

NEWSWIRE: 16th February 2025



- Services on Sunday
 - Craft supplies needed for All-in
 - Electoral Rolls - sign up links below
 - Church Hall Cleaner vacancy
-

A message from Duncan

Margaret wrote last week with buoyant enthusiasm for February and the promise of new life in the crocuses and snowdrops. Were you convinced?

Well the weather wasn't! The Candlemas meteorological principle kicked in: *"If Candlemas Day be fair and bright, winter will have another fight. If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain, winter won't come again"*. It was indeed fair and bright, beautifully so, and the damp and cold has since persisted!

Yet we noted that the changing seasons help us to understand the spiritual seasons we pass through in life. And it's particularly important to register that we sometimes experience winter. In my church tradition the spiritual season of winter was never in fashion. We were given the impression that doubts and questions and struggles were inappropriate - triumph and effervescent joy was surely the lot of the redeemed!

The truth is, most of us will experience a spiritual winter, or what has been called a 'dark night of the soul'. For some it's merely a blip in an otherwise steady pilgrimage, for others it is much more serious. For Teresa of Avila (18thC) it famously lasted for eighteen years! She possessed an earnestness to experience the warmth of the love of God...but... nothing; winter it remained. She says, *"it seems that I have no desire to ask His help because of the great coldness which I experience."* Yet she kept going - kept turning up for communion and in prayer. Faith in the winter, though small as a seed, is in fact the greatest kind of faith.

So it's important to be honest when we are in the wintertime. Sometimes church is the worst place for this kind of honesty, but that needs to change. We need to

learn to have winter walks and talks with each other, and give one another guilt-free freedom to express our doubts, our pain, our questions and disagreements; to wrestle with God. And then one thing, of which I am sure, in this age or in the Age to Come, we will hear the Lord say to us his church: *“Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, come with me. See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come”* (Song of Songs 2.11-12). And on this day, of all days, that is a good thing to hold on to.

Grace, peace and love to you all,

Duncan

Collect for the third Sunday before Lent

Almighty God,
who alone can bring order
to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity:
give your people grace
so to love what you command
and to desire what you promise,
that, among the many changes of this world,
our hearts may surely there be fixed
where true joys are to be found;
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 at St Peter's

Readings: Zechariah 7 and 8; Revelation 7:9-12 and 21:1-4



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

Readings: Luke 6: 17-49

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

NEXT WEEK

Monday 17th February

Bump to One meet on Mondays from 10.30am to midday in St Leonard's

Wednesday 19th February

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

NEXT SUNDAY - 23rd February

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

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

Can you help with craft supplies for our next All In service?

To get creative in one of our Digging Deeper Stations we are looking for the following items: Large yogurt pots, Jam jars and tin cans(that don't have a sharp edge on the top). If you are able to help in this matter then please either drop them to the vicarage or leave them behind the font at the back of church. Many thanks The All In Team

Electoral Rolls - Many thanks to everyone who has already completed a new Electoral roll form. If you wish to be included on the Electoral Roll you **must** complete a form, even if you have been on the roll in previous years. You can do this easily online, by clicking the link below. You will also find paper application forms in both churches.

[Cassington Electoral Roll Form](#)

[Eynsham Electoral Roll Form](#)

Church Hall Cleaner

2 hours per week

We are looking to appoint a cleaner for 2 hours per week to clean the Church Hall on Thames Street in Eynsham. The role will involve cleaning the hall, kitchen and toilets, and emptying the bins. The successful candidate will be reliable and able to work to a high standard without close supervision. Previous experience of commercial cleaning would be beneficial. There needs to be flexibility as to when the work is completed, depending on hall bookings, and either Monday or Friday within the hours of 1pm to 4pm is suggested but other times are available.

Pay - £12.60 per hour

To apply, please complete and return an [application form](#) to Louise Parker, Church Administrator stleonards_stpeters@btconnect.com

Closing date: 21st February 2025

The post is subject to Church of England Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance; and to acceptable pre-employment checks including the satisfactory outcome of a basic DBS criminal records check; and to evidence of entitlement to work in the UK.



 **access**
**Riding for Resilience:
Supporting Young Lives vs Cancer
from London to Amsterdam**





Dear St. Leonard's Church Family,

I'm reaching out to ask for your support in raising funds for the Access - London to Amsterdam 2025 event in June, which benefits Young Lives vs Cancer. This cause is close to my heart, and with your generosity and prayers, we can make a real difference in the lives of young people facing cancer.

Every donation, no matter how small, can provide vital support to those in need. If you feel called to contribute, it would mean so much to me and to the young lives we are helping. Together, as a church family, we can bring hope and make a positive impact.

You can donate on this [link](#) to the charity fundraising page, or use the QR code in the photo above. I can also accept cash donations, which I will add the charity page on your behalf.

Thank you for your kindness, support, and prayers. God bless you!

Kind regards, Ginta

Jane Hiles - a member of our Church family is now living in Freeland Care home. She is feeling lonely and would really love a visit. She would also like to come to Church occasionally - is there anyone who could offer to bring her? For more details speak to June Middleton or Janel Haskett.

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.

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.

The Muslim fast month of Ramadan starts on Saturday March 1st and ends on March 30th. For over thirty years, the **30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World** prayer guide has been helping Christians to learn about, love and pray for Muslims around the world. The compilers hope that this guide will inspire us to discover and pray for the unique challenges faced by Muslims in cultures near and far. Rosemary Foster is ordering copies of this booklet for £1.50 each. Please contact her at derekrosemary@gmail.com if you would like a copy.

YOUTH AT ST LEONARD'S

THIS WEEK

16.2.25: Sunday Morning Youth @ The Vicarage

W/B: 17.2.25: No Cell Groups - Half Term

COMING UP

23.2.25: ALL IN Service - No Sunday Morning Youth

W/B: 24.2.25: No Cell Groups

28.2.25: All Cell Groups: Pancake Social in Church: 7pm
Collection from Church Hall: 8.30pm

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

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.



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*

Please pray for:

- 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) Names will be added to the list by express permission, and only first names will be published.

Open Morning at The King's School, Witney

Join us for our whole school Open Morning on Tuesday 4th March from 10:30 am until midday. Discover The King's School, a small and friendly Christian school, for ages 3-16, on the outskirts of Witney.

- Date: Tuesday 4th March
- Time: 10:30 am - 12:00 pm
- Location: The King's School, New Yatt Road, Witney, OX29 6TA
- Website: www.tkswitney.org.uk
- Please join us by [registering here](#)

At The King's School, we believe this is an amazing space to be all God made you to be. Children are truly known, loved, and nurtured. A place where academic success and spiritual growth go hand in hand.

We warmly invite prospective families to explore our welcoming school community. To find out more about the Open Morning, please email Olivia, our Registrar, registrar@tkswitney.org.uk.

www.stleonardseysham.org.uk | www.stpeterschurchcassington.org | [Youtube channel](#) | [facebook page](#)

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

Tel: 01865 883325 E-mail: stleonards_stpeters@btconnect.com

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