

This week's services



Sunday 28th December

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, **Leaffield**

Friday 2nd January

6.30pm, Evening Prayer, **Wilcote**

Sunday 4th January

10.30am, Holy Communion, CW, **Leaffield**



These Bible readings are designated for each day

Monday	<i>Colossians 1: 1-14</i>
Tuesday	<i>Colossians 1: 15-23</i>
Wednesday	<i>Colossians 1: 24-2.7</i>
Thursday	<i>Romans 2: 17-end</i>
Friday	<i>Colossians 2: 8-end</i>
Saturday	<i>Colossians 3: 1-11</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:

The Rev'd Paul Mansell – 01993 868687
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PEW SHEET



28th December 2025

**The Holy Innocents
1st Sunday of Christmas**

Please take this pew sheet with you
when you leave.

Benefice website:

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

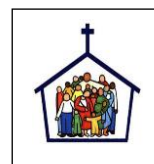
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The Collect



Heavenly Father, whose children suffered at the hands of Herod, though they had done no wrong: by the suffering of your Son and by the innocence of our lives frustrate all evil designs and establish your reign of justice and peace; 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 Jeremiah 31: 15-17

Thus says the Lord: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more. Thus says the Lord: Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for there is a reward for your work, says the Lord: they shall come back from the land of the enemy; there is hope for your future, says the Lord: your children shall come back to their own country.

Second Reading
1 Corinthians 1: 26-29

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

Gospel Reading
Matthew 2: 13-18

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.' When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'



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.

Amen

