why did it produce sour grapes and not the good grapes I expected?" Here is what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge around it, break down the wall that protects it, and let wild animals eat it and trample it down. I will let it be overgrown with weeds. I will not trim the vines or hoe the ground; instead, I will let briars and thorns cover it. I will even forbid the clouds to let rain fall on it." Israel is the vineyard of the Lord Almighty; the people of Judah are the vines he planted. He expected them to do what was good, but instead they committed murder. He expected them to do what was right, but their victims cried out for justice.

Hebrews 11, v. 29 – 12, v. 2

It was faith that made Moses leave Egypt without being afraid of the king's anger. As though he saw the invisible God, he refused to turn back. It was faith that made him establish the Passover and order the blood to be sprinkled on the doors, so that the Angel of Death would not kill the firstborn sons of

the Israelites. It was faith that made the Israelites able to cross the Red Sea as if on dry land; when the Egyptians tried to do it, the water swallowed them up. It was faith that made the walls of Jericho fall down after the Israelites had marched round them for seven days. It was faith that kept the prostitute Rahab from being killed with those who disobeyed God, for she gave the Israelite spies a friendly welcome. Should I go on? There isn't enough time for me to speak of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets. Through faith they fought whole countries and won. They did what was right and received what God had promised. They shut the mouths of lions, put out fierce fires, escaped being killed by the sword. They were weak, but became strong; they were mighty in battle and defeated the armies of foreigners. Through faith women received their dead relatives raised back to life. Others, refusing to accept freedom, died under torture in order to be raised to a better life. Some were mocked and whipped, and others were put in chains and taken off to prison. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword. They went round clothed in skins of sheep or goats — poor, persecuted, and ill-treated. The world was not good enough for them! They wandered like refugees in the deserts and hills, living in caves and holes in the ground.

What a record all of these have won by their faith! Yet they did not receive what God had promised, because God had decided on an even better plan for us. His purpose was that only in company with us would they be made perfect.

As for us, we have this large crowd of witnesses round us. So then, let us rid ourselves of everything that gets in the way, and of the sin which holds on to us so tightly, and let us run with determination the race that lies before us. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end. He did not give up because of the cross! On the contrary, because of the joy that was waiting for him, he thought nothing of the disgrace of dying on the cross, and he is now seated at the right-hand side of God's throne.

Luke 12, v. 49 – 56

"I came to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism to receive, and how distressed I am until it is over! Do you suppose that I came to bring peace to the world? No, not peace, but division. From now on a family of five will be divided, three against two and two against three. Fathers will be against their sons, and sons against their fathers; mothers will be against their daughters, and daughters against their mothers; mothers-in-law will be against their daughters-in-law, and daughters-in-law against their mothers-in-law."

Jesus said also to the people, "When you see a cloud coming up in the west, at once you say that it is going to rain — and it does. And when you feel the south wind blowing, you say that it is going to get hot — and it does. Hypocrites! You can look at the earth and the sky and predict the weather; why, then, don't you know the meaning of this present time?"

Team Notices

Looking Ahead

This week, on Wednesday at 10 am, there is midweek Communion at Packington.
Then, at 11 am on Wednesday, Activeage meets in Measham Church Hall.

Being the holidays, there are no meetings for Kids Kingdom nor Little Fishes this week.

Next Sunday, 24th, there will be these 10 am services:
Morning Worship at Appleby,
Holy Communion at Donisthorpe and Packington
& a Baptism at Measham

On Bank Holiday Monday, 25th August, there is Packington Open Gardens from 2 - 7 pm. There are 10 gardens to visit, cream teas, ice cream, stalls, History Group display, musical entertainment in 2 gardens, bells being rung at 2.30pm, Treasure Hunt for children. Passports £5 for adults, children free, available at Measham Road car park, the Church or the Village Hall. An event not to be missed!

On Sunday 31st August, at 10 am, there is a Team Service at Measham (*not Appleby as published in Appleby Group July/August magazine*). This will be an opportunity for us as a Team and for individuals to say farewell to Ruth, to wish her well as she starts her training for the ministry and to share fellowship with each other. There will be coffee/ tea and cakes after the service.

Appleby's Flower Festival planned for September 6/7th has unfortunately been postponed.