

NEWSWIRE: 19th January 2024



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A message from Duncan

I hope you still find things in scripture that you've never noticed before. They can be moments of encouragement and insight or fascination. It's as though the Lord has hidden it until the time for a particular truth is needed for us. He's like that.

It happened this week to me as I read the account of Samuel's prophetic calling as a young boy in the temple. He is asleep and in his slumber he hears the voice of God, "Samuel! Samuel!" So he yells down the corridor, "Here I am" and runs to Eli thinking he has called to him. Eli shoed him back to bed. 'Young-uns!' Well you know the story. It happens twice more. Samuel hears his name called in the night. Eli finally twigs and so Samuel is prepared to reply to "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening".

But the last time is different, it is particularly precious, and I hadn't noticed this before. "*Now the Lord came and stood there calling as before*" (v10). It gave me a thrill that perhaps I can't quite articulate. Here is our God. The one "*who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see*" (1 Timothy 6.16) come to his servant, standing before him and calling his name. So personal, so intimate, so particular, so loving.

We may be asked, 'Is God transcendent, almighty, presiding over history and the universe, and sustaining all things, or is he a God who is interested in our little life, where we live, in a small village in Oxfordshire in 2024?' The Christian answer is of course 'yes'! He is God over all, who is also the one who comes to stand before us, alongside us, with us.

And he still he calls us by name.

Grace and peace to you all,

Duncan

Collect for the third Sunday of Epiphany

Almighty God,
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your mighty power;
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: Psalm 1; Matthew 5:1-16

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

Readings: Psalm 1; Matthew 5:1-16



NEXT WEEK

Monday 22nd 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 23rd January

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

Wednesday 24th January

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

St Peter's PCC meeting

Thursday 25th January

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

NEXT SUNDAY - 28th JANUARY

9.00am - Holy Communion at St Leonard's

10.30am - All-in service at St Leonard's and live streamed

5pm - Evening Prayer at St Peter's

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](#) | [Doing right differently](#)



Craft and Chat: Saturday 20th January 22 Falstaff Close, Eynsham from 14:00 - 16:00. I love crafting and would love company while I do. Bring anything you are working on and we can craft and chat. My hope is to do this regularly. Please let me know if you are coming or if you have any questions. Jennifer jenniferclarke362@gmail.com 0774 975 9939

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)

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.

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