

## This week's services



### Sunday 12th May

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, **Ramsden**  
6.00pm, Evening Prayer, **Leafield**

### Friday 17th May

6.30pm, Evening Prayer, **Wilcote**

### Sunday 19th May

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, **Finstock**

Everyone welcome at all services!

These Bible readings are designated for each day

<b>Monday</b>	<i>Luke 7: 36-end</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<i>Acts 2: 37-end</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<i>Luke 8: 16-25</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	<i>Luke 8: 26-39</i>
<b>Friday</b>	<i>Luke 8: 40-end</i>
<b>Saturday</b>	<i>Luke 9: 1-17</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**, and particularly this week:  
St Peter's, Cornwell.

Please pray for James Kennedy, David Salter, Martha Simpson & Matt White and the Church Warden Charles Colston.



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

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## PEW SHEET



**12th May 2024**  
7th Sunday of Easter

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

Benefice website:

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

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## The Collect



O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

## First Reading

**Acts 1: 15-17, 21-end**

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people) and said, 'Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.' So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.' So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas,

who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.' And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

### **Gospel Reading** **Mark 2: 1-13**

When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralysed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.' Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, 'Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?' At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, 'Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, "Your sins are forgiven", or to say, "Stand up and take your mat and walk"? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins'—he said to the paralytic— 'I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.' And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, 'We have never seen anything like this!' Jesus went out again beside the lake; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them.



Today is the anniversary in 1935 of the start of "Alcoholics Anonymous". Two men in New York began to support each other to stay sober. "Alcoholics Anonymous" - or "A.A.", as it is often known - has small group meetings in many towns each week. Those who feel they have a drink problem are welcome to attend group meetings, where everyone is anonymous. No one is ever charged money to attend. Members encourage and support one another to live a day at a time. A.A. has "12 Steps for Recovery" from alcoholism. Some people who don't have alcohol problems still find A.A.'s 12 "Steps for Recovery" to be a good guide when times are difficult.

The '12 Steps' include the following:

Realising and admitting that I am powerless over my problem, and have made a mess of my life.

Believing that only a Power greater than myself can make me better, so handing my life over to God's care.

Taking responsibility for what has gone wrong in the past, and admitting my mistakes to God and to one other person.

Asking God to remove my inner problems of character, and bring me healing.

We'll use as our prayer today some words used every day by A.A. members. This prayer is often said together at their group meetings.

**God,  
grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change,  
courage to change the things I can,  
and wisdom to know the difference.**

*Amen*

There is real wisdom, Lord, in the adage  
'It is always Springtime  
in the heart that loves God.'  
Springtime is a season of optimism and hope,  
and the Christian lives a faith centred on hope.  
Winter, with its cold and dark days has gone,  
just as Good Friday has passed  
to Easter and beyond.  
We live a resurrection life  
reflected in the new life springing up around us.  
Thank you, Lord, for the hope that you bring,  
the renewal that you bring,  
both to this world and to our hearts and lives.

*Amen*