

## NEWSWIRE: 31st January 2025

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- Services on Sunday
  - Art reflections for Easter Week
  - Help with crafts for Families@4
  - Electoral Rolls
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### *A message from Duncan*

Every so often I take the opportunity of a newswire message to extol the benefits of the Collects of the Church of England. For those who don't know, a collect is a short prayer, often reflecting the week or season of the Church year, that 'collects' together all the prayers of God's people. There is a Collect set each Sunday for the week ahead. This prayer is then repeated in the Daily office (short times of bible reading and prayer) unless a Principal Feast, Holy Day, Festival or Lesser Festival falls on one of the days of that week, in which case there is a specific collect which will be used on that day, as well as for Evening Prayer the day before. (I know, I'm lost now as well!)

If you, like me, go through seasons when it is a real struggle to force yourself to sit down (or stand up / kneel down) to pray each day I would heartily suggest simply praying the Collect for the week with the Lord's prayer. We always print the Collect on the Sunday morning "Join us" email or you can find them [here](#). I grew up in a church tradition where there were no written down prayers used in worship, but since my childhood I have found set prayers immensely helpful, precisely because prayer is not easy - sometimes we just need to get on and do it. Someone encouraged me when preparing for ordination by saying, "Duncan, when you find you can't pray, that is the time to say your prayers." I wholeheartedly agree.

And so I end with the Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Epiphany which beautifully sums up the theme which has accompanied our meditations of the last few weeks. I also include it because we will not officially use it this year - the fourth week also being the Feast day of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple (lost

again?) and I didn't want you to miss out! Pray it with me now and add a faith filled, "Amen - let it be so."

God our creator,  
who in the beginning  
commanded the light to shine out of darkness:  
we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ  
may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief,  
shine into the hearts of all your people,  
and reveal the knowledge of your glory  
in the face of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.  
Amen.

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### **Collect for the Presentation of Christ in the Temple**

Almighty and ever-living God,  
clothed in majesty,  
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple,  
in substance of our flesh:  
grant that we may be presented to you  
with pure and clean hearts,  
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

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### **SERVICES ON SUNDAY**

**9.30am - Holy Communion at St Peter's**

*Readings: Malachi 3.1-4; Luke 2.22-40*

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

*Readings: Malachi 3.1-4; Luke 2.22-38*

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

**7pm - Revive at St Leonard's**



## **NEXT WEEK**

### **Monday 3rd February**

**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 4th February**

**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](mailto:jollypops@gmail.com)

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

### **Wednesday 5th February**

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

### **Thursday 6th February**

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

### **Friday 7th February**

**The funeral of the late Laura Partlett** will be held at **St Leonard's** church at **2pm** on **Friday 7th February**.

## **NEXT SUNDAY - 9th February**

9am - Holy Communion at St Leonard's

9.30am - Morning Worship at St Peter's

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

4pm - Families@4 at St Leonard's

## **Looking further ahead**

**The funeral of the late Ann Godfrey** will be held at **St Leonard's** church at **1.30pm** on **Monday 10th 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](#).

