

17 September 2020

A Message from Duncan

We are four days into a new set guidelines and legislation from our government. Some have welcomed the new simplicity of “6” and others are struggling. What is certain is that life is still uncertain. We’re not sure what is round the corner and that is very unsettling for many in our communities. It has been challenging to plan ahead as a benefice in the face of these uncertainties. Each week still has slightly different arrangements but we expect to settle into more of a routine during October. I would ask that we continue to bear with one another with lashings of grace and keep alert for different timings of physically gathered services as well as online provision. What I am, however, enjoying is wrestling with our current question: “What does it look like for me to follow Jesus?”. Perhaps this is particularly important at this time. The assumption is that our lives and attitudes will be significantly different following Jesus compared to if we were not following him. It's helpful to reflect on how Jesus has made a difference for us as well as to ask God to show us where we still need to learn; where our blind spots are; where we have tolerated attitudes, routines and behaviours for so long that we just think they are a normal part of life. (The problem with blind spots is that we can't see them!). I really pray that we can all be open to God highlighting areas to us as individuals as well as a church together. Then we need the courage to change! Change can be scary but sometimes the smallest tweak in attitude or practice makes the biggest difference in our lives.

When I think about this I realise how far I still have to go in learning to live like Jesus. But a [Stuart Townend song](#) encourages me where he writes: “And I’m learning to walk in the paths of grace It’s not where you are it’s the way you face”. In these days, let’s keep looking to Jesus and following him.

Grace and peace be with you all,

Duncan

THIS WEEKS SERVICES

THIS SUNDAY 20th September 2020:

10.30am on line streamed service

Do join us this Sunday for our Morning Service at 10.30am. Text and liturgy for the service can be found [here](#)

Internet Access for the morning online service

www.stleonardseyنشam.org.uk

www.stpeterschurchcassington.org

Youtube channel [Youtube link here](#)

Telephone Access: You can access the service on Sunday all week on 01865 965018.

There are no additional charges for those who phone in

Zoom coffee link [here](#). Meeting ID: 844 3716 0195 Passcode: 432528

11.00am St Leonard's Eynsham

Places are limited and you can [sign up here](#). It is, however, worth noting we have had space every week so if you have been in two minds do sign up. There are a number of people who do not have access to the internet but have this newsletter delivered each week. Some spaces at gathered services will be reserved for these people who cannot sign up online and they can simply come along.

6pm BCP Evening Prayer at St Peter's Cassington St Leonard's church members are very welcome to attend Evening Prayer.

7pm Night Prayer at St Leonard's Eynsham Unusually we are holding two prayer meetings in the benefice because... it is good to pray! But also the St Leonard's service will be accessible by zoom. *Link [here](#). Meeting ID: 864 0485 2341 Passcode: 207824*

Social distancing will be maintained, there will be no singing, masks will need to be worn and any socialising at the end of the services will need to happen outside the church building.

Open Churches for Private Prayer

St Leonard's, Eynsham St Leonard's Church is open for individuals' private prayer for two days per week - Sundays and Wednesdays from 9am - 6pm. *There are clear instructions regarding the use of the churches including permitted areas, and hand sanitizer will be provided for everyone using the church.*

St Peter's, Cassington: We will be able to open for public prayer throughout the week in October.

Harvest at the Churches

Both churches will have services outdoors to celebrate Harvest this year.

St Leonard's 27th September 10am (on the new land)

St Peter's 4th October at 10am (outside the church)

Our focus this year will be on supporting the Food Banks and we will be collecting non-perishable items with a shelf life of at least 6 months.

Mission Partners

Adventure Plus

****Please use the form at www.adventureplus.org.uk/contact-us if you would like to find out more about the Adventure Plus virtual prayer meeting on Thursday 24th September****

Give thanks to God for the continuing work of Adventure Plus despite the current challenges! Total Adventure activities were able to go ahead successfully in the summer (albeit more limited than usual, and with appropriate Covid-safety measures).

