

NEWSWIRE: 11th October 2024



- Services on Sunday
 - St Leonard's PCC Secretary
 - Hospitality Sunday - 20th October
 - Shaped by the Word Workshop
-

A message from Duncan

I love that so much of scripture is narrative.

I mean, there's a bit of me that doesn't, I admit, because I am often looking for the 'right answer', and narrative never gives absolute, definitive answers we can prove. What it does do, however, is invite us in to explore, to think, to discover, to question and to wonder with God; and that is much better for us than having the answers at the back of the textbook! Rather, we are given wisdom, and that is true treasure.

I was reminded of this following our time in Daniel on Sunday. We compared his resistance of the King's food in Babylon to Jehoiachin (the last King of Judah) ending his days released from prison, clothed by the King of Babylon and feasting at his table. You can read the account in 2 Kings 25.27-30. Is this an example of the grace of God in the time of exile or is it the final evidence of Jehoiachin's compromise, concluding a long narrative of corruption and decay in the state of the nation of Israel? I was initially convinced by the latter: Daniel passes the test of faithfulness but Jehoiachin fails. I remain convinced. The charge of Daniel chapter one, for followers of Jesus, is to emulate Daniel's faithfulness, not hope for Jehoiachin's compromised comfort. There is, however, more going on. That's the beauty of narrative, there can be multiple threads of truth in the one tapestry. You see, Jehoiachin is also known as Jeconiah in scripture (see 1 Chron 3.15-17). He is the last surviving king in the line of David, and he is saved from death in exile, so that he might continue that line; the line that leads to Jesus, the Saviour of the world. Jeconiah has a named place in Jesus' family tree (see Matthew 1.11-12)! In the mess and chaos of exile, amidst human rebellion and faithlessness to the One who made them, God never gives

up. His plan to rescue his creation and his image bearers will never be thwarted even in the darkest times of history.

And that is grace! The persistent, unshakeable, undivertable, unquenchable grace of God. And that gives me hope in my life. But more than that, even in our days, it gives me hope for the world.

So God's grace be with you all,

Duncan

Collect for the Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

God, the giver of life,
whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church:
by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ
and make us eager to do your will,
that we may share with the whole creation
the joys of eternal life;
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: Daniel 2:1-6, 10-23; John 18.33-36

9.30am - Morning Worship at St Peter's

Readings: Daniel 2:1-6; 26-45; Ephesians 3:14-21

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

Readings: Daniel 2:1-6, 10-23; John 18.33-36

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



NEXT WEEK

Monday 14th October

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 15th October

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

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

The funeral of the late Michael Green will be held at St Leonard's church at 2pm on Tuesday 15th October.

Wednesday 16th October

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

NEXT SUNDAY - 20th October

9.30am - BCP Holy Communion at St Peter's

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

6.30pm - Shaped by the Word Workshop at St Leonard's (see below)

Looking further ahead

The funeral of the late Victoria Thomas-Clarke will be held in St Peter's church, Cassington at 11am on Thursday 24th October.

Remembering with Thanksgiving - a memorial service for the bereaved will be held at St Leonard's church at 6pm on Sunday 27th October.



HARVEST COMMUNITY SUPPER

With Eynsham Morris and the Chamberries

Saturday 12th October 6pm - 10pm at Cassington Village Hall

Join us for an evening of live music with jazz, blues, soul from local band 'The Chamberries' and songs, dancing, shanties and fun from Eynsham Morris. Ticket price includes Ploughman's supper. Drinks available at pay bar.

