

This week's services



Sunday 12th January

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

Friday 17th January

6.30pm, Evening Prayer, Wilcote

Sunday 19th January

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, Finstock
4.00pm, Leafield Light, Leafield

Everyone welcome at all services!

These Bible readings are designated for each day

Monday	1 Corinthians 1: 1-17
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1: 18-end
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 2
Thursday	1 Corinthians 3
Friday	1 Corinthians 4
Saturday	1 Corinthians 5

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:

Holy Trinity, Ascott-under-Wychwood.
Please pray for Mark Abrey & Ilona Cheyne.



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

The Rev'd Paul Mansell – 01993 868687
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PEW SHEET



12th January 2025
Baptism of Christ
1st Sunday of Epiphany

Please take this pew sheet with you when you leave.

Benefice website:

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

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forestedgebenefice

The Collect



Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading Isaiah 43: 1-7

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from

the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, 'Give them up', and to the south, 'Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.'

Second Reading
Acts 8: 14-17

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Gospel Reading
Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'



Two thousand years ago, a visit to a Greek town by government representatives was known as an "epiphany". It is a Greek word that describes an appearance, manifestation, or revelation of someone important arriving amongst the people. The word "Epiphany" has been used for the last two thousand years to describe God coming closer to the people, revealing himself in his Son, Jesus. The Feast of the Epiphany (on the 6th January) celebrates the Wise Men from the East recognising Jesus for who he is, and giving him their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. In the final verse of the hymn, "In the bleak mid-winter", we hear the words: "What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man I would do my part, yet what I can I give him - give my heart." We can focus today on the gift of GOLD, knowing that it represents what is special. Special jewellery is made from gold. I can think of special people and things in my life that are GOLD for me. I can stand with the wise men and offer what I think is "gold" in my life:- my talents;- happy memories;- times when everything has gone well;- what I enjoy;- my friends;- times when someone has encouraged me;- what I look forward to.

Lord,
I give thanks for the "gold" in my life,
for the people who are precious to me,
for the happy memories I treasure,
and for all that has been good over the years.
May all that has been "gold" for me,
remind me always to appreciate
all who are part of my life.
Inspire me, Lord,
to live in such a way
that I help to bring out the best in others.
Amen

For John the Baptist
preparing the way by repentance and baptism
we thank you
For Jesus Christ
proclaimed your Son by water and Spirit
we thank you
For Good News
that Salvation has come to the earth
we thank you
For your love
undeserved and graciously given
we thank you
For the Holy Spirit
transforming and empowering lives
we thank you
For your promise
of an eternity in which to praise you
we thank you