

NEWSWIRE: 26th September 2025



- Services on Sunday
 - Harvest
 - Children at St Leonard's
 - Blythwood Care Shoebox Appeal
-

A message from Duncan

"You shall rejoice in all the good that the Lord your God has given to you"
(Deuteronomy 26.11).

Thus Moses commands God's people as they prepare to enter the Land. The context is the future bringing of the first fruits of the harvest before the Lord in worship and thanksgiving.

With everything that it is happening in the world, however, it may feel as though thanksgiving does not come naturally. I was planning to write a few comments on some of what we are witnessing in our world today as rhetoric and practice is turning, indeed has turned again, towards violence as a viable option for the resolving of our differences. Then I remembered we are heading towards a week of harvest celebrations and that for the church thanksgiving is a constant in every circumstance (1 Thess 5.18). In fact gratitude can be a discipline of defiance where we refuse to allow our spirits to be manipulated, moulded and downcast by the latest news and fix our minds on what is good, lovely, honourable and is a blessing in this world.

It is not as though we are to ignore what is happening in our world, but the art of gratitude prevents us from despairing, and lifts our eyes to the one who will, in his time, heal the nations and make all things new.

Grace and peace to you all,

Duncan

Collect for the fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit
upon your Church in the burning fire of your love:
grant that your people may be fervent
in the fellowship of the gospel
that, always abiding in you,
they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service;
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: Ruth 4:1-9; Acts 20:32-35

10.30am - All age Harvest Service at St Leonard's
and live streamed on [this link](#)



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

5pm - Evening Prayer at St Peter's

Readings: Psalm 119.1-16; Proverbs 25.15-25; 2 Peter 3.1-11

NEXT WEEK

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

Monday 29th 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 30th September

Tinies and Toddlers meet every **Tuesday** in the **Village Hall in Cassington** from **1.30 to 3pm** (Term time only).

Wednesday 1st October

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

Thursday 2nd October

Cassington Cafe from **10am** in **Cassington Village Hall**

NEXT SUNDAY - 5th October

10.30am - Morning Worship at St Leonard's

3pm - Harvest Service at St Peter's (see below)

7pm - Revive at St Leonard's

Looking further ahead

Service for the Bereaved - Sunday 26th October at 6pm at St Leonard's

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.

HARVEST AT ST LEONARD'S

Decorating the church for harvest. Are you able to help decorate St Leonard's for the harvest service? Please come along at **10am tomorrow** (Saturday 27th September). If you have any foliage, flowers, fruit and vegetables do bring them at the same time. Thank you. Margaret Johnson.

Something to Bring for Harvest All Age Service (10.30am)

In our Harvest service at St Leonard's on Sunday we will be thinking about the "fruit of our labours". So we would love to invite you to bring along something which represents your job, volunteer tasks, or your work in the home. It could be the "fruit" of your labours such as home-made food, a hand-made object, some written work, an artwork, or whatever else results from what you do. It could also be a tool of your trade - something you use to accomplish your work. Something to represent what you do during the week (you will get to take them back at the end of the service).

There will also be a collection of non-perishable goods for The Porch (see below). Donations of canned, bottled and dried food are welcomed. No fresh produce please. Cash or card donations on Sunday will go to [The Tear Fund Emergency Appeal for Afghanistan.](#)

Harvest Lunch

From 12-1pm there will be a shared lunch of soup and bread followed by tea/coffee and cake. We hope as many as possible will stay for this. Thank you

so much to those who have offered to make food and help. If you normally come to the 9am service we would love you to return at 12 for the lunch if you are free.

SUPPORT THE PORCH *this* **HARVEST** *festival*



The Porch is the frontline for homeless day services in Oxford. We are the only service in Oxford that delivers direct access to daylong provisions for people experiencing homelessness. Providing a place of sanctuary where lives are rebuilt, and dignity is restored. 7 days a week!

Through its day services, The Porch provides a safe space where individuals can access vital resources such as nutritious meals, showers, laundry facilities, and tailored support services. Its holistic approach addresses both immediate needs and long-term goals, offering guidance in mental health, addiction recovery, and employability skills.

The Porch cultivates a strong sense of community and belonging, helping individuals rebuild their confidence, regain independence, and restore hope. The Porch is a place where everyone is seen, valued, and given the chance to thrive.

But we can't do this alone!

We need:

- Coffee
- Sugar
- UHT Milk
- Biscuits
- Fruit Squash Drinks
- Pasta Sauces
- Razors
- Shaving Foam
- Laundry Powder or Liquid
- Male Boxer Shorts (L)
- Socks

Tins:

- Tin Potatoes
- Mushy Peas
- Sweetcorn
- Baked Beans
- Chopped Tomatoes
- Plum Tomatoes
- Pineapple Chunks/Rings
- Pear Halves/Slices
- Peach Slices
- Fruit Cocktail
- Red Kidney Beans

Donation Delivered to The Porch 139 Magdalen Rd, Oxford, OX4 1RL (Mon - Fri, 8am - 3.30pm)

Tel: 01865 251798



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

Carolyn Hinton: 07747 621597 – chinton260@outlook.com



Families@4

We are continuing to pause families@4 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.



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

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

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.



Update from Paul

"Hello from Bangui!

I'm nearly at the end of my time here, and I'm not sure where the time has gone! It's been busy, but also very interesting. By the end of the week I'm hoping that we will have something for each team to take back home demonstrating the work they've

completed, and that might include copies of their consultant checked Christmas story from Luke's gospel.

Please continue to pray:

- * for safe travel for everyone involved in the workshop as we return home at the end of the week;
- * for Pastor Mathurin from the Mpyemo team who is still unwell after suffering a spike in his blood pressure 2 weeks ago.

Another update about the Mpyemo team and their recording of the New Testament.

14 Mpyemo speakers traveled to Bangui recently to record a dramatized version of the Mpyemo New Testament in just three weeks. I was able to listen in as they checked 1 Peter for mistakes. From these few chapters, it was obvious that the quality of the reading and recording is excellent; better even than I expected! The reading is fluent and clear, without any stumbling, and I am sure the community will love it! Now we are praying that they will finish the job well and that the post-production processes won't take too much time.

Thanks for praying,

Paul"

Lighting work at St Leonard's

Whilst the work to replace the lighting continues, the church will be 'Out of Bounds' Monday to Friday until 17th 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.

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

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
- 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.

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) Names will be added to the list by express permission, and only first names will be published.

www.stleonardseysham.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)