

## NEWSWIRE: 12th September 2025

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  - Blythwood Care Shoebox Appeal
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### ***A message from Duncan***

I hope I didn't lay things on a little thick last Sunday!

We began our new sermon series on the list in 2 Peter 1 of qualities we are encouraged to add to our faith. It is a great list: *goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, mutual affection and love*. According to St. Peter, if we abound in these virtues our churches will be fruitful and effective in our kingdom work. Read the chapter again to see how keen Peter is that we don't miss this wisdom! He calls us to 'make every effort' to see these things increasingly added to our faith.

But it is an already very busy term ahead, with many calls on our time and focus, and expectations from employers that this is the most productive part of the year. For the vicar to be banging on about more things to add to our burdens may seem a bit rich! And to underline Peter's call to put a bit of effort in the final straw!

However, I sometimes wonder whether piling more onto our to-do list is not the effort required as much as choosing what to subtract from the list. Somehow we have to make space in our lives for that which will be truly transformative. The problem is that stuff still needs to get done in life. That part of the Martha and Mary scenario ([Luke 10:38-42](#)) has never been solved for me. But perhaps we could start with Church life. I know that's a ridiculous thing to say and I've no idea how that might be possible. But what if our Christian communities could be ones where there is *space* added to our lives rather than demands? Space for the presence of God to restore and transform us, that through the grace of God we

might become a people who are fruitful and effective. Ironically, it will take effort. But it could make all the difference.

Yours in Christ, who leads us beside still waters,

Duncan

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### **Collect for the thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**

Almighty God,  
who called your Church to bear witness  
that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:  
help us to proclaim the good news of your love,  
that all who hear it may be drawn to you;  
through him who was lifted up on the cross,  
and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

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### **SERVICES ON SUNDAY**

#### **9am - Holy Communion at St Leonard's**

*Readings: Micah 6: 6-8; 2 Peter 1: 5-11; Mark 10:17-22*

#### **9.30am - Morning Worship at St Peter's**

*Readings: Micah 6:8; Matthew 24:32-39*

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

*Readings: Micah 6: 6-8; 2 Peter 1: 5-11; Mark 10:17-22*

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



### **NEXT WEEK**

**Please note** time and venue changes (in red) during the electrical work in St Leonard's church

#### **Monday 15th September**

**Walkie Talkies** will be meeting from **9.30am to 10.45am** on **Monday** in **St**

**Leonard's church hall** whilst the electrical work takes place in church.

**Bump to One** will be meeting in **St Leonard's church Hall** on **Monday** from **11am to 12.30pm** whilst the electrical work takes place in the church.

**Tuesday 16th September**

**St Peter's PCC meeting**

**Wednesday 17th September**

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

**Saturday 20th September**

**The funeral of the late Stephen Batts** will be held at **St Leonard's** on **Saturday 20th September** at 1pm

**NEXT SUNDAY - 21st September**

9.30am - Holy Communion at St Peter's

10.30am - Holy Communion at St Leonard's

**Duncan's Sabbatical Reflections**

I would love to share with you all some informal reflections on my recent sabbatical and so am planning an evening on Sunday 21st September at 6.30pm. We'll share coffee and cake and some photos and songs and study Leviticus together (only joking..?). *Duncan*

**Looking further ahead**

**Harvest Services**

Sunday 28th September at St Leonard's

Sunday 5th October at St Peter's (see below)

**Cassington Harvest Supper - Saturday 4th October** (see below)

**Revive Eynsham - Sunday 5th October at 7pm**

Revive in October will be an opportunity for all local Christians to join at St Leonard's in worship and prayer for our community. Followed by refreshments and a time of fellowship.

# YOUTH AT ST LEONARD'S

Cell Groups run weekly during term time.

Monday: 4-5.30pm (Y6,7,8), Monday: 7-8.30pm (Y11,12,13), Wednesday (Year 9, 10)  
Sunday Morning Youth runs on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month during our 10.30am service.

## THIS WEEK

14.9.25: Morning Worship  
*No Sunday Morning Youth*

15.9.25: Cell Group @ Clover Place (4pm)  
15.9.25: Cell Group @ Clover Place (7pm)  
17.9.25: Cell Group @ The Bitterall (7pm)

## COMING UP

21.9.25: Sunday Morning Youth  
*Up The Bell Tower - 10.30am*

22.9.25: Cell Group @ Clover Place (4pm)  
22.9.25: Cell Group @ Clover Place (7pm)  
24.9.25: Cell Group @ The Bitterall (7pm)

For more information please contact Laura: [youth.stleonards@gmail.com](mailto:youth.stleonards@gmail.com)



### **Families@4**

We are continuing to pause families@4 this whilst we discern the appropriate way ahead for this service. The service was originally set up during the pandemic and we are in need of wisdom as to the most helpful way to move forward. We will be providing opportunity for feedback from families to help with this process.

Meanwhile, we are endeavouring to provide Sparklers on the second Sunday of the month during our morning services. Please continue to pray for our precious families and our ministry with them.

### **Children during our services**

Whilst the lighting is being installed we will not have access to the creche room during the service. Our use of the main church space may also require some adjustment to our usual routine. This may affect families in particular so please be aware of the following points:

- Please could we restrict the mats for babies and toddlers as the creche room is not available for them.
- Be aware that access to the toys will also be very limited.

