

NEWSWIRE: 22nd November 2024



- Services on Sunday
 - Christmas cards to distribute in Eynsham
 - Christmas Tree Festival
 - Pop up Tuesday Fellowship meeting
-

A message from Duncan

Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

This is the last Book of Common Prayer Collect of the Church year. It is the traditional cue to begin preparing your fruit-filled Christmas pudding. Or is it your Christmas cake?

Observing the Church year has many advantages. One of which is, from time to time, to draw our thoughts, away from the complexity of contemporary life back to Christ and his eternal plan of salvation that will far outlast the latest headlines. This is not to say we are to bury our heads in the sand or address current issues, but that amidst it all we need to be called back to faithful discipleship in our everyday lives. There's plenty to be concerned about in our nation and world, but much of it, in reality, is out of our control. What *is* in our control are the multiple decisions we make each day that will *'plenteously bring forth the fruit of good works.'*

That fruit is beautifully expressed in Galatians 5 and will be well known to many of you, "*Love, joy, peace, patience...*" etc. (v22-23). That fruit is not something that we produce of ourselves. It is the Spirit who ripens it in our lives (v22), but we do co-operate. As we *'serve one another in love'* and *'love our neighbour as ourselves'* (v13-14) - i.e. the *'good works'* of our collect - the Spirit is given room to produce his fruit in our lives. And upon the appearance of this fruit, which the Spirit produces, it is *we* who are *'plenteously rewarded'*. Such is the beautiful grace of our Saviour!

And the stirring up for which we pray is often provided by the encouragement of church fellowship. As the writer of Hebrews puts it: "*Let us consider how we may stir*

one another on towards love and good deeds.” (10.24). So consider yourself stirred up, and I will expect a degree of the same from you all!

Grace and peace be with you all,

Duncan

Collect for the Sunday before Advent

Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;
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: Isaiah 55:1-5; Luke 14:15-24

10.30am - All-in service at St Leonard's and live streamed on [this link](#)

Reading: Luke 14:12-24



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: Isaiah 55:1-5; Luke 14:15-24

NEXT WEEK

Monday 25th November

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 26th November

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**

Pop up Tuesday Fellowship Meeting in **St Leonard's Church Hall** at **2.30pm** on **Tuesday 26th November** (see below)

Wednesday 27th November

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

Friday 28th November

Christmas Tree Festival at St Leonard's - Friday 29th November to Sunday 1st December (see below)

NEXT SUNDAY - 1st December

9.30am - Holy Communion at St Peter's

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

4pm - Christingle service at St Leonard's

Looking further ahead

The funeral of the late Margaret Collier will be held at **St Peter's church** in Cassington at 11.30am on **Monday 2nd December**.

Carols in the Square - Sunday 8th December at 4.30pm

Christmas around the World - Saturday 14th December 5pm - 7pm in **St Leonard's Church Hall** (see below)

THIS EVENING!

"No smoke without fire" - Big Apple Baroque invites you to a **chamber concert** of sparkling and entrancing music by **J.S. Bach**, with convivial canapes and warming winter beverages to match.

Friday 22 November 2024 at 7.30 pm

St Leonard's Parish Church, Eynsham

Donations in aid of Tear Fund

There's another **POP UP TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP** on **26 NOVEMBER** - just to get you in the mood for Christmas! Martin Flatman is our speaker with Advent (of course!) the theme. Why not come and join us, meet up with your friends and enjoy a time of chat, tea/coffee, mince pies and cake afterwards. **Visitors** are always very welcome. **2.30 to 3.30** at the **Church Hall**. Looking forward to seeing you. Angela Parks.



EYNSHAM CHRISTMAS CARDS

Our Christmas events start next weekend with the Tree Festival (29th November - 1st December) and the Christingle Service. It's time to start publicising our events and services, and we have produced Christmas cards once more. You will find a large box of cards in the porch at St Leonard's, which have been bundled into streets. Please pick up a bundle to deliver to your neighbours, or when you are out walking the dog, on your way to school or work etc.



Eynsham Christmas Tree Festival 29th November - 1st December

After the All In Service this Sunday we will be moving things around a little to set up for the Christmas Tree Festival. If you are able, please can you offer 10 minutes after your coffee to help Carmen and Laura move some staging and chairs around? It will be worth it when you come to church next week to worship surrounded by twinkling lights and festive trees. Many thanks.

The festival begins at 5pm on Friday evening and will close at 8pm on Sunday evening. As before a "Pop up" cafe will be provided, alongside a Christmas activity for children, from 10am to 12am on the Saturday.

This year's festival theme is "O Holy Night". There will be a vote taken for the people's favourite tree, which will be announced at our service on Sunday. The event is free with the option to donate towards the Eynsham Larder, which provides food for village members struggling in our current times.

Christmas Tree Festival - Volunteers Needed!

We are still in need of some help please!

The Christmas Tree Festival will be open:

Friday 29th November: 5-8pm

Saturday 30th November: 10am-12pm

Sunday 1st Dec: 5-8pm

On Friday and Saturday we would love it if anyone is able to volunteer to run the votes table! [Simply making sure everyone only votes once!] And on Sunday, we are looking for volunteers to be around to chat & lock up after the event at 8pm!

If you think that you might be able to volunteer an hour, or two, or more(!) please don't hesitate to get in touch with Laura, in person, on email or on the phone!

Thanks in advance!

Laura youth.stleonards@gmail.com /
07539747237



Eynsham Choral Society concert, Saturday 7th December at 7.30pm in St Leonard's Church. It will be a Christmas concert with music by Respighi, Vaughan Williams, Berlioz, and carols including audience participation. Tickets at £15 available from DIY.



St Leonard's & St Peter's
BENEFICE OF EYNHAM & CASSINGTON



Sunday 1st December at 4pm

An informal service for the whole family.

For more information please contact our Children and Families Worker.
email: slpfamilies@gmail.com




**CAROLS IN
THE SQUARE**

Sunday, December 8

4:00 p.m.

brought to you by the churches of Eynsham



Christmas around the World

Saturday 14th December, 5-7pm
St. Leonard's Church Hall (Thames Street)



Come and experience Christmas from all over the world!
An event for the whole family to celebrate Eynsham's cultural diversity through food, craft, music and community.
If you are able, bring a dish from your home country and wear typical clothing.

For more information please contact Rabea:
slpfamilies@gmail.com

"Christmas around the World" - helpers needed

This event on 14th December is an opportunity to celebrate Eynsham's cultural diversity and to share something about the true meaning of Christmas. We still need some more help:

- Invite people in our village from different nationalities to come and join
- help set up or clear away on the day
- pray!

If you are able to help or would like more information, please contact Rabea (email: slpfamilies@gmail.com)

Having finished her teaching, **Jo** has now returned to her responsibilities providing member care and personnel services with Wycliffe (as well as her part-time role with the local Fire Service.)



Meanwhile, over in Bangui, CAR, **Paul** is very grateful for our prayers. His team have now completed 2 weeks of his workshop. He writes: It's been a busy time, but we've made good progress. Now we're getting ready to wrap things up and produce some materials for the teams to take back to their communities." They have been wrestling with issues of grammar as well as recording, transcribing and analysing stories. Paul goes on to say: "Overall, we have been delighted to see that the participants can already read and write fluently in their own languages, which is really encouraging; it means that the writing systems have good foundations! Now it's the small details we will be concentrating on."

Please pray particularly for health and safe travel home for all of the facilitators. Paul leaves on Sunday morning, arriving home Monday morning. He asks us to pray that there will have been enough time this week to help apply the lessons learned to some translation, and maybe even print and record the Christmas story in each language. THANK YOU!

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.