Adults - £10
Under 16s - £5
Families - £25

Contact: Carolyn Hinton 07747 621597 chinton260@outlook.com or
Jan Macdonald 07941 419219 janmacdonald78@aol.com



SHAPED BY THE WORD: Daniel and chapter 7

Sunday by Sunday we hear a sermon. It's relatively short (historically speaking!) and is intended to nourish us, giving us some food to sustain us in our walk with Jesus during the week ahead. There is, however, little opportunity to discuss our questions or probe a little deeper into the strange but wonderful world of the Bible, and so grow in our understanding of God and his ways that we might be more conformed to his image. That is the idea behind **Shaped by the Word** evenings. Every so often we will take a Sunday evening to dig deeper into a Bible book or theme. This month, on **20th October at 6.30pm** we will look at the **book of Daniel, and focus in on Chapter 7**. It will be interactive with opportunities for discussion and questions and will finish no later than 8pm. The evening will be much better if you are there!



HOSPITALITY SUNDAY AT ST LEONARD'S **20th October**

We are church - a community that is aiming to pray, grow and love together as we journey in the footsteps of Jesus.

Hospitality Sundays are a regular opportunity to get to know others in our church community by spending time together eating and drinking. For some that may be Sunday lunch together in a home, for others it might be inviting someone for tea and cake, or maybe going to a cafe or a pub for a drink with someone you don't know well. The more adventurous might even think about joint dog walks, picnics in the park or sandwiches on a shared bike ride. Some people may want to offer hospitality, others may long to be invited out. Whatever you decide - the main thing is spending time with others and getting to know them better at the end.

We especially encourage those who have started coming to St Leonard's recently to join in to meet others.

Sign up [here](#) Any queries - please contact Margaret Thornton margaret@2cp.uk, 07971857711



Remember with Thanksgiving - A service for the bereaved

We will be holding a Memorial Service for the bereaved at St Leonard's on Sunday 27th October at 6pm. This is a special service where the death of a loved one is remembered and an opportunity to light a candle in their memory. If

you would like the name of a loved one read out, please contact the Church Office (stleonards_stpeters@btconnect.com or 01865 883325).

Open Doors, mission focus for October. Please could you pray for the Democratic Republic of Congo, where many thousands of people live in displacement camps and an Open Doors worker says "The situation is deteriorating every day, and there is no response from the world. There is a



strong feeling of abandonment.” Pray that the international community will pay attention to the crisis.

Wycliffe Bible Translators

From Oct 14 to Nov 15 Jo Murrell will be taking a break from her normal job (pastorally caring for Wycliffe members working in Africa and Asia) in order to lead and teach a course on *‘Healthy Community engagement’* at Moorlands College . The college's aim in all its training and teaching is to equip people who are passionate about Jesus Christ to impact the Church and the world. Most of

those who take Jo’s course are preparing to work with Wycliffe Bible Translators. When they reach their area of ministry they will be working with people from many different cultural backgrounds. This course will explore the complexities, the joys and challenges of working in such multicultural contexts. More next week! Meanwhile please be praying for Jo in this responsibility.

PCC Secretary - Eynsham

Are you able to provide some administrative support to St Leonard’s PCC? We are looking for someone to support Duncan and the churchwardens in the smooth running of PCC meetings. This will include:

- taking the minutes of the PCC meetings and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (7 meetings per year).
- helping to circulate documents to the PCC before and after the meeting
- organising room bookings and any equipment needed for the meeting
- liaising with Louise in the Church Office e.g. to make sure agreed minutes are published

Louise will continue to provide the administrative support required for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, administration of the Electoral Roll and reports for the Diocese.

You do not need to be a member of the PCC to take on this role.

Please speak to Duncan, Ruth or Louise to find out more. You are also welcome to attend the next PCC meeting on Tuesday 8th October, with no pressure to take on the role.

Do you have a good knowledge of spreadsheets and / or databases and some time to help? We are looking for someone to help digitise our churchyard

records. If you think you can help please speak to Duncan or contact Louise in the Church Office. Thank you!



BLYTHSWOOD 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.

St Andrews Christian Bookshop Witney is 30 years old!

To celebrate we are holding a Service of Thanksgiving on Saturday 26th October at 10.30am at Witney Congregational Church. We also have books and bibles at 30% off for the month of October in store.

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](#)