

## This week's services



### Sunday 17th December

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, **Finstock**  
6.00pm, Carol Service, **Leafield**

### Tuesday 19th December

6.00pm, Carol Singing around the Christmas Tree,  
**Leafield Village Green**

### Friday 22nd December

6.30pm, Evening Prayer, **Wilcote**

### Sunday 24th December Christmas Eve

4.00pm, Family Carol Service, **Finstock**  
6.00pm, Traditional Carol Service, **Ramsden**  
11.30pm, Midnight Mass, **Wilcote**



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 King 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)

**The Rev'd Hadley Bennet** – 01993 869093  
[bennetd28@gmail.com](mailto:bennetd28@gmail.com)

**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



**17th December 2023**  
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, Facebook & Instagram



[forestedgebenefice](https://www.instagram.com/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

**Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-end**

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to

display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

### **Second Reading**

#### **1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24**

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

### **Gospel Reading**

#### **John 1: 6-8, 19-28**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you

the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord" ', as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

## **St James' Church Ramsden**

is looking for a new Treasurer

This is an essential role in keeping the church open

If you'd like to know more, please email Roz Danks  
[stjameschurchramsden@gmail.com](mailto:stjameschurchramsden@gmail.com)



## **Christmas Services in the Forest Edge Benefice**

### **Christmas Eve**

4.00pm, Family Carol Service, Finstock  
6.00pm, Traditional Carol Service, Ramsden  
11.30pm, Midnight Mass, Wilcote

### **Christmas Day**

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, Finstock  
10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, Ramsden  
10.30am, Christmas Light, Leafield

