

NEWSWIRE: 1st March 2024



- Services on Sunday
 - Mothering Sunday posies
 - Save the date - Easter Sunday lunch
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A message from Duncan

How good is life for those who hunger and thirst for right- relationships, because they will be satisfied.

Matthew 3. (BibleProject translation)

'Righteousness' is the word we would normally associate with this verse, but it's a tricky word. It gets bad press in our world for its close association with 'self-righteousness', a decidedly unattractive trait, of which Jesus will have some pithy things to say about when, a little later in the sermon on the mount, he comes to motes and beams (specks and planks!). Righteousness is also not an easy word to understand across the canon of scripture. 'Right living' or 'rightness' goes some way to de-jargonising it, but I love the above translation: 'right-relationships'.

Understanding righteousness as that which works towards and maintains right-relationships reminds us that at the centre of the nature of God *is* an eternal relationship of three. And made in his image, we are to understand relationships as the heart of what it is to flourish in our humanity: to live the good life. Righteousness understood as 'doing the right thing' is close but it can lead us in unhelpful directions - indeed towards self-righteousness. The list is ticked, we've passed the test, made the grade, and the reward is now due. Doing the right thing in this way is precisely the problem of the Pharisees in Matthew's gospel. It is a clinical and contractual way to approach God. God, however, is a God of covenant which is intensely relational. It is not that we 'do right', but that we 'do right by one another, and by God, as he 'does right by us' and his promises to us as his children.

In a world where human ties and relationships seem to be falling apart with tragic and massive consequences, on a personal, familial, national and international scale, let's pray that we would be people, and churches, who have a godly hunger and thirst for right-relationships and place a high priority on this in our lives and in the life of the church. Then we will have a half a chance of being the salt and light God dreams for us to be.

Grace and peace be with you all,

Duncan

Collect for the third Sunday of Lent

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life 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.

SERVICES ON SUNDAY

9.30am - Holy Communion at St Peter's

Readings: Isaiah 29.13-14; Matthew 5:31-48

**10.30am - Morning Worship at St Leonard's and
livestreamed on [this link](#)**

Readings: Isaiah 29.13-14; Matthew 5:31-48

7pm - Revive at St.Leonards



NEXT WEEK

Monday 4th March

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

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

Tuesday 5th March

A Memorial Service for the late Grace Brown will be held at **St Leonard's** church at **11am** on **Tuesday 5th March**.

Tinies and Toddlers meet on **Tuesdays** from **1.30pm to 3pm** (term time) in **Cassington Village Hall**.

Wednesday 6th March

Warm Welcome Wednesday from **10.30am to midday** in **St Leonard's church**
Lent Courses at **2pm and 7pm**

Thursday 7th March

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

Cassington cafe from **10am** in **Cassington Village Hall**.

NEXT SUNDAY - 10th MARCH - Mothering Sunday

9am - Holy Communion at St Leonard's

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

3.30pm - Mothering Sunday Service and afternoon tea at St Peter's

4pm - Families@4 at St.Leonards

Looking further ahead:

Carol Sanders' funeral will be held at **St Peter's** at **1.30pm** on **Wednesday 20th March**.

A memorial service for the late **Marjory Berry** will be held at **St Leonard's church** on **23rd March**.

Tuesday Fellowship Reunion - 26th March at **2.30pm** in **St Leonard's Church Hall** (see below).

Families Easter Dinner - Easter themed crafts, games and dinner for the whole family. **Thursday 28th March** from **4pm to 6pm** in **St Leonard's Church Hall**.

Easter Sunday lunch at **St Leonard's** on **31st March** follow [this link](#) for more information or to sign up.



Mothering Sunday posies - On Mothering Sunday posies will be given out at the morning services in St Leonard's. We need some help to make up the posies in church on the morning of Saturday 9th March. For more information or to sign up to help please follow [this link](#) or speak to Margaret Thornton. If you have some foliage in your garden which we can use in the posies, please bring it to church whilst we are making posies on Saturday 9th.

Craft and Chat: Saturday 9th March 22 Falstaff Close, Eynsham from 14:00 - 16:00. Bring anything you are working on and we can craft and chat. Please let me know if you are coming or if you have any questions. Jennifer jenniferclarke362@gmail.com
0774 975 9939



SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday Fellowship is having a **Reunion** on **Tuesday 26 March** at **2.30pm** in the **Church Hall**. Roger Aston is our special guest along with his guitar. An opportunity to get together again for prayer and praise, not forgetting a welcome cup of tea and piece of cake. **Visitors** are always welcome so why not come along. *Angela Parks*

Prayers of Love and Faith

Thank you to those who were able to come along to the meeting last Sunday night, and particularly the way in which people shared their varied perspectives honestly and with grace. Let's continue to pray for one another as we continue to seek the will of God together.

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) Names will be added to the list by express permission, and only first names will be published.

SERMON on the MOUNT

with the Bible Project

Sign up for weekly emails from the Bible Project on the Sermon on the Mount [here](#)

Links to previous weeks below:

[Introduction](#) | [Jesus and Torah](#) | [Doing right differently](#) | [Right relationships](#) | [The Choice Before Us](#) | [Being at home in the Kingdom](#) | [The Hard Path of Peacemaking](#)



Open Morning at The King's School, Witney

Join us for our whole school Open Morning on Tuesday 5th March, from 10:30 am until midday. Discover The King's School, a small and friendly Christian school, for ages 3-16, on the outskirts of Witney.

- Date: Tuesday 5th March
- Time: 10:30 am - 12:00 pm
- Location: The King's School, New Yatt Road, Witney, OX29 6TA
- Website: www.tkswitney.org.uk



Benefice of Hanborough and Freeland

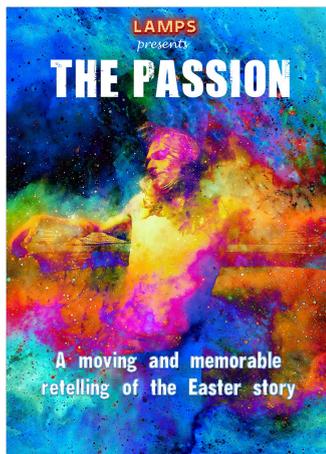
An evening of Christian poetry for all

Christ Church, Long Hanborough

7-9pm on Friday 8th March

You are welcome to read or just listen. There is no charge for this. If you would like to bring cake or biscuits, that would be most appreciated. We hope to see

you at what promises to be a spiritual and uplifting event. If you wish to attend please text Laura on 07974973867.



St Mary Magdalene Church, Woodstock

Monday 25th March at 7pm

Tickets - £12 (£6 for under 18s) available from Woodstock Bookshop or on the door

www.stleonardseynsham.org.uk | www.stpeterschurchcassington.org | [Youtube channel](#) | [facebook page](#)