

This week's services

Sunday 12th December

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, Ramsden



Tuesday 14th December

6.00pm, Carol Singing around the Tree,
Leaffield Village Green

Friday 17th December

6.30pm, Evening Prayer, Wilcote

Sunday 19th December

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, Finstock
10.30am, Service of Lessons and Carols, Leaffield



These Bible readings are designated for each day

Monday *Matthew 16: 13-end*

Tuesday *Matthew 17: 1-13*

Wednesday *Matthew 17: 14-21*

Thursday *Matthew 17: 22-end*

Friday *Matthew 18: 1-20*

Saturday *Matthew 18: 21-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 Andrew's, Great Rollright.

Please pray for Janet Faull, Janet Collins,
Wendy Cunningham, Keith Disney
and the Churchwarden Sarah Durham.



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

The Rev'd Paul Mansell – 01993 868687
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PEW SHEET



12th December 2021
3rd 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



forestedgebenefice

The Collect



O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading Zephaniah 3: 14-end

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from

you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

Second Reading **Philippians 4: 4-7**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Reading **Luke 3: 7-18**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.' And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.' As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more

powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire. So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

On this day in 1653, Oliver Cromwell was declared "Lord Protector" of England. The country had become a republic, and King Charles I had been executed five years previously. Cromwell would have almost absolute power for the following five years. A painting of the Lord Protector was commissioned. The artist felt that he should paint the feared Cromwell as favourably as possible. The problem lay in the fact that Cromwell was far from looking attractive, and had pimples and warts on his face. He said to the artist: "Use your skill to paint my picture truly like me, and do not flatter me at all. Show me as I am - warts and all. Otherwise I will never pay a farthing for it." That phrase - "warts and all" - has passed into the English language, as a reminder to accept people fully as they are: accepting not just a person's positive points, but valuing the whole person, "warts and all".

**God our Father,
as you welcome me and accept me fully
and love me as the person I am,
so inspire me to be generous to others
in the welcome and acceptance,
and the love and the care that I offer.**

Amen.

BAPTISM

We welcome Evelyn Rose Chaplin
brought for baptism today by her parents
Hayley and David.

We hope all Evelyn's family and friends
who have come to share in her special day
enjoy the occasion.

10.30am, Ramsden



Restore us, O Lord, we pray,
bring us back to that place where we once met,
as shepherds to the stable
after hearing angels sing.
Bring us back to that place
when our love was fresh,
not embarrassed to express itself in praise
to our heavenly King.
Restore us, O Lord, we pray.

Amen