

This week's services



Sunday 23rd December

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, Leaffield
Benefice Service

Monday 24th December Christmas Eve

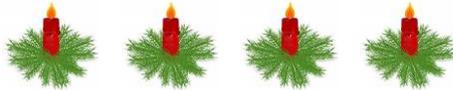
4.00pm, Family Carol Service, Finstock
6.30pm, Traditional Carol Service, Ramsden
11.30pm, Midnight Mass, Leaffield

Tuesday 25th December Christmas Day

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, Family Service, Finstock
10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, Family Service, Ramsden
10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, Family Service, Leaffield

Sunday 30th December

10.30am, Holy Communion, BCP, Wilcote
Followed by drinks and eats to celebrate the new year



www.**Forest Edge Benefice**.co.uk

Christmas Eve 2018
4:00pm Family Carol Service
@ Finstock Church
6:30pm Traditional Carol Service
@ Ramsden Church
11:30pm Midnight Mass
@ Leaffield Church

#Follow The Star

Christmas Day 2018
10:30am Holy Communion
Family Services
@Finstock
@Ramsden
@Leaffield

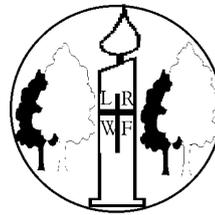
Twitter Instagram

Advent God, we journey with you, to Bethlehem's stable
and a new-born King,
ears attuned to the song of angels,
eyes alert for Bethlehem's star.
Forgive us if on our journey we are distracted
by the tempting offers of this world.
Keep our hearts aflame with the hope of Christmas,
and the promise of a Saviour.
Amen

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

The Rev'd Paul Mansell – 01993 868687
vicar@forestedgebenefice.co.uk

Jane Hanson – 01993 868264
admin@forestedgebenefice.co.uk
www.forestedgebenefice.co.uk



PEW SHEET

4th Sunday of Advent

23rd December 2018

***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



God our redeemer, who
prepared the Blessed Virgin
Mary to be the mother of your
Son: grant that, as she looked for his
coming as our saviour, so we may be
ready to greet him when he comes again
as our judge; who is alive and reigns with
you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and for ever.

First Reading Micah 5: 2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who
are one of the little clans of Judah, from
you shall come forth for me one who is to
rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days. Therefore he shall give
them up until the time when she who is in
labour has brought forth; then the rest of
his kindred shall return to the people of
Israel. And he shall stand and feed his
flock in the strength of the Lord, in the
majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall
be great to the ends of the earth; and he
shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians
come into our land and tread upon our soil,
we will raise against them seven
shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

Second Reading **Hebrews 10: 5-10**

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God" (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).' When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to the law), then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Gospel Reading **Luke 1: 39-45**

'In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'



These Bible readings are designated for each day

Monday	<i>2 Peter 1: 1-15</i>
Tuesday	<i>Matthew 1: 18-end</i>
Wednesday	<i>Acts 6</i>
Thursday	<i>1 John 2: 1-11</i>
Friday	<i>Matthew 18: 1-10</i>
Saturday	<i>John 1: 1-18</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.



For many people, one of the most beautiful and peaceful towns in the world is that of Assisi, set on a hillside in northern Italy. There it was in the year 1223 that St Francis thought how best he might portray the simplicity of the Birth of the Son of God into our world. In the darkness of Christmas Eve and in the days before electricity, people brought candles and burning torches which lit up the hillside as they travelled from around: all converging on a cave on the hillside. As the people arrived, hay was spread out, and local farmers and shepherds led into the cave an ox and a donkey and a few sheep. The animals were at peace; the people were hopeful. Then Francis himself placed on a stone altar cloths that were wrapped to resemble a baby. All the people prayed and sang. The Christmas Midnight Mass began. Francis himself read the Gospel, telling how Mary and Joseph had travelled and found no room available in Bethlehem, whose name means "*the House of Bread*". There they sheltered with animals, and Mary gave birth to Jesus in poverty and simplicity, placing into a manger (from which the animals ate hay) the Child who would later declare himself to be "*the Bread of life*". As the Mass ended, the people left the cave. They had repeated the words of the angel and had, indeed, given "*Glory to God in the highest!*" They returned to their homes, joyful, and living in peace with one another: "*Peace to all people of good will!*" We have heard how Francis of Assisi created the first Christmas Crib, and placed an image of Jesus there, amidst the ordinary surroundings of the lives of the local people.

**God our Father,
may the simplicity of the birth
of Jesus, your Son,
remind us
that we can readily discover him
in the ordinariness of our daily lives.**

Amen