

NEWSWIRE: 21st March 2025



- Services on Sunday
 - Serving on the PCC
 - Mothering Sunday - 30th March
 - Be Space at St Peter's: 2nd - 4th April
-

A message from Duncan

As we continue our journey through Lent I am highlighting some useful disciplines that have helped Christians over the years to draw nearer to God. They are disciplines we observe in the life of Christ, particularly in his forty days in the wilderness. Last week we thought about fasting and this week we turn to the disciplines of solitude and silence.

Silence and solitude. Both are temporary, they are not our destiny. God made us for friendship, for life together, and silence is not always a good thing - our mouths are made for praise. But they are both part of the journey of our formation. Jesus *"often withdrew to lonely places and prayed."* (Luke 5.16) And if we examine the context of Luke's observation, he did so specifically when faced with a huge to-do list - a crowd anxious for his ministry. It was a priority for Jesus. There must be some things that can only happen when we are alone with God; things that can only be accomplished in us when we take ourselves away from the pressures of life and the noise of the world.

But even when we are alone the noise in our mind often persists. In fact it often increases when all we can hear is our own thoughts. So before our prayer begins, before our wrestling with scripture, we are silent. The writer of Ecclesiastes pronounces, *"God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few (Eccl 5.2),* there is *"a time to be silent and a time to speak" (Eccl 3.7),* and when faced with the majesty and greatness of God Job simply says: *"I put my hand over my mouth."* (Job 40.4)

Christian silence is not an empty silence, rather an intentioned dwelling in the present moment with God, free from the examination of our past and the preoccupation with future plans and anxieties. Simply a moment of being with the eternal I am. Communion beside still waters.

You would think it was easy but I find it profoundly difficult. My overactive mind reels all over the place. Some people find repeating one word helps discipline the mind. The word “*Jesus*” helps me focus on who I am with. Setting a timer also helps. After 20 minutes has passed my mind worries about the to-do list. Eventually I give up and look at the clock, only to discover it’s only been a minute and a half! A timer takes all that away. (By the way 2 minutes is much more realistic than 20!)

Jesus says to us, “Abide in my love.” (John 15.9). Stopping and being still in mind, body and spirit, is one way, amongst others, to express our longing to simply abide in the love of Jesus, to dwell in his house forever.

Quietness and peace to you all,

Duncan

Collect for the third Sunday of Lent

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
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: Leviticus 23:4-8; Luke 22:7-35

9.30am - Morning Worship at St Peter’s

Readings: Luke 22:7-20

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

Readings: Luke 22:7-20

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



NEXT WEEK

Monday 24th March

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 25th March

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 26th March

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

NEXT SUNDAY - 30th March

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

3.30pm - Mothering Sunday Service followed by afternoon tea

Looking further ahead

St Leonard's Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on **Sunday 6th April** following the morning service (which will be held at **10am**)

The funeral of the late Gillian Jones will be held at **St Leonard's** at **midday** on **Tuesday 8th April**.

The funeral of the late Gordon Goodman will be held at **St Leonard's** at **2.30pm** on **Tuesday 22nd April**.

Alastair and Esther would like to thank the church family for all their good wishes, prayers and kindness this week. Alastair had a pacemaker fitted on Monday (local anaesthetic) and is now back home and recovering well. We look forward to leading worship again on Easter morning!

Serving on the PCC

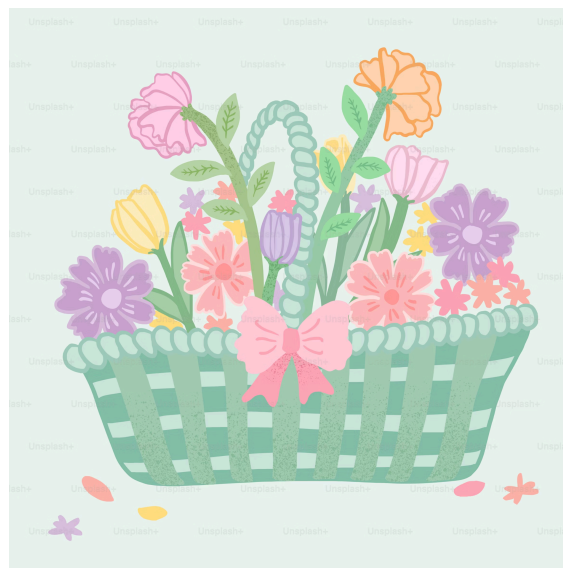
There are a number of vacancies for new members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) in both Cassington and Eynsham. Speak to Duncan or any member of the PCC if you are interested in serving. You will find more information on [this link](#) and a nomination form [here](#).



**St Peter's primary school prayer and reflection space in
St.Peter's Church: Wednesday 2nd April - Friday 4th
April**

We will be hosting BeSpace at St Peter's Church between Wednesday 2nd April and Friday 4th April. BeSpace equips churches to serve the spiritual life of school communities through creative, interactive prayer and reflection spaces. The children will have the opportunity to reflect on the Christian faith and time and space to explore their spiritual life. A small group will attend a session over these two days, and we also hope to open the space for parents and others from the community out of school hours. **We will need some volunteers from either/both churches to help run some of the spaces. Perhaps you could give a morning or an afternoon on Wednesday or Thursday to help?** Everything is provided including a brief on how to run the station. The final timetable is being agreed but if you are interested in helping please speak with Duncan (vicarslp@gmail.com 07810 324088)

Walkie Talkies team are seeking help once or twice a term during Rabea's leave. Could you help on a Monday mid morning (excluding Bank Holidays) for a couple of hours? Please get in touch to find out more, Elly 07375418925



MOTHERING SUNDAY - 30TH MARCH

Mothers' Day lunch Sunday 30th March. Are you on your own for Mothers' Day? Would you like to come and join me for a simple soup lunch? I'll make

several pots of soup and ask you to bring bread or cheese. If you'd like to join me please let me know. Thanks Jennifer (jenniferclarke@gmail.com)

Posies for Mothering Sunday - Help needed to make posies for Mothering Sunday. We will be meeting in St Leonard's at 10.30am on Saturday 29th March to make posies to hand out at the service the following day. Please come along if you are able to help. Dads and children are particularly welcome! For further information speak to Margaret Thornton.



St Peter's Church

MOTHERING SUNDAY

30th March 3.30pm

Celebration & Afternoon tea

Everyone welcome

Bring your family and friends



**Hanborough & Freeland
Church**



Do you enjoy Escape Rooms? We have one coming to Long Hanborough this Spring for Free.

Each session up to 8 players will enter the Escape Room and are challenged to

decipher the clues and escape within the hour. Unlock the secret of Easter and win a prize.

The Easter Escape Room is a team challenge suitable for friends and families. Primary age children need to be accompanied by an adult. Not suitable for young children.

Click on the link for more details. [Easter Escape Room | HF Church](#)



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

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.

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

Church Office - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9am – 2pm

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

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