**Youth Weekend Away: 14th - 16th March**

## Annual Parochial Church Meetings

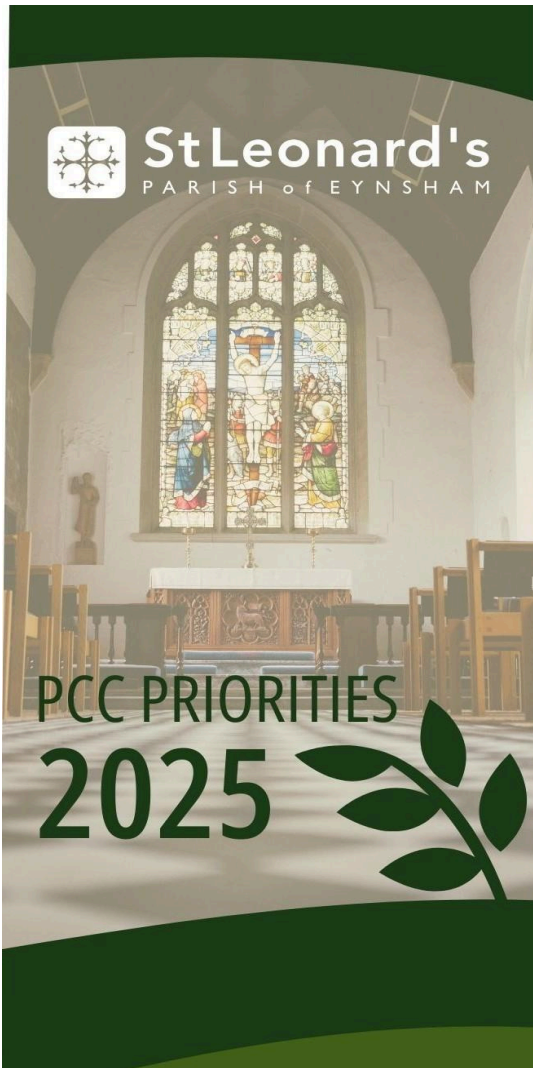
Cassington - Sunday 23rd March

Eynsham - Sunday 6th April

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**Dave Russell** has recently moved to Oxenford House care home on Glebe Road in Cumnor. He would welcome visitors. Please speak to Alex for more information.

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### St Leonard's PCC priorities 2025

Following the St Leonard's PCC Away morning in October, PCC priorities for 2025 have been established. You can find out about them [on this link](#), or pick up a paper copy of the leaflet in church.



**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.



# CAN YOU HELP?

DO YOU HAVE A JOY FOR ARTS AND CRAFTS?



*Families@4 runs on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 4pm, and we are looking for someone to come and help our team with some craft preparation! If you feel as though you might be able to help us, if that's all, or some, or even if it's just a one-off, please get in touch with Laura in the Church Office!*

**Feb 9th**

**March 9th**

**Maundy Thursday - April 17th**

**May 11th**

**June 8th**





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



# JOURNEY INTO LIFE

reflections through art for easter week

I know Easter is a while off but this notice needs a bit of forethought and time. Last year we used a Church of England 'Stations of the Cross' resource as a tool to meditate on the person and work of Christ, accessible for anyone who visited the church during the Easter period. I know there are a number of keen artists, of different disciplines, in our churches and villages and so I wondered whether we could produce the art ourselves, making the reflective journey much more local and meaningful. Anyone who loves making art from our churches or artist friends in our communities could get involved in producing a piece. I have prepared the [concept document which you can download here](#) and then share with others you might think will be interested. It includes the stations we can include. Eventually you might [sign up for one of the stations here](#), but do get in touch with me if you are at all interested in the idea and getting involved. *You may even be up for helping with the coordination of the project? Pretty please!* If there is the appetite for this I think it could be an exciting and special project enabling us to share the amazing Jesus with others. *Duncan*

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## 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](#).*

**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**

- 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

**NEXT WEEK**

- 9.2.25: Contemporary Morning Worship  
*No Sunday Morning Youth*
- 10.2.25: Cell Group @ Clover Place
- 12.2.25: Cell Group @ The Bitterall
- 13.2.25: 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](mailto: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](mailto:jenniferclarke362@gmail.com)

Marie Bridge

[marie.bridge1@gmail.com](mailto:marie.bridge1@gmail.com)

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**Please pray for:**

- Jon who is recovering with his family
- Dave following his recent move to a care home.
- 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](mailto:stleonards_stpeters@btconnect.com)) Names will be added to the list by express permission, and only first names will be published.

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[www.stleonardseynsham.org.uk](http://www.stleonardseynsham.org.uk) | [www.stpeterschurchcassington.org](http://www.stpeterschurchcassington.org) | [Youtube channel](#) | [facebook page](#)

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*Church Office - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9am – 1pm*

*Tel: 01865 883325 E-mail: [stleonards\\_stpeters@btconnect.com](mailto:stleonards_stpeters@btconnect.com)*

*Revd Duncan Fraser: 07810 324088 (Day off – Friday)*