

This week's services



Sunday 15th December

9.00am, Holy Communion, BCP, Leaffield
10.30am, Lessons & Carols, Finstock
6.00pm, Evensong, Ramsden

Tuesday 17th December

9.30am, School Christingle Service, Finstock

Thursday 19th December

9.30am, School Christingle Service, Leaffield

Sunday 22nd December

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, Leaffield, Benefice Service



Christmas Services in the Forest Edge Benefice

Christmas Eve

4.00pm, Family Carol Service, Finstock
6.30pm, Traditional Carol Service, Ramsden
11.30pm, Midnight Mass, Leaffield

Christmas Day

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW,
Finstock, Ramsden & Leaffield

Sunday 29th December

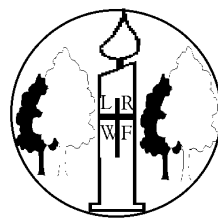
10.30am, Holy Communion, BCP, Wilcote



***If we as a Church can help in any way,
please contact:***

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PEW SHEET

3rd Sunday of Advent

15th December 2019

***Please take this pew sheet with
you when you leave***

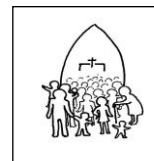


A loop system for the hard of hearing is fitted
in all our churches
(with the exception of St Peter's, Wilcote)

Benefice website:

<http://www.forestedgebenefice.co.uk>

The Collect



O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading Isaiah 35: 1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground

springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Second Reading
James 5: 7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Reading
Matthew 11: 2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you,

among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

As streets fill with shoppers
Bright lights and tempting offers
Christmas songs and children's laughter
You lead us along a different path
To a desert river and a Prophetic voice
A call to repentance
A call to service
A call to immerse ourselves
In living water that will never run dry
A call to prepare a way in our own lives
For the Saviour of the world to enter in
To know the touch of tender mercy
And rest in your forgiving love
For your faithful prophets
And your Living Word
We give you thanks.
Amen



These Bible readings are designated for each day

Monday	<i>Matthew 16: 13-end</i>
Tuesday	<i>Matthew 17: 1-13</i>
Wednesday	<i>Matthew 17: 14-21</i>
Thursday	<i>Matthew 17: 22-end</i>
Friday	<i>Matthew 18: 1-20</i>
Saturday	<i>Matthew 18: 21-end</i>

Please pray for the following throughout the week

- Monday** *Those who are sick or grieving within our community.*
- Tuesday** *Those who are suffering in this country and around the world.*
- Wednesday** *The Queen and other leaders in this country.*
- Thursday** *For the troubled areas around the world, we pray for peace and justice.*
- Friday** *For the ministry of the Forest Edge Benefice and for those who lead us.*
- Saturday** *For an abundance of love, peace, harmony and forgiveness to reign within families and relationships.*

Please also pray for the Chipping Norton Deanery.