Please pray for wisdom for the A+ leaders as they make difficult and complex decisions at a time of restricted funding and operational challenges, but also a moment of growth and opportunity; specifically:

- Fundraising to support the work of A+, including the new curry night and Sunday roast initiatives;
- Discernment in choosing a replacement company to take over the Adventure Base project now that the original company has gone into liquidation;
- Ongoing decisions about the new development, including interaction with WODC on planning matters and the opportunity to work with Oxford Future Low Carbon Hubs on a carbon neutral energy supply;
- Unity in the whole A+ team, as staff are welcomed back from furlough whilst others have not yet returned.

Further information on the Adventure Plus Curry Nights/Sunday Roasts fundraiser:

Curry nights and Sunday Roasts have started! Why not take the opportunity to enjoy some delicious food and raise money for Adventure Plus at the same time?!

Friday night: Curry night - a tasty home-cooked curry complete with poppadums, dips, rice, naan, onion bhajis and a choice of curry – a spicy, mild or vegetarian option – **all for just £12.95 per person!**

You can book your place online [here](#). Curry will be served from 7pm – 8:30pm (with the restaurant closing at 10pm). Plenty of free parking and a warm welcome awaits.

Sunday Roast Carvery Lunches

Home cooked Sunday roast complete with all the trimmings and cooked by A+ Head Chef using locally sourced meats & fresh vegetables. Lunch will be served from 12:30pm until 2:30pm. Main Course: £12.95 for the main course or £14.95 per head with a choice of desserts, with children's meals from £7.50 or £8.50 including ice cream dessert.

[Book online here](#) and choose on the day from Chicken, Beef, Pork or a mix of all three! (a vegetarian option will also be available each week)

Telephone 01367 810258

Please continue to pray for St Leonard's Mission partners as they face various challenges, difficult decisions and new ways of working at this time: Adventure Plus, Open Doors, Christians Against Poverty (including Witney Debt Centre), Marcelo and Silvana Vargas (La Paz, Bolivia), Jo & Paul Murrell (Wycliffe Bible Translators), Tearfund and OxPAT. The pandemic continues to have a significant impact on their lives and work and we pray for God's guidance for the path ahead.

Shoe Box Appeal This year's Shoebox Appeal is now operational and shoeboxes will be going to many, very needy people; girls, boys, teenagers, women and men, in Eastern Europe. If you are unable to fill a box yourself you may like to consider sharing with someone else.

If you are having a problem sourcing an empty shoebox this year then please use a drawstring bag (no plastic ones please) instead. Maximum size 500mm x 300mm. These are available in a number of shops, especially sports shops, or donations can be made to assist with transport costs. Any loose gifts can be given and will be passed on. All these details can be found by clicking on the link <https://blythswood.org/shoeboxappeal/>, including a 5 minute video of the appeal, and other information. Please do watch.

The schedule for collections and drop off points for filled shoeboxes will be published shortly. In the meantime we hope you will begin gathering items and can fill a box or a bag. Please support this worthy cause.

If you would like to know more about the appeal contact:

St Leonard's Jan Haskett on 01865 882488 or email jehaskett1@gmail.com *Information leaflets will be distributed to all church members for whom we have an address.*

St Peter's Jane Aston on 01865 880757 or email janeaston53@aol.com *Information leaflets can be found in the food bank box outside St Peter's Church or from Jane Aston.*

Time of Prayer for Refugees and Those Walking Alongside. Monday 21st September, 7.30 – 8.15 pm. Online. Thames Valley area. September focus: Sanctuary Hosting & perilous sea crossings. [Register on Eventbrite](#). Details, also for Oct 14th, Nov 12th & Dec 10th at ccow.org.uk/events/.

Vacancy IFES (International Fellowship of Evangelical Students)

HR Administrator £19k – 22k (pro rata) plus pension. Part-time (0.4 FTE), 15 hours per week. Oxford, UK. This is a fantastic opportunity for a confident and proactive individual to join a Christian charity with unrivalled global reach. Full job description and application forms available online: ifesworld.org/jobs
Closing date 5 October 2020