

NEWSWIRE: 13th September 2024



- Services on Sunday
 - Week of Prayer: 30th September - 6th October
 - Shoebox Appeal
-

A message from Ruth

It wasn't supposed to be like this...

I wonder how often you, like me, have either muttered this under your breath, or screamed it from your heart? 'It wasn't supposed to be like this...' can be exasperation at a cake burnt on the edges and raw in the middle, or the cry of an exhausted parent holding a baby who refuses to settle, or a grieving relative bewildered at the loss of a loved one.

My job can involve sitting with people who utter those words, left hopeless by the circumstances in which they find themselves.

There is much that the Bible says to us when we find ourselves feeling battered and defeated by the road we are walking and it is important to recall those learned verses. It is a discipline to repeat the promises of God and to hold fast to them, even in the darkness.

But this week, I have been struck by the importance of acknowledging the pain, not trying to tidy it up, or reduce it in some way. Those times of frustration, loss and despair are genuine, often life impacting and hard.

Jesus was a man of compassion, meeting people at their point of need - no casual platitudes or 'look on the bright side' comments that are so often a part of our conversation are recorded as being his words.

The Bible tells us that it *wasn't* meant to be like this and offers us the sure and certain hope of a new heaven and new earth, a new order of things that will be the way that it was meant to be. Until then, I believe that we are called often to simply sit with those whose current experience has left them reflecting that it wasn't supposed to be like this... offering them, even in the silence, the love and compassion that Jesus showed to those he met in similarly dark places.

Collect for the Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers
of your people who call upon you;
and grant that they may both perceive and know
what things they ought to do,
and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them;
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: James 1: 22-27; Matthew 7:24-27

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

Reading: Luke 6:46-49; James 1: 22-27



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

NEXT WEEK

Monday 16th September

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 17th September

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

Wednesday 18th September

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

Thursday 19th September

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

The funeral of the late Jose Green will be held at St Bartholomew's church in Yarnton at 11am on Thursday 19th September.

Friday 20th September

The funeral of the late **William Timms** will be held in **St Leonard's** church at **2pm** on **Friday 20th September**.

NEXT SUNDAY - 22nd September

9am - Holy Communion at St Leonard's

10.30am - Holy Communion at St Leonard's and livestreamed

5pm - Evening Prayer at St Peter's

Looking further ahead

Week of Prayer: 30th September - 6th October

Click here for more information about the annual week of prayer. Paper copies of the Week of Prayer flyer are also available in both churches.

BLTHYSWOOD CARE SHOEBOX APPEAL



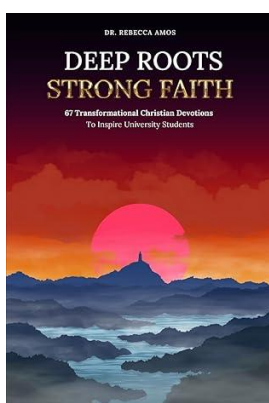
This year's SHOEBOX Appeal is now operational and filled shoeboxes will be going to very needy people in Ukraine and Eastern Europe. Shoeboxes can be filled for girls, boys, teenagers, women, men and elderly women. Leaflets with instructions and what to put inside your SHOEBOX can be found inside the Foodbank Box outside St.Peter's Church or

in the porch at St.Peter's Church and on the table at the back of St Leonard's church. If you would like to learn more about this appeal please contact:

St Peter's - Jane Aston on 01865 880757 or email janeaston53@aol.com

St Leonard's - Janet Haskett on 01865 882488 or email jehaskett1@googlemail.com

Completed Shoeboxes can be delivered to Jane Aston at 9, Bell Close, Cassington or dropped off at St Leonard's before the end of October.



Do you know someone starting or returning to University shortly? Written by a member of the St Mary's congregation in Freeland, "Deep Roots Strong Faith" is a book of devotions written to inspire and help strengthen faith during University years and beyond. The book is available on [this link](#) and there is a copy in the Church Office, if you would like to have a look.

Witney Inter-Church Singers

Do you enjoy singing in Church? If so, our choir would be a welcoming and encouraging group to join. We meet on **Wednesday evenings** in the warm and comfortable surroundings of **Witney Congregational Church** from **7.30 to 9.30pm**. Rehearsals usually run for 11 or 12 weeks before our Christmas and Summer concerts. Our Christmas concerts are on Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th December. Rehearsals for these will commence on Wednesday 25th September.



For further details contact Shirley Enoch: geoffandshirley.enoch@ntlworld.com or 07746-791265



Witney Filling Station Meeting Tuesday 17th September at 7.30pm Witney Corn Exchange.

Speakers Ralph & Joy Green have been used by God in the area of Inner Healing and Freedom in Oxfordshire for over 30 years. They established Greenhouse Ministries which offers one on one or couple ministry, teaching and training in this area of ministry. <https://thefillingstation.org/station/west-oxon/>

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](#)