

## This week's services

### Sunday 5th December

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, **Leafield**



### Friday 10th December

6.30pm, Evening Prayer, **Wilcote**

### Sunday 12th December

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, **Ramsden**



## These Bible readings are designated for each day

<b>Monday</b>	<i>Matthew 14: 1-12</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<i>Matthew 14: 13-end</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<i>Matthew 15: 1-20</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	<i>Matthew 15: 21-28</i>
<b>Friday</b>	<i>Matthew 15: 29-end</i>
<b>Saturday</b>	<i>Matthew 16: 1-12</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, and particularly this week:

St Mary's, Chipping Norton.

Please pray for David Salter, James Kennedy, Martha Simpson, Roger Simpson, Judith Marshall and the Churchwardens  
Graham Povey & Timothy Woolcock.



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

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## PEW SHEET



**5th December 2021**  
2nd Sunday of Advent

**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



O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be honour and glory, now and for ever.

## First Reading Baruch 5

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, 'Righteous Peace, Godly Glory'. Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look towards the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in

glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

## **Second Reading** **Philippians 1: 3-11**

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

## **Gospel Reading** **Luke 3: 1-6**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley

shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' '

Britain's first stretch of motorway was opened on this day in 1958. This 8-mile length of the M6 motorway by-passed Preston in Lancashire, and was opened by the then Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan. When another motorway (the M62) was being built across the Pennine hills between Lancashire and Yorkshire, it was often the case that the tops of hills would be pushed into valleys, filling them in. This helped to create level ground and a smooth path for vehicles to travel along. Between Junctions 22 and 23 of the M62, one farmer stubbornly resisted the "compulsory purchase order" which would have led to good financial compensation for the forced purchase of his land, through which the motorway was to be built. As was his right, he appealed against that compulsory purchase order, causing delays for the completion of the road. He refused to move out of his house. It was then decided simply to by-pass his farmhouse. And so the motorway splits at that point, with the two carriageways isolating the farmhouse in the middle of the motorway, but giving access by tunnels to fields on either side. The building techniques of the M62 across the Pennines are similar to images used by the prophet Isaiah. During the Church's Season of Advent, his words are often read, because they point the way forward to God coming amongst us.

This is what Isaiah says:

'A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare a way for the Lord. Level the mountains and fill in the valleys. Make the uneven ground level and so make a straight road in the desert for our God to approach and come amongst us. From the top of a high mountain we proclaim that God is approaching: he is coming amongst us. This is his promise, and he is faithful to what he says.'"

**Loving Father,  
we ask you to show us  
how to level any 'mountains' we might have  
of feeling 'superior' or 'better' than others,  
or of making judgements about people.  
Raise us from any 'valleys' of despair  
or a poor self-image  
or a sense of worthlessness.  
Lift us up  
from whatever kind of poverty  
may affect our lives.  
Lift us up, we pray,  
from anything that makes us  
less than fully human.  
Raise us from sinfulness,  
and lead us to prepare a straight path  
for the coming anew into our lives  
of Jesus, your Son.  
Amen.**

