

NEWSWIRE: 12th January 2024



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 - Craft and Chat
 - Christians against poverty
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A message from Duncan

I was going to write about feeling S.A.D. at this time of year. You know - when we get a bit low because of January blues. It's dark and cold without Christmas to look forward to. I was also going to mention that it gets worse when you realise that 2024 looks like it will be a very challenging year with a number of significant elections in countries across the world, including possibly our own, at a time of political uncertainty and polarisation. Anything could happen. I could also mention the possible fracturing of the Church of England, or the potential consequences of the developing world of Artificial Intelligence.

Instead, I am going to draw your attention to the launch of Open Doors World Watch List 2024 (see [here](#)), particularly Ji Ho's story. And not because it gives me a bit of a reality check on the things that concern me. It does of course - I'm shamed by the things that worry me in comparison with the life so many in our world experience, particularly my eternal brothers and sisters. Our life in the UK is amongst the most privileged in the world. The reason I want to share this with you is that it simply inspires me and causes me to forget my petty blues. It reminds me that the Good News message of Jesus, contained in the Spirit-inspired Bible, is the most valuable treasure, and our brothers and sisters across this world suffer danger and persecution because it has become nectar to them, sweeter than honey, worth even more than life itself. It makes me fall more in love with Jesus - that he could so capture the imagination and inspire the commitment of those who know that following him could be a death sentence. It also challenges me to pray more faithfully: to pray for them, to pray for over 150 MPs as they are presented with the list by

Open Doors on Wednesday next week, but also to pray for the church in this country, that we might share an ounce of their passionate, culture defying commitment to Jesus.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5.10)

Grace and peace,

Duncan

Collect for the second Sunday of Epiphany

*Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
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

9am Holy Communion at St Leonard's

Readings: Jeremiah 31.31-34; Matthew 4.12-25

9.30am Morning Worship at St Peter's

Readings: Jeremiah 31.31-34; Matthew 4.12-25

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

Readings: Jeremiah 31.31-34; Matthew 4.12-25

4pm - Families@4 at St Leonard's



NEXT WEEK

Monday 15th 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 16th January

Tinies and Toddlers meet at **Cassington Village Hall** on **Tuesday** from **1.30 - 3pm** (Term time)

Wednesday 17th January

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

Thursday 18th January

The funeral of the late Sheila Wooding will be held at **St Leonard's** at **11.30am** on **Thursday 18th January 2024**.

NEXT SUNDAY - 21st JANUARY

9.30am - Holy Communion at St Peter's

10.30am - Holy Communion at St Leonard's and live streamed

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

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](#)





Please continue to pray for the work of CAP who provide free professional debt help, job clubs, life skills groups and money education nationwide. All their services are delivered face-to-face through local churches, which means people receive both the practical and emotional support they need on your journey.

Locally - our church is one of 5 churches which supports the CAP Centre in Witney (now called CAP Windrush Valley to reflect its area better). CAP Windrush valley runs a debt centre to help those with unmanageable debt and also runs CAP LifeSkill courses to help those who struggle with life to cope with budgeting, relationships and general life skills.

- Thank God for several people who have come to faith through these groups.
- Pray for the team including Alastair Hobbs, the Debt Centre Manager, and Katie Gamble, the LifeSkills Manager.
- Pray for a new team member - they are looking to recruit a new Debt coach as Michael has just retired.
- Also, they need to raise more funds locally to cover their costs - can you help?

Here at St Leonards we have 4 trained CAP Money Management coaches and we are planning to run some courses this spring to help people be smarter about organising their own money. Most of us - whatever our income level are feeling the cost of living squeeze and so any hints and tips to help balance income and expenditure are welcome! Pray these courses will help, reaching not only those in our church family but in the wider community as well.

For more information contact Alan Thornton, Jennifer Clarke, Mike Sinfield or Margaret Thornton

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.

Leslie Gerrans update Leslie's son informs us that Leslie (now 96) is doing very well and walking with her walker, even going outside when the weather permits. They thank us for our prayers.

www.stleonardseynsham.org.uk | www.stpeterschurchcassington.org |
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