

NEWSWIRE: 17th January 2025



- Services on Sunday
 - Pastoral Visiting
 - Heather Moger placement
 - Men's Curry Night
-

A message from Duncan

Epiphany is the season of light.

And don't we need it. I have felt the seasonal lethargy and reluctance to go out into the dark evenings this week. Indeed, one evening I emerged from a meeting in Cassington into a dark night and a thick fog to boot. No wonder hibernation tendencies and January blues begin to kick in! It is a time of year when we realise how closely our physical environment affects our spiritual and emotional life.

Epiphanytide stands out in defiance and hope, and puts the steel in us for the same. We light a candle in the darkness. Isaiah 60 is used throughout the season, often as a canticle or a response: "*See, darkness covers the earth, and thick darkness is over the peoples*" That about sums it up, I can relate to that. But then the gospel: "*but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you.*" and the even more arresting: "*Arise, shine, for your light has come*". Oddly the two seem to be present simultaneously in these verses: darkness and light. I guess most of us can relate to that as well. Being a Christian does not mean all is sweetness and delight. In fact we are to expect the opposite, or at least the likelihood of the opposite, if we are listening to Jesus carefully. But the call is also to hold onto the light. And we must call it out to each other in the church: *Arise, shine, for your light has come!* Not in the sense of 'look on the bright side for a change, cheer up', but in a deeper, more existential sense: the proclamation of a profound, cosmos altering truth that became real in a Bethlehem manger.

And that is what church is, or should be: a place where we call to each other this truth: *your light has come, so arise and shine and give God the glory!*

So perhaps, every so often in Epiphanytide, take the time to light a candle and say the simple but well-loved prayer:

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord
And by thy great mercy
Defend us from all perils and dangers of this night;
For the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Collect for the second Sunday of Epiphany

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
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 with baptism at St Peter's

Reading: John 2:1-11



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

Reading: John 2:1-11

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

NEXT WEEK

Monday 20th January

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 21st January

The funeral of the late **Jasmine James** will be held at **St Leonard's** at **11am** on Tuesday **21st January**.

Mum's Bible Study meets on **Tuesday** mornings (term time) from **10 - 11.30am**. Please contact Jo Shaw for more details. Email: jollypops@gmail.com

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

St Peter's PCC Meeting

Wednesday 22nd January

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

NEXT SUNDAY - 26th January

9am - Holy Communion at St Leonard's

10.30am - All-in at St Leonard's and livestreamed

5pm - Evening Prayer at St Peter's

Looking further ahead

Men's Curry Night - Wednesday 29th January (see below)

Lent Course - We will be following the 24-7 Prayer course II "Unanswered Prayer" during Lent this year. You can find out more information about the course on [this link](#).

Pastoral Visiting Team

For some time there has been a desire for a team of Pastoral Visitors to both maximise the pastoral support we can offer one another in the Benefice and ensure those who are caring for others are well supported and equipped themselves. We are making good progress towards this and would like to invite anyone who is interested in being a part of this ministry to come along to an initial meeting to explore this further on **Monday 10th February at 7.30pm**. Training is planned in March but this first meeting is simply an opportunity to find out more. *If you are interested please speak to Duncan or Neil Grady, or email the [Church office](#).*

Heather Moger - Parish placement in Eynsham and Cassington

Heather is the Chaplaincy Lead for the six primary schools within the Eynsham Partnership Academy. She is currently exploring a calling to ordained ministry. As part of the discernment process, Heather is undertaking a placement in Eynsham and Cassington for a six week period starting at the end of January. The placement will involve attending a range of Sunday services at both St Leonard's and St Peter's, learning from Duncan, through observation and reflection, and taking part in services, e.g. reading lessons, leading intercessions and preaching.

Help needed please for the Sunday coffee team at St Leonard's! We are still looking for new team members to serve refreshments after the Sunday morning service. We particularly need help on the **FIRST SUNDAY** of every month. If you are interested in being part of this vital ministry please do message Angela for further details. Thank you. angela.holton@ntlworld.com

We've arranged for our next **Men's Curry Night** for Wednesday 29th January at 8.00pm. We'll follow the usual format with a set menu, but if you've any queries, please contact Andy Greenwood at AMG1954church@gmail.com

YOUTH AT ST LEONARD'S

THIS WEEK

19.1.25: Sunday Morning Youth @ The Vicarage
20.1.25: Cell Group @ Clover Place
22.1.25: Cell Group @ The Bitterall
23.1.25: Cell Group @ The Vicarage

NEXT WEEK

26.1.25: All-In Service: *No Sunday Morning Youth*
27.1.25: Cell Group @ Clover Place
29.1.25: Cell Group @ The Bitterall
30.1.25: Cell Group @ The Vicarage

WEEKLY CELL GROUPS

Cell Groups run weekly on a
Monday (year 10-11)
Wednesday (year 7,8-9)
Thursday (year 12-13)

Cell Groups run during term-time from 7-8.30pm

Further dates are available on the St Leonard's Website.

SUNDAY MORNING YOUTH

Sunday Morning Youth runs on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month during our 10.30am service.

For more information please contact Laura: youth.stleonards@gmail.com

Please pray for:

- Jon who has been in hospital and is now recovering with his family
- Dave recovering from a number of strokes.
- 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](#)