

## This week's services



### Sunday 14th February

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, Ramsden

### Wednesday 17th February Ash Wednesday

From Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, and available on the benefice website.

### Sunday 21st February

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW

Follow online @ <http://www.forestedgebenefice.co.uk>



## These Bible readings are designated for each day

**Monday** John 3: 1-21

**Tuesday** John 3: 22-end

**Wednesday** 1 Timothy 6: 6-19

**Thursday** John 4: 1-26

**Friday** John 4: 27-42

**Saturday** John 4: 43-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 Simon & St Jude, Milton-under-Wychwood.

Please pray for Geoffrey Clement & Anne Hartley and the Churchwardens

Elizabeth Watts & Mike Hartley.

## We publish the banns of marriage (3) between:

Laura Ellen Winter and Andrew John Douglas Earnshaw to be married on 20th March 2021 at St James', Ramsden

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

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## PEW SHEET

*Sunday next before  
Lent  
14th February 2021*

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

Benefice website:

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

Also follow us on Twitter & Instagram



## The Collect



Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross:

give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

## First Reading 2 Kings 2: 1-12

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?' And he said, 'Yes, I know; keep silent.' Elijah said to him, 'Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today

the Lord will take your master away from you?’ And he answered, ‘Yes, I know; be silent.’ Then Elijah said to him, ‘Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.’ But he said, ‘As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.’ So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, ‘Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.’ Elisha said, ‘Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.’ He responded, ‘You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.’ As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, ‘Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!’ But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

## **Second Reading** **2 Corinthians 4: 3-6**

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. For it is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness’, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

## **Gospel Reading** **Mark 9: 2-9**

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who

were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, ‘Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.’ He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!’ Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

We generally think of 14th February as St Valentine’s Day. We don’t know who Valentine was, but there are many legends about him. One of the stories names him as a bishop when the Roman emperor of the time made it a law that no Roman soldier should be allowed to marry. The emperor thought that his soldiers would not fight well in his many wars if they were afraid to risk dying in battle because of great love for their wives and families. The story tells us that Bishop Valentine said that the emperor’s law was not right; it was unjust - men and women have the right to marry and have families. Soldiers began to approach the bishop, and so he arranged marriages secretly. Word got back to the emperor, but Valentine was courageous in speaking before him: “I have promised to serve God who loves us, and I obey his laws.” According to this legend, Bishop Valentine was put into prison where he died on this day - a patron saint of all who are in love.

**Father,  
we read in the Bible  
that the best way to describe you  
is to use the word “Love”.  
Your love for mankind is so great  
that you sent Jesus, your Son,  
to live as one of us.  
We pray that we may appreciate  
and value one another.  
God of love,  
lead us to grow in love.  
Amen**

