

NEWSWIRE: 12th July 2024



- Services on Sunday
 - Families@4 Summer Party
 - Invitation to a wedding
-

A message from Duncan

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful servants.

Psalm 116.15

Many of you will have heard that our dearly beloved sister Enid Brown, from St. Leonard's, has passed into the Lord's presence this week. She will be so deeply missed by us all and we will all continue to hold Pete and his family in our prayers. We know she is now safe with Jesus, which is a supreme comfort in the midst of the pain of separation.

The verse from Psalm 116 above has been running through my mind today as I tried to make sense of another beloved member of our church families who is lost from us. It is often quoted but its meaning was becoming less clear as I mulled on it between appointments. Eventually I had to sit down and think about it properly. How can the death of the Lord's beloved faithful servants be precious? One answer may be that our faithfulness to Jesus in the race of life is only complete when we cross the line and fall into the arms of Jesus. After all, one reason we enjoy the benefits of salvation is because Jesus was faithful to God for the whole of his life, beginning to end (Romans 3.22). God celebrates and welcomes us into his presence, along with all the saints who have gone before us, everyone who trusts Jesus to the very end. A life lived fully and faithfully to Jesus is precious to him.

But another perspective on the translation is that the word 'precious' is referencing gemstones. The grief, suffering and deeply troubling "*experiences of God's followers get God's attention, just as a precious or rare object would attract someone's eye.*" (NET notes). I was so touched by that thought. God's gaze falls upon us when we walk through the dark and shadowy valleys of life in this fallen

and broken world, as one who notices a precious stone in the earth. In other words, you are a precious and priceless gemstone to God, particularly when you are passing through a time of trial. God sees you. That was enough for Hagar; a gentile, slave woman who was the first to name God in the Bible when she said “*You are the God who sees me,*” (Genesis 16.13). It was enough for Enid. It is enough for all who trust in him. And it is the central thought of the Aaronic blessing we know so well and speak over one another’s lives.

“May the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace”

Collect for the Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Lord of all power and might,
the author and giver of all good things:
graft in our hearts the love of your name,
increase in us true religion,
nourish us with all goodness,
and of your great mercy keep us in the same;
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: Psalm 19, John 5:31-40

9.30am - Morning Worship at St Peter’s

Readings: Psalm 121; 2 Timothy 3:10–17

10.30am - Morning Worship at St Leonard’s and live streamed on [this link](#)

Readings: Psalm 1:1 - 3; Colossians 3:12 - 17

If you have difficulties accessing the service on the livestream link above, please try accessing [our youtube channel](#) directly.

4pm - Families@4 at St Leonard’s (see below)



NEXT WEEK

Monday 15th July

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 16th July

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

St Peter's PCC meeting

NEXT SUNDAY - 21st July

9.30am - Holy Communion at St Peter's

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

Looking further ahead

The funeral of the late Iain Ross will be held at 1.30pm on 22nd July at St Leonard's church.

St Peter's School Leavers service - 23rd July at St Peter's church.

The funeral of the late Tony Darlow will be held at 11am on 24th July at St Leonard's church.

The funeral of the late Hazel Tibbetts will be held at 2pm on 1st August at St Leonard's church.



Walkie Talkies meet for their last session before the summer holidays on 15th July from 10am to 11.30am in St. Leonard's Church hall. Walkie Talkies starts again on 9th September.

Families @4

This Sunday at 4pm - 6pm we will have our Summer Party on the church land (please pray for good weather!) - including games, craft, a barbecue and time to chat and celebrate together. Come along to meet lovely families and enjoy good food, even if you have never been to Families @4 before. For more information, please contact Rabea (email: slpfamilies@gmail.com).

Warm Welcome Wednesday is taking a break for the summer. We will start again on Wednesday 11th September. If you are able to help with Warm Welcome Wednesday from September onwards, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Maureen McCreddie mamccreadie@gmail.com or 883464

HELP for a few tip runs. Duncan is trying to help a parishioner who needs to clear some rubbish to the tip. If you have a sizeable boot for a few bags of rubbish, and garden or work gloves, could you contact Duncan. Text 07810 324088.

The Church Office will be closed from 1pm on 12th July until 9am on 23rd July. Please leave me a message and I will get back to you on my return from holiday. Thanks. Louise



INVITATION TO A WEDDING

Geoff and Jenny Hogan are pleased to announce their daughter Clare will be marrying Emmanuel Olajojo on FRIDAY 9 AUGUST at 11.30 am here at St Leonard's church.

Geoff and Jenny would be so delighted if church family were able to join them on this very special occasion.

The service will be followed by a light lunch on the church land. If you think you might be able to come, please can you let Jenny know just so we have the right numbers for catering, and any dietary requirements please email: ajennyhogan@gmail.com

Clare would like to use as many locally picked flowers as possible. If you have any in your garden that you would be happy to donate the day or so before the wedding. Please can you let Jenny know. Thank you

Is it the year for the Christians to devour the Lions? The annual gladiatorial combat of Aunt Sally between members and associates of St Peter's Church (and St Leonard's friends) vs the Red Lion Cassington will take place on Sunday 11th August at and from 2.00pm in the garden of the Red Lion Cassington.

New (and old) blood most welcome. Definitely no previous experience required. Come to take part or to watch and enjoy a family afternoon.

Don't let the lions have it all their own way. Sign up before you are called up - Roger Aston rogera52@aol.com.



When it comes to devotional life, we can struggle to get started for all kinds of different reasons. Perhaps we feel so busy that we can't possibly add yet another thing to our 'to-do list'. Or maybe Bible study time feels more like a strain on the brain rather than fuel for the soul, and we wonder if it's worth keeping going.

In [Time Well Spent](#), Colin Webster takes on these concerns, tackling them head-on. This short book will show you what a devotional involves, how to set aside common distractions, and why our time with God really is time well spent.

Let this book be a gentle encouragement and practical pointer in your desire to set aside time with God either for ourselves or, perhaps, a youngster heading off to university or work.

Available at a discounted price of £2.

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.

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