



## NEWSWIRE: 26th January 2024

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- Services on Sunday
  - Sermon on the Mount with the Bible Project
  - Prayer for the Muslim world
  - Men's Curry Night
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### ***A message from Duncan***

It has been good to have one or two conversations following on from our time with the Beatitudes last Sunday (Matthew 5.1-11). They're pretty challenging and difficult to comprehend aren't they. They are sometimes described as Jesus' introduction to the upside-down kingdom he is inaugurating. That's a good description because it feels to me like trying to recognise a picture that is upside down. We struggle to work out what is being depicted because all the normal reference points are not where our brain is used to seeing them. So we end up straining our necks and getting into an awkward position in order to make sense of what we are seeing.

And it will continue to feel awkward as we move through the Sermon on the Mount. Many of the normal reference points in life, things that we thought made sense, are turned on their head. So I wanted to encourage you to keep going. Also, to let you in on the fact that I share the discomfort as well. Each time I come back to these verses, well-known by many of us, it feels as though I am a novice. And that's a good thing in some ways. God often has to strip back our previous understanding in order to build a truer understanding for the next phase in our life of discipleship.

It's like knitting - and I know a thing or two about knitting - literally a thing or two - particularly when you are learning. You make some good progress only to notice, when you take a pause, that there are some missed stitches a few lines back. You could plough on regardless but the eventual project will be misshapen. Or you could unpick some of the rows so you can start again and develop a truer reflection of the pattern you are trying to follow.

As this collection of Jesus' teaching is so foundational in the life of a disciple, it is worth taking some time to do the unpicking, start afresh and...get knitting!

Grace and peace to you all,

Duncan

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### Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

God our creator,  
who in the beginning  
commanded the light to shine out of darkness:  
we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ  
may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief,  
shine into the hearts of all your people,  
and reveal the knowledge of your glory  
in the face of 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.

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### SERVICES ON SUNDAY

**9am - Holy Communion at St Leonard's**

*Readings: Proverbs 3:1-7; Romans 12:1-2*

**10.30am - All-in service at St Leonard's and  
livestreamed on [this link](#)**

*Reading: Esther 3-8*

**5pm - Evening Prayer at St Leonard's**

*Readings: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 2:22-40*



### NEXT WEEK

**Monday 29th January**

**Bump to One** meet on **Mondays** from **10.30am to midday** in **St Leonard's church**.

**Walkie Talkies** meet on **Mondays (term time)** from **10am to 11.30am** in **St Leonard's church hall**.

**Tuesday 30th January**

**Tinies and Toddlers** are not meeting this week.

## Wednesday 31st January

**Warm Welcome Wednesday** from 10.30am to midday in St Leonard's church

## Thursday 1st February

**Cassington Cafe** from 10am in Cassington Village Hall

**Mum's Bible Study** meet every **Thursday** morning (term-time) 10 - 11.30am at 95 Hazeldene Close.

## NEXT SUNDAY - 4th FEBRUARY

9.30am - Holy Communion at St Peter's

10.30am - Morning Worship at St Leonard's and live streamed

7pm - Revive at St Leonard's

## Looking Further Ahead

**Thursday 8th February** at 8pm - **Men's Curry Night** at Ready Steady Spice (see below)

## Ash Wednesday - 14th February

9.30am - Holy Communion at St Peter's

7pm - Holy Communion at St Leonard's

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Click [here](#) to see a summary of the monthly Sunday services at St Leonard's and St Peter's

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**The St Leonard's Winter Term Services Card** is available on [this link](#). There are also some printed copies available in church.

## SERMON on the MOUNT

### *with the Bible Project*

During 2024 we are taking a long hard look at the sermon on the mount: foundational teaching of Jesus on the Kingdom, his manifesto on a completely new way of being human which he lived out and called us to imitate. As it happens, the Bible Project are also looking at this passage and are releasing 30 minute orientation guides each week which I highly recommend. You can sign up for emails [here](#) or I will post the links each week in Newswire.

[Introduction](#) | [Jesus and Torah](#) | [Doing right differently](#) | [Right relationships](#)



**Tuesday Fellowship** - I have had a letter from Christian Hope International thanking us for the £160 cheque we sent recently and our support over the years. Many lives have been changed as a result of our gifts. They have enjoyed the partnership, the warm & generous welcome they received & will miss the annual visits but not the journey round the M25! *Gill*

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### **The Chosen at St Peter's Catholic Church, Eynsham**

Join us to watch 'I have called you by your name' an episode of the Chosen, on **Monday 5th February at 7pm** in the Tolkien Room. All welcome.

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### **Men's Curry Night**

Thursday 8th February at 8pm at Ready Steady Spice. Sign up on [this link](#) or speak to Andy Greenwood.

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**Open Doors World Watch List 2024** is the annual ranking of the countries in the world where Christians face the most extreme persecution. Click [here](#) for more information about the World Watch list and the work of Open Doors in supporting the persecuted church.

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### **30 days of prayer for the Muslim World - Here, There and Everywhere!**

Participate with hundreds of thousands of believers around the world for this annual prayer event for Muslims, held during the Muslim fast month, March 10th - April 8th.

Since 1993, the **30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim world prayer guide** has been helping Christians to learn, love and pray for Muslims around the world. This guide will inspire you as you discover the unique challenges faced by Muslims in cultures near and far.

I will be ordering copies of the prayer guide for any who would want one. In previous years I have found the guide very helpful and challenging. Please contact me by Sunday January 28th. if you would like a copy. I understand that each copy will cost under £2.

Thank you. Rosemary Foster (01865-880507 [derekrosemary@gmail.com](mailto:derekrosemary@gmail.com))

## **Please pray for:**

- Dave recovering from a stroke.
- Ben and healing for his mental health.
- Scarlett's recovery from long Covid.
- Katie suffering with epilepsy. Please pray that the right medication be found to control her seizures.

To add names to the prayer list, please contact the Church Office ([stleonards\\_stpeters@btconnect.com](mailto:stleonards_stpeters@btconnect.com)) Names will be added to the list by express permission, and only first names will be published.

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