

This week's services



Sunday 31st December

10.30am, Holy Communion, BCP, **Wilcote**

2024

Friday 5th January

6.30pm, Evening Prayer, **Wilcote**

Sunday 7th January

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, **Leafield**
6.00pm, Evensong, **Ramsden**



These Bible readings are designated for each day

Monday	<i>Romans 2: 17-end</i>
Tuesday	<i>Colossians 2: 8-end</i>
Wednesday	<i>Colossians 3: 1-11</i>
Thursday	<i>Colossians 3: 12-4.1</i>
Friday	<i>Colossians 4: 2-end</i>
Saturday	<i>Matthew 20: 1-16</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 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:

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PEW SHEET



31st December 2023
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, Facebook & Instagram



forestedgebenefice



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 Isaiah 61: 10-62.3

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. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your

vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Second Reading **Galatians 4: 4-7**

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Gospel Reading **Luke 2: 15-21**

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.



Sunday 31st December

Please join us for drinks after this service

Everyone welcome



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.

