



NEWSWIRE: 11th April 2025



- Benefice Service at St Leonard's on Palm Sunday
 - Holy Week and Easter services and events
 - Help needed for Easter Families@4 on Maundy Thursday
 - Looking ahead and the Quiet Revival
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A message from Duncan

In our mini-series on Lenten disciplines that help us to draw nearer to God and his vision of what it is to be truly human, I come to one that makes me more nervous to discuss than any of the others: giving. In our contemporary culture our financial activities are seen as fiercely private and so we are tempted to speak of it in hushed tones as if speaking of something sacred. And that is deeply concerning. Perhaps I overstate it but I am sure you recognise something of this to one degree or another. Many suspect that money is the big issue of our generation, and I think they're probably right.

And it is deeply concerning because it is deeply spiritual. Jesus tells us, "*You cannot serve both God and Money*" (Mathew 6.24). 'Serve' carries both a positive and negative meaning. The positive is 'to yield obedience', the negative is spoken of those who become 'slaves to some base power, to yield to, give one's self up to.' Do we give ourselves up to God or to money? If you listen to leaders in governments across the world, including our own, it is easy to identify which it is. And the church can become deeply affected by the context in which it lives. We are always in danger of becoming entrapped by the gods of our age, just like every generation of God's people.

But the precious discipline of giving weakens the ties of that slavery and releases the blessing of God in our lives and our churches. Jesus teaches that we are rewarded by our Father in heaven when we give financially (Matthew 6). In Acts 20.35 Paul quotes Jesus when he says: '*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*' Giving money does us good!

Many of you, I know, can testify to this truth. It was a joy to see evidence of this in our APCM financial reports. And I know that your generosity extends far beyond the church. So, this Lent, lets lean into the call we have received in Christ to imitate God in living with a spirit of generosity, knowing that "*he who*

supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and ... your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.” (2 Corinthians 9.10-11)

Grace and peace to you all,

Duncan

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.

SERVICES ON SUNDAY

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

Readings: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 19:28-40



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

***Come along at 10am for coffee, hot cross buns and a time of fellowship.**

HOLY WEEK

Monday 14th April

8am - Morning Prayer at St Leonard's

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

Tuesday 15th April

8am - Morning Prayer at St Leonard's

Wednesday 16th April

8am - Morning Prayer at St Leonard's

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

Maundy Thursday - 17th April

11am - BCP Holy Communion at St Peter's

4pm - Easter Families@4 in St Leonard's church (NOT the Church Hall as previously publicised)

8pm - Tenebrae service at St Leonard's

Good Friday - 18th April

10am - Ecumenical Service in the Square followed by coffee and hot cross buns.

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

EASTER SUNDAY - 20th April

9.30am - Easter Holy Communion at St Peter's

10.30am - Easter Celebration with Holy Communion at St Leonard's

Looking further ahead

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

The funeral of the late Alison Dunn will be held at **St Leonard's** at **11.30am** on **Thursday 8th May**.

Families @ 4: Maundy Thursday 4-6pm

We are holding a families@4 Easter event on Maundy Thursday and would really appreciate some volunteers to help:

3.45pm-5.15pm - help with a craft table

5pm - 6.15pm - help serve hot dogs etc / clear up.

Please contact Duncan if you can offer some time. vicarslp@gmail or WhatsApp on 07810 324088.



StLeonard's & StPeter's
BENEFICE OF EYNHAM & CASSINGTON



EASTERHOPE

MAUNDY THURSDAY 17TH APRIL
St Peters

11am: BCP Holy Communion
StLeonards

4pm: Families@4 Easter Special
8.00pm: Tenebrae Service

GOOD FRIDAY 18TH APRIL

10am: Service in Eynsham Square
at StPeters & StLeonards

2pm: Hour at the Cross

EASTER SUNDAY 20TH APRIL

StPeters

9.30am: Easter Commuion
StLeonards

10.30am: Easter Celebration

CHURCH FINANCES

If you missed the APCM at St Leonard's or want another chance to look at the slides Margaret presented on the church finances made simple you can see them [here](#).

Looking Ahead & The Quiet Revival

A request was made to make available a paper version of my Looking Ahead slot from the St.Leonard's APCM. So please follow [the link](#) if that is of interest. I have also included the one from St.Peter's APCM if you missed it.

One of the comments I make for St.Leonard's APCM is in regards to the potential re-awakening of interest in Christianity, in sometimes surprising quarters. One striking example (I didn't mention) is the conversion of Aiyana Hirsi Ali who was a strident atheist alongside Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens when New Atheism was at its height. Another interesting stat I read this week was that the most read article in The Spectator in 2024 was "A Christian revival is under way in Britain" by Justin Brierley. Anyway, this is just to whet your appetite for a fascinating new report from the Bible Society called ['The Quiet Revival'](#) comparing various stats to those of 6 years ago concerning Christianity in Britain today. I commend it to you for your interest, encouragement and prayers. How should we respond to this in our churches?

Decorating St Leonard's for Easter.

We would greatly welcome any donations of foliage, flowers, or time and help to decorate the church for Easter. We will be in the church from 10am on Easter Saturday morning so please do come along with donations or to join in. Any questions please get in touch with Hazel Petty (07939879319) or Margaret Johnson (07946113666).

Warm Welcome Wednesday will be taking a break after Easter on **23rd and 30th April**. We will be back at St Leonard's on **Wednesday 7th May**.

Save the date - Summer Picnic Sunday 22nd June

As many of you know, Olly and Jo Shaw and their family will be moving on this Summer as Olly will be ordained and will take up a post as curate in Chipping Norton. Sunday 22nd June will be our opportunity to say farewell officially and we are planning a picnic together after the morning service. Everyone is welcome, more details nearer the time, but please save the date in your diaries.

Dear friends,

Please pray for **Joy Clough**, David & Kathy as they come to terms with Joy's illness. Joy is now receiving palliative care at home for liver cancer and has Carers going in to help the family care for her. Please liaise with David with regard to visiting.

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





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

Please pray for:

- Joy receiving palliative care for liver cancer and for David, Kathy and 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) Names will be added to the list by express permission, and only first names will be published.

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)