

This week's services



Sunday 7th February

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW

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Sunday 14th February

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, Ramsden



These Bible readings are designated for each day

Monday John 19: 1-16

Tuesday John 19: 17-30

Wednesday John 19: 31-end

Thursday John 20: 1-10

Friday John 20: 11-18

Saturday John 20: 19-end

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, and particularly this week:

St Kenelms, Enstone.

Please pray for Mark Abrey & Ilona Cheyne.



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

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PEW SHEET

*2nd Sunday before
Lent
7th February 2021*

Please print this pew sheet for your use at home.

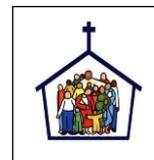
Benefice website:

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

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The Collect



Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever.

First Reading Proverbs 8: 1, 22-31

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth—when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil. When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the

foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

Second Reading **Colossians 1: 15-20**

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Gospel Reading **John 1: 1-14**

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.

Beside the head of the Queen on British coins appear the letters "F.D.". They are an abbreviation in Latin for the words "Defender of the Faith." This was a title given by the Pope to King Henry VIII, (the eighth) recalling how, in his first years as king, Henry had written a book about the Sacraments, "defending" what Catholics believe. Some years later he would be executing Catholics. February 7th was the birthday in 1478 of Sir Thomas More, who became a man of great learning, a lawyer, and the father of four children. King Henry VIII valued his friendship, appointing him Lord Chancellor - the main government minister of the time. The king knew that Thomas More was above corruption; he was a person of integrity and honesty at a time when money bought what was thought of as 'justice'. The king wanted to divorce his queen (Catherine of Aragon) and marry Ann Boleyn instead. When the Pope proclaimed that that was wrong, the English parliament passed an Act declaring the king to be "Supreme Head of the Church in England", and Henry decided he could do as he wished in many things. This action also led to the destruction ("Dissolution") of many monasteries and cathedrals in England as the king confiscated and sold their lands and possessions. Thomas More knew that he could not agree with what the king was doing and, even though many bishops supported the actions of the king, Thomas remarked that "their consciences must speak for them; mine must speak for me." Thomas still considered himself loyal to the king and, when he was condemned to death, he said: "I die the King's good servant, but God's first."

**God our Father,
teach us to distinguish clearly
between right and wrong,
that we may grow in character
and develop a true sense of values
through following Jesus,
your Son and our Brother.
We pray, too, for all
who are in positions of leadership
in our country
that they may be inspired
by the values of the gospel.
We pray that they may live
as people of integrity and honesty,
growing in a sense of duty
and responsibility,
always being aware of the needy,
and ready to be of service to others.**

Amen