- Older children can sit with parents or carers for the first part of the service which we will keep brief and appropriate for children before providing age appropriate teaching in Sparklers. (Sparklers on the first three Sundays of the month. The fourth Sunday will continue to be appropriate for all ages.)

Following the installation of the lights we will be discussing with parents to discern the best way forward in encouraging the fullest integration during our all age times.

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### **BLYTHSWOOD CARE SHOEBOX APPEAL**

This year's Shoebox Appeal is now operational and shoeboxes will be going to very needy people in Eastern Europe including Ukraine. Shoeboxes can be filled for girls, boys, teenagers, women, men and elderly women. Leaflets with instructions and what to put inside your shoebox can be found inside St.Peter's Church porch.

If you would like to know more about this Appeal please contact:

**St Peter's** - Jane Aston on 01865 880757 or email [janeaston53@aol.com](mailto:janeaston53@aol.com)

**St Leonard's** - Janet Haskett on 01865 882488 or email

[jehaskett1@googlemail.com](mailto:jehaskett1@googlemail.com)

Completed shoeboxes can be delivered in Cassington to Jane Aston, 9, Bell Close, Cassington or inside St.Peter's Church on the font. In Eynsham, the shoeboxes can be left in St Leonard's church. Completed shoeboxes need to be returned before the end of October.

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### **HARVEST CELEBRATION AT ST PETER'S CHURCH**



**Sunday 5th October at 3pm**

**followed by afternoon tea**

For all ages – everyone welcome

Contributions of non-perishable items will be gratefully received for local Food Banks. A list of items can be found on the North Oxford Food Bank web site.

Financial donations can also be made directly to:

North Oxfordshire Food Bank

<https://www.givefood.org.uk/needs/at/north-oxfordshire/>



**St Peter's Church, Cassington Village Hall and  
Cassington Sports and Social Club invite you to a**

# **HARVEST COMMUNITY SUPPER**

**Saturday 4 October 2025 6.30pm – 10.00pm**

**ALL WELCOME**

Join us for a community evening of fun, music and laughter following in the long tradition of people in Cassington celebrating the gathering of the Harvest.

- ★ **Home-grown local entertainment**
- ★ **Buffet Supper included in the ticket price**
- ★ **Pay bar**



**Tickets in advance: Adults £10 / Under 16s £5  
Family ticket (up to 5 members) £25 from ...**

Jan Macdonald: 07941 419219 – [janmacdonald78@aol.com](mailto:janmacdonald78@aol.com)

Carolyn Hinton: 07747 621597 – [chinton260@outlook.com](mailto:chinton260@outlook.com)

## **Lighting work at St Leonard's**

The work to replace the lighting in the church has started. The church will continue to be 'Out of Bounds' Monday to Friday until 17<sup>th</sup> October. The church will not be open for prayer during these weeks and if you need anything from church please contact Ken or Louise. The church will be accessible on Saturdays and Sundays and all Sunday services will continue as normal.

To help the electricians we have agreed to stack the chairs after services on a Sunday and put them out again on Saturday morning. It would help me if I could have a small team of volunteers willing to come in from 9:30 on Saturdays to help with putting chairs out ready for Sundays services. Please let me know which Saturdays you could help. We won't need to clear all areas of the church every week but I would like to clear most of it for the first week.

Please let me know if you have any queries, Thanks Ken.

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**Wycliffe  
Bible  
Translators**

Paul is now back in Bangui (capital of the Central African Republic) for 3 weeks. He asks prayer that he will soon be able to establish good relationships with the members of the language team, and also that he will have wisdom and insight into the language (Tali), particularly in the tones used and the grammatical analysis needed.

Meanwhile, Jo continues to relate pastorally with 45 Wycliffe Bible Translators workers, mostly in Africa, as she seeks to come alongside them to be a good listener and to give pastoral care as well as administrative support, in order for them to thrive in their locations. Please pray for wisdom and insight for her, too, in this role.

STOP PRESS from Paul:

"The linguistic work with the Tali language has got off to a very positive start. I have been pleasantly surprised to learn that the translation team are mostly writing the language fluently and consistently. There are still a few things to work on, and some new discoveries to analyse, but the early signs are positive and I'm really encouraged."



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## Looking for something joyful to lift your spirits this term?

Come sing with **Oxford Gospel Choir** – an inclusive, no-audition community choir for adults aged 18+.

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Find out more at: [www.oxfordgospelchoir.co.uk](http://www.oxfordgospelchoir.co.uk)

Or give Jules a call or text on 07519 668137

Follow us on social media:

Instagram – [@oxford\\_gospel\\_choir](https://www.instagram.com/oxford_gospel_choir)

Facebook – [facebook.com/oxfordgospelchoir](https://facebook.com/oxfordgospelchoir)

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## Open Morning at The King's School, Witney

Join us for our whole school Open Morning on Tuesday 7th October 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 7th October
- Time: 10:30 am - 12:00 pm
- Location: The King's School, New Yatt Road, Witney, OX29 6TA
- Website: [www.tkswitney.org.uk](http://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](mailto:registrar@tkswitney.org.uk).

**Please pray for:**

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

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

*Tel: 01865 883325 E-mail: [stleonards\\_stpeters@btconnect.com](mailto:stleonards_stpeters@btconnect.com)*

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