

NEWSWIRE: 24th January 2025



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A message from Duncan

Is it not strange that something can bring such joy and hope to some people, and the same thing sadness and despair to others? And both groups think the other is misguided, ill-informed or just plain wrong!

Something of this nature happened on the other side of the Atlantic pond at the beginning of the week as Trump sashayed quietly(!) back into the White House. Whatever you may think of him - saviour or saboteur - he remains the most polarising of figures in our polarised world. We simply can't agree about him just as we struggle to agree on so many other issues as well. And as we continue in ever deeper disagreement we move away from one another into carefully delineated camps to clarify who is in and who is out.

And we are far from exempt from this tendency in the church, In fact we're specialists in disagreement! In the denominational movements of the last 500 years we've institutionalised it! Most of us are likely grieved by this tendency at the same time as being completely lost concerning the remedy.

To keep us from despair we remember that God is our hope for he will *"bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ."* (Ephesians 1.10) The trend into which we are locked will be reversed. We will come together again. But Jesus is not only the solution but our example. Throughout Epiphany we continue to meditate upon the incarnation - God drawing near to us in Christ, demonstrating his love for us, even when we were his enemies (Romans 5.10). So, following him, we are to reverse the polarising tendency of our day and move toward others with whom we disagree. Jesus was continually drawing near to those society said he must avoid: the leper, the samaritan woman, the gentile, the prostitute. And as he did he was curious. Curiosity is the position for our day.

Jesus was great at asking genuine questions so that he could engage with the person behind the position. He made space for conversation. And listened. And loved.

I wonder whether I can learn a little from him this year.

Grace and peace to you all,

Duncan

Collect for the third Sunday of Epiphany

Almighty God,
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your mighty power;
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: Nehemiah 8.1-10; Luke 4:14-21

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

Reading: Mark 10:46-52

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: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Luke 4:14-30



NEXT WEEK

Monday 27th 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 28th 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**.

Wednesday 29th January

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

Men's Curry Night - at **8pm on 29th January**. Please contact Andy Greenwood at AMG1954church@gmail.com for more information.

NEXT SUNDAY - 2nd February

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 burial of the late Peter Hanks will take place in **St Leonard's churchyard** at **11am on Thursday 6th February**.

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](#).

Annual Parochial Church Meetings

Cassington - Sunday 23rd March

Eynsham - Sunday 6th April

Newsire delivery: help is urgently needed once a month to deliver printed copies of the newswire to 6 people in Eynsham who don't have internet access.

This may be needed just temporarily or possibly in the longer term. For more information please contact Jenny Griffiths, jennifer@grahamg77.plus.com, 01865 82623



Blankets at St Leonard's - You will find a basket of blankets at the back of St Leonard's church. Please feel free to use one if you are feeling chilly during our winter services.

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

Electoral Rolls - Every parish holds an electoral roll, which is the Anglican way of recording church membership. This year we are required to produce new electoral rolls for both Cassington and Eynsham parishes. In the next few weeks we will be contacting everyone on the existing rolls and providing forms that you **must** complete if you wish to stay on the electoral roll. If you have not previously been on the electoral roll, we will also be providing on-line and paper forms for you to join if you wish.

YOUTH AT ST LEONARD'S

THIS 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

NEXT WEEK

2.2.25: Sunday Morning Youth
@ The Vicarage

3.2.25: Cell Group @ Clover Place

5.2.25: Cell Group @ The Bitterall

6.2.25: 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



THE GATEHOUSE

Gatehouse was set up 40 years ago by the churches in and around Oxford, initially to provide a drop-in café for people who were sleeping on the streets, plus clothing and bedding for them. Nowadays it also supports individuals and families who are vulnerably housed, or in food poverty. It also provides an advice service.

Once every six weeks it is Eynsham's turn to make donations. Members of all three churches bake cakes, make sandwiches, or give shop bought food. Anything that can be used in the café is welcome. We also welcome clothes and shoes (especially men's), bedding and sleeping bags and rucksacks.

Volunteers deliver items to my house, 15 Newland St, between 9 am and 1 pm on 'our' Sunday. The Rotarians then deliver everything to Gatehouse. Jennifer Clarke organises this for St Leonard's and knows the schedule jenniferclarke362@gmail.com

Marie Bridge

marie.bridge1@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](#)