

NEWSWIRE: 23rd August 2024



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A message from Duncan

Last Sunday felt like a birthday celebration. I know it wasn't an official anniversary but it was lovely to remember the beginning of the Church in Europe as we looked at Acts 16. It was a group of women who were the first (recorded) recipients of the Good News of Jesus in Europe, down by the riverside, and it was Lydia who was the first to be baptised. And that reminded me of a brainstorm list that Eric Shumacher wrote ([here](#) and I have summarised below) to highlight the huge and pivotal significance women have been in God's story of salvation. Think about this:

The first thing declared 'not good' in creation was woman's absence. The first woman is named as being at enmity with the serpent because of her role in God's plan of salvation, for it is a woman who will give birth to the serpent-crushing Messiah. Hagar is the first and only character in the Old Testament to give a name to God. Women act bravely at decisive moments thus preserving the line of the Messiah - Tamar, Hebrew midwives, Rahab, Ruth, and Esther amongst them. Elizabeth and Mary are the first to believe that Jesus and his forerunner soon would be conceived and the first to speak aloud of it. (Unlike Zechariah who disbelieved and became mute.) Elizabeth and her bump(!) are the first recorded people to recognize the Messiah's arrival. Mary sings the New Testament's praise song and later is the first to expect and request a miraculous sign at the wedding in Cana. The woman at the well is the first recorded Gentile to recognize Jesus as the Messiah, and the first to go tell a community about him. Only women are said to give general, regular financial provision (out of their own means) to Jesus and the Twelve. No woman is ever recorded as acting against Jesus. Women were the last to stay with Jesus at the cross, along with

just one male disciple. Mary is the final person Jesus directly ministered to before his death. Women were the first tasked with proclaiming news of the resurrection, and the first to see the resurrected Lord, and touch his resurrected body. Mary Magdalene is the first to hear the resurrected Lord's voice. Women being mistreated and overlooked is the motivation for appointing the first deacons of the church. Of Paul's four greetings that include specific names, a woman's name is listed first in three of them. A female voice is the last to be quoted in the Bible: The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come."

It's an amazing list, and in light of the treatment of women over many years in society and the life of the church it's worth noting. And it doesn't even include Lydia, Phoebe, Dorcas and Prsicilla and others in scripture. And it doesn't include the many women who have been faithful servants of Jesus at St Peter's and St Leonards over the years and today, without whom everything would have fallen apart. And for all of them we praise God and pray that He will continue to raise up women of faith for the work of the Kingdom!

Grace and peace to you all,

Duncan

Collect for the Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God,
who called your Church to bear witness
that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:
help us to proclaim the good news of your love,
that all who hear it may be drawn to you;
through him who was lifted up on the cross,
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: Acts 17: 1-15; 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-3 and
13*



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

Reading: Acts 17: 1-15

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

5pm - Evening Prayer at St Peter's

Readings: 1 Kings 8: 22-39; 41-43; Acts 17:1- 15

NEXT WEEK

Monday 26th August

Bump to One will not be meeting due to the bank holiday.

Tuesday 27th August

St Leonard's PCC meeting.

NEXT SUNDAY - 1st September

9.30am - Holy Communion at St Peter's

10.30am - Morning Worship at St Leonard's and livestreamed

7pm - Revive at St Leonard's

Looking further ahead

The funeral of the late Maureen Lambourne will be held at **St Leonard's** church at **midday** on **3rd September**.

Bump to One will **not** be meeting for the **next two Mondays**. We will be back on **Monday 9th September**.

Paul's Journey - 1st Century Travel Guides

We have been following Paul's journey in our summer sermon series and Margaret has been producing a series of travel guides. You can access them on the following links: [Damascus](#), [Antioch](#), [Iconium](#), [Lystra and Derbe](#), [Derbe to Antioch](#), [Philippi](#), [Thessalonika and Berea](#)

News from Rabea

For everyone who is travelling over the summer and missed our announcement

last Sunday: We are expecting a baby in January. Thank you so much for all the kind words and prayers we have already received! We're looking forward for this little one to be part of St. Leonard's church family!



The annual Ride+Stride fundraising event for Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust (OHCT) will be taking place on Saturday 14th September. All funds go to OHCT and 50% can be passed on to a church or chapel of your choice. Full details and sponsorship forms can be found on OHCT website <https://ohct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/> or contact the Church Office for a hard copy.

The Church Office will be closed from 1pm today until 9am on Thursday 29th August. Please leave a message and I will get back to you on my return.
Louise

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 | [Youtube channel](#) | [facebook page](#)