

## This week's services

### Sunday 26th December

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, Leaffield  
Benefice Service



### Sunday 2nd January

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, Leaffield



## These Bible readings are designated for each day

Monday	1 John 2: 1-11
Tuesday	Matthew 18: 1-10
Wednesday	Acts 6
Thursday	Colossians 1: 15-23
Friday	Colossians 1: 24-2.7
Saturday	Romans 2: 17-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.



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

**The Rev'd Paul Mansell** – 01993 868687  
[vicar@forestedgebenefice.co.uk](mailto:vicar@forestedgebenefice.co.uk)

**Mrs Gail Ward LLM** – 01993 878835  
[gail.ward@forestedgebenefice.co.uk](mailto:gail.ward@forestedgebenefice.co.uk)

**Mrs Jane Hanson** – 01993 868264  
[admin@forestedgebenefice.co.uk](mailto:admin@forestedgebenefice.co.uk)  
[www.forestedgebenefice.co.uk](http://www.forestedgebenefice.co.uk)

## PEW SHEET



**26th December 2021**  
1st Sunday of Christmas

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

Benefice website:

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

Also follow us on Twitter & Instagram



**Please wear a face covering during this service, including while singing.**  
**Thank you**



## The Collect



Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

## First Reading

**1 Samuel 2: 18-20, 26**

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord'; and then they would return to their home. Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the Lord and with the people.

## **Second Reading** **Colossians 3: 12-17**

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

## **Gospel Reading** **Luke 2: 41-end**

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His

mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

The joy of discovery  
that moment  
when hope and expectation  
were gloriously met  
by the illumination of one bright star.  
We cannot imagine  
what words were spoken by visitors  
or if first impressions  
left them somewhat confused.  
Messiah, Saviour, a King  
born in the barest of palaces.  
Yet they saw and fell down  
on their knees in adoration.  
Lord, they saw you and knew  
whom they had met.  
As we meet around crib  
candle or advent wreath  
draw us into that stable  
in our imagination.  
In the quiet moments of prayer  
this Christmas, that brief oasis  
from the bustle of the world  
bring alive to us  
the smell of the hay  
the sound of the animals  
the cry of a baby.  
Draw us close to our Saviour  
Messiah and King as we bring  
not Gold, Myrrh or Frankincense  
but the gift of our lives  
the only offering we can bring.

