

## This week's services

### Sunday 24th April

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, Ramsden  
Benefice Service



### Friday 29th April

6.30pm, Evening Prayer, Wilcote

### Sunday 1st May

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, Leafield



## PEW SHEET



**24th April 2022**  
2nd Sunday of Easter

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

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## These Bible readings are designated for each day

|                  |                              |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Monday</b>    | <i>Acts 12: 25-13.13</i>     |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | <i>Ephesians 6: 10-20</i>    |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <i>Colossians 2: 1-15</i>    |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | <i>Colossians 2: 16-3.11</i> |
| <b>Friday</b>    | <i>Colossians 3: 12-4.1</i>  |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | <i>Colossians 4: 2-end</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.**



## The Collect

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.



## First Reading Acts 5: 27-32

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, 'We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us.' But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, so that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.'

***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)

## **Second Reading** **Revelation 1: 4-8**

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. 'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

## **Gospel Reading** **John 20: 19-end**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord

and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.



Beside the River Thames in London are the buildings called the Houses of Parliament or the Palace of Westminster. The previous buildings had been destroyed by fire in 1834. The tall clock tower is often called "Big Ben", even though the name actually is only that of the great bell that strikes, weighing nearly 14 tonnes. "Big Ben", the bell, was hung in the tower on this day in 1858. It strikes the musical note 'E', and is the most broadcast bell in the world. We can hear it at the start of 'News at Ten', and it is sometimes broadcast on the radio, here and to countries overseas. During the Second World War, when most of Europe was occupied by the Nazis, the broadcast of the ringing of the bell helped give people hope of freedom. And so, when people across the world hear the ringing of 'Big Ben', or see pictures of the tower, they see it as a sign or symbol of many things - hope, freedom, what it means to be a Londoner or English or British, our political system of democracy with a parliament. Seeing or hearing "Big Ben" gives various messages to people. I can ask what people might "see" and "hear" when they meet me. What are the "messages" that people pick up from me? What do people learn about me from the way I live, from the way I do things, and from my attitude? Let's pause in silence for a moment, for each of us to think of the character impression we make on others - what people might "see" and "hear" when they are with us.

**Loving Lord,  
we need the power of your Spirit in our lives  
to build on what is good,  
and to help change what needs to be changed.  
We pray that we may be faithful  
in responding to your call  
to grow as the people you have called us to be,  
that we may ring out your praises  
through the way we live each day.  
Amen**