

NEWSWIRE: 28th March 2025



- Services on Sunday
 - St Leonard's APCM - 6th April
 - Serving on the PCC
 - Be Space at St Peter's: 2nd - 4th April
-

A message from Duncan

The desert is for formation.

Jesus went into the desert to be prepared and shaped for what lay ahead. He entered fully into our humanity because he, also, had to be formed. That's an amazing thought. Being the second person of the eternal Trinity did not give him a free pass on the difficult task of becoming. Otherwise he would not truly be human or be able to sympathise with our weaknesses.

And he did it in a secret place, alone in the wilderness. The secret place - very appropriately as we move towards Mothering Sunday - is the womb of formation. If there is no wilderness to hand then *"go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."* (Matthew 6.60)

We looked at that last week with silence and solitude. Church is critically important in our becoming like Jesus but there are some things that simply happen between us and our Heavenly Father. Stuff to sort out, priorities to realign, delight to be kindled, sorrows to be shared - wept over. And today, in our reflection on Lenten disciplines we look at scripture - in the womb of formation there is Holy Scripture to be infused into our bloodstream.

From some in the wider church today the bible is getting a tough time as a book full of inconsistencies, contradictions and dubious principles more appropriate for the Bronze Age than our own. Interestingly, this is at the same time as some in the secular world are renewing an interest in its profound wisdom, moral vision and definition of humanity, with a growing concern of what will happen when we sever the last few ties we have to it in our society.

It is certainly a complex book but countless multitudes throughout history and today will confess to hearing the voice of God within its pages. And as Jesus faced the existential assault of the Tempter in the desert it was to Scripture that he turned. Whatever else it may be, to him it is utterly trustworthy and the Sword of the Spirit to slay the enemy. And it can be for us as well. So we read it, we chew it over, we try to understand it, we discuss it, we examine it, we study it, we create art with it, we sing it, we put it on the fridge, we memorise it, praying that it might become part of who we are, that it might shape us to be a little bit more like Jesus, that it might be a lamp unto our feet. We open it to listen to the loving voice of our creator, our Father. This Lent, keep opening it.

Grace and peace,

Duncan

Collect for Mothering Sunday

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:
strengthen us in our daily living
that in joy and in sorrow
we may know the power of your presence
to bind together and to heal;
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

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

Readings: Isaiah 49:1-6, 13-16; John 20:24-29



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

3.30pm - Mothering Sunday Service at St Peter's followed by afternoon tea

Readings: Isaiah 49:1-6, 13-16; Luke 2:41-52

NEXT WEEK

Monday 31st 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 1st April

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 2nd April

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

Thursday 3rd April

Cassington cafe from 10am in Cassington Village Hall

NEXT SUNDAY - 6th April

9.30am - Holy Communion at St Peter's

10am - Morning Worship at St Leonard's and livestreamed followed by APCM

7pm - Revive at St Leonard's

Looking further ahead

Eynsham Choral Society concert at St Leonard's on Saturday 5th April at 7.30pm (see below)

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

Palm Sunday 13th April - Benefice Holy Communion at St Leonard's. Join us at 10am for coffee, hot cross buns and a time of fellowship. The service will start at 10.30am.

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

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

YOUTH AT ST LEONARD'S

THIS WEEK

30.3.25 - Morning Worship - Mothering Sunday:
No Sunday Morning Youth

W/B: 31.3.25 - NO CELL GROUPS

04.4.25 - Cell Social: Bowling

COMING UP

Cell Groups will pause for Easter Holidays.

25.4.25 - Cell Social - Details TBC

28.4.25: Cell Group @ Clover Place
30.4.25: Cell Group @ The Bitterall
01.5.25: Cell Group @ The Vicarage

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.

Serving on the PCC

There are a number of vacancies for new members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) at St Leonard's. 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 still have a few spaces for a volunteers to help run a prayer station on Thursday morning.** Everything is provided including a brief on how to run the station. Please speak with Duncan (vicarslp@gmail.com 07810 324088)

CAN YOU HELP?

Sunday Morning Youth runs on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at the Vicarage during the 10.30 service...
but we need help!

To keep our Youth Ministry running, we are looking for two more people to join the Sunday Morning Youth Team!

We are looking for confident leaders who are passionate about sharing the Good News with our young people, who could commit to serving on the rota once a month.

If you feel as though this could be you, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Laura, via email, or over a cup of tea after church!

youth.stleonards@gmail.com



Eynsham Choral Society: the concert on **Saturday 5th April** will be a performance of Stabat Mater by Dvorak with soloists and orchestra. It describes the grief of Mary as she stood at the foot of the cross and the suffering that Jesus endured. It will be at 7.30pm in St Leonard's church and tickets at £15 will be available at the DIY.



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)