

## NEWSWIRE: 22nd March 2024

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- Services on Sunday
- Holy Week and Easter
- Living in Love and Faith
- Families@4 Easter Special

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*How good is life for the pure in heart, because they will see God. How good is life for the peacemakers, because they will be called children of God. How good is life for those who have been persecuted on account of doing what is right, because theirs is the kingdom of the skies.*

Matthew 3.8-10 (BibleProject translation)

One thing to remember about scripture is that it is the story of Jesus. He tells us as much in Luke 24.27. It is quite natural to read to find help or inspiration for our day. I do it all the time, and God often speaks to us as we do. But it's worth remembering once in a while it's really about Jesus. So as we head into Holy Week why not reflect on the Beatitudes in that light. He is the one of which the beatitudes most eloquently speaks. He was born into a poor family and never rose through the ranks of learned hierarchy or respected society. He mourned with those who mourn and spent his life in hungering for the putting right of this world, and demonstrated more than any what it is to respond to others with mercy; with over-abundant love. And he was fully devoted to the mission he had been given by God. That's the pure in heart bit. We're not meant to think of a 'holier than thou' kind of purity. Rather, we are to think of refined gold: the true stuff, through and through; the internal is consistent with the external; the words go right through the stick of rock; it does what it says on the tin. This will be the foundation for the rest of the sermon. My mind goes to that wonderful verse in John 13.1: *'Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.'* He loved us with pure consistency through and through, longing for us to be included in God's great 'shalom'. But peacemakers in this world are not as popular as we might think. They encourage us to shake hands with our enemies,

and take from us the precious vendettas and boundary markers that, in some instances, define our very existence. And so persecution ensues. And for Jesus, that was to the very death, even death on a cross. Yet, this Holy Week, we remember he swallowed the pain of peacemaking that we might be free. We join with him in his journey that he might share our pain, and our suffering and disappointment. So that as he carried the cross he might carry us toward a life that could truly be described as 'good': the Good Life. And so one response to the Beatitudes is to say to Jesus, "Thank You".

Grace, mercy and peace be with you all

Duncan

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### Collect for Palm Sunday

Almighty and everlasting God,  
who in your tender love towards the human race  
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ  
to take upon him our flesh  
and to suffer death upon the cross:  
grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility,  
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;  
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.

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### SERVICES ON SUNDAY



**10.30am - Benefice Holy Communion  
at St Leonard's and livestreamed on  
[this link](#)**

*Readings: Luke 19.28-40*



We are aware of recent problems with the livestream link. If you have difficulties accessing the service on the link above, please try accessing [our youtube channel](#) directly.

### **Saturday 23rd March**

**A memorial service** for the late **Marjory Berry** will be held at **St Leonard's church** at midday on **23rd March**.

**Afternoon tea for carers** at **3.30pm** on **Saturday 23rd March** in **St Leonard's Church Hall** (see below).



### **HOLY WEEK**

#### **Monday 25th March**

**Holy Week Prayer** at **7.30am** at **St Leonard's**

**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 26th March**

**Holy Week Prayer** at **8.30am** at **St Leonard's**

**Tuesday Fellowship Reunion - 26th March** at **2.30pm** in **St Leonard's Church Hall** Roger Aston is our special guest along with his guitar. An opportunity to get together again for prayer and praise, not forgetting a welcome cup of tea and piece of cake. **Visitors** are always welcome so why not come along.

#### **Wednesday 27th March**

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

**Holy Week Prayer** at **12.30pm** at **St Leonard's**

**St Peter's school Easter Service** at **St Peter's church** at **2pm** on **Wednesday 27th March**

#### **Maundy Thursday 28th March**

**10am - Holy Communion** at **St Peter's**

**4pm - Families@4 Easter Special** meeting at **St Leonard's Church**

**7pm - Tenebrae Service** at **St Leonard's**

#### **Good Friday 29th March**

**10am - Eynsham Three Churches Service** in **The Square**

**2pm - Hour at the Cross** at both **St Peter's** and **St Leonard's**

### **NEXT SUNDAY - EASTER SUNDAY**

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

**10.30am - Easter Celebration Service** at **St Leonard's** and live streamed. The service will be followed by and Easter egg hunt and the **Easter Sunday lunch**.

**Please pray for:**

- Dave recovering from a stroke.
- 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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**HOLY WEEK AT ST LEONARD'S**

St Leonard's church will be open every day during Holy Week.

We will be meeting in church on the following days for a time of prayer and waiting in Holy Week:

- Monday 25th March at 7.30am
  - Tuesday 26th March at 8.30am
  - Wednesday 27th March at 12.30pm
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**LIVING IN LOVE and FAITH**

As a benefice we have been engaging in recent months with the Church of England's "Living in Love and Faith" (LLF) conversations about human identity, marriage and sexuality. Following the congregational meeting in February, this week the PCCs of St Leonard's and St Peter's met together to reflect further. As outlined in his recent letter, Duncan explained his decision that the new liturgical resources, the "Prayers of Love and Faith", will not be used within the benefice. The PCCs expressed a range of views, but with support for Duncan and his leadership. There will be further opportunities for conversation and learning together in the coming months, and we are keen to continue to talk and walk with those for whom this is a particular source of heartache and disappointment. We ask for your prayers as Duncan and the PCCs seek to make wise and compassionate decisions about the ongoing life, welcome and witness of our churches.

