

This week's services



Sunday 29th December

10.30am, Holy Communion, BCP, Wilcote

Sunday 5th January

9.00am, Holy Communion, BCP, Ramsden

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, Leaffield



It has been said that "Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards." The end of the old year offers an opportunity to look back and be grateful. We may even see some negative things in a better light, as we look back with the advantage of time. Let's pause to give thanks for what has been good, naming some of the people and events and circumstances of the past year.

At the end of one year and the beginning of another, we appreciate that we have "moved on". Yet, in another sense, we have returned to where we started.

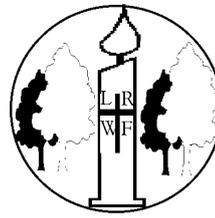
**God our Father,
we give thanks for all that has been and, trustfully,
we place the past into your hands.
We ask you to inspire us in the year ahead
to seek and fulfil your will.
May we truly look on each new day
as the start of the rest of our lives.
Enable us, with the power of your Spirit,
to remain positive and confident,
and live fully and joyfully
with those people you have placed into our lives.
Lead us to bring out the best in one another
that we may all grow
as the people you call us to be.
Amen**



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

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PEW SHEET

*1st Sunday of
Christmas
29th 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



Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading Isaiah 63: 7-9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, 'Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely'; and he became their saviour in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Second Reading **Hebrews 2: 10-end**

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.' And again I will put my trust in him.' And again, 'Here am I and the children whom God has given me.' Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Gospel Reading **Matthew 2: 13-end**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him,

who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

O sweet Child of Bethlehem,
grant that we may share with all our hearts
in this profound mystery of Christmas.
Put into the hearts of men and women this peace
for which they sometimes seek so desperately
and which you alone can give to them.
Help them to know one another better,
and to live as brothers and sisters,
children of the same Father.
Reveal to them also your beauty, holiness and purity.
Awaken in their hearts
love and gratitude for your infinite goodness.
Join them all together in your love.
And give us your heavenly peace.
Amen.



These Bible readings are designated for each day

Monday	<i>Colossians 1: 15-23</i>
Tuesday	<i>Colossians 1: 24-2.7</i>
Wednesday	<i>Romans 2: 17-end</i>
Thursday	<i>Colossians 2: 8-end</i>
Friday	<i>Colossians 3: 1-11</i>
Saturday	<i>Colossians 3: 12-4.1</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.