[The Wardens of St Peter's and St Leonard's]





**StLeonard's & StPeter's**

BENEFICE OF EYNHAM & CASSINGTON



# **EASTERHOPE**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY 28TH MARCH**

*StPeters*

**10am: BCP Holy Communion**

*StLeonards*

**4pm: Families@4 Easter Special**

**7.00pm: Tenebrae Service**

**GOOD FRIDAY 29TH MARCH**

**10am: Service in Eynsham Square**

*at StPeters & StLeonards*

**2pm: Hour at the Cross**

**EASTER SUNDAY 31ST MARCH**

*StPeters*

**9.30am: Easter Communion**

*StLeonards*

**10.30am: Easter Celebration**



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## EASTER SUNDAY LUNCH - SIGN UP NOW!



Easter Day is a joyful time of celebration and this year we will again be sharing lunch together on the church land\* after our Easter Celebration Service 12.30 - 2pm

Everyone is welcome, so if you have friends or family staying over Easter please bring them too. There will be slow roasted lamb in burgers, salads and home made puddings to follow. (Veggie and gluten free options will also be available)



Many thanks to everyone who has already signed up. If you would like to join us, please sign up on this [this link](#). (If the internet is not your thing just let Margaret Thornton know you are coming).

If you are able to make a salad or a pudding to share that would be great - please email [Margaret Thornton](#) or [Ruth Lockwood](#)

\*or in the church if it rains

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## Remembering Bishop Alan

The diocese will remember Bishop Alan at a memorial service at All Saints Church, High Wycombe on Saturday 13 April at 11.30am. Many of you will know he was a curate at St.Leonard's where he met Lucy, his wife.

All are welcome to attend. So arrangements can be made, please register for a seat, via the [Eventbrite webpage](#). You do not need to bring a ticket on the day. The service will also be livestreamed to a nearby venue in High Wycombe as well as via the diocesan website.

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## SERMON on the MOUNT *with the Bible Project*

Sign up for weekly emails from the Bible Project on the Sermon on the Mount [here](#)

Links to previous weeks below:

[A surprising Announcement](#) | [Being at home in the Kingdom](#) | [The Hard Path of Peacemaking](#) |

[salt and the land](#) | [the light and the city](#) | [Entering the torah story](#) | [The meaning of Torah](#)



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## Electoral Roll review

We will be reviewing and updating the Electoral Rolls for both St Leonard's and St Peter's in preparation for the Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCM) later this year. The Church Electoral Roll is the Anglican way of recording our church membership and also gives those who are registered the right to vote, if necessary, on issues presented at the APCM.

The roll for both churches will be reviewed and also presented at the APCM. The current roll will shortly be on display in the church porches. If you are not on the Electoral Roll and would like to be added, you can pick up a form in church. We

will also shortly provide an electronic link so you can sign up on-line. Please contact the Church Office if you have any queries.

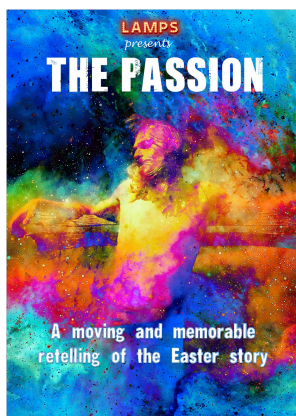
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## Families @4 Easter Special

THURSDAY 28TH MARCH  
ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH  
4 - 6PM

EASTER-THEMED GAMES,  
CRAFTS & SONGS AND A  
MEAL TOGETHER

PLEASE SIGN UP WITH RABEA  
(SLPFAMILIES@GMAIL.COM)



### St Mary Magdalene Church, Woodstock

Monday 25th March at 7pm

Tickets - £12 (£6 for under 18s) can be reserved by contacting Kathryn Bunch (kathryn.bunch@retired.ox.ac.uk or on 07754501581) or they are available from Woodstock Bookshop or on the door.

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**Vacancy - Supporter Care Team Leader at Wycliffe Bible Translators.** Full time, permanent vacancy. Based in East Oxford. £32,500 per annum. Click [here](#) for more information.

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# Life Skills



WHAT WE COVER:  
BUDGETING

MONEY SAVING  
TIPS

COMMUNICATION

HEALTHY  
RELATIONSHIPS

COOKING ON A  
BUDGET AND  
MORE!

**Tuesdays 9:30–11:30**  
**Taster session 16th**  
**April**  
**At Witney Methodist**  
**Church**  
**Free**  
**brunch/refreshments**

FOR MORE INFO OR TO BOOK A PLACE  
PLEASE EMAIL  
KATIEGAMBLE@CAPLIFESKILLS.ORG

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