

NEWSWIRE: 10th October 2025



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A message from Duncan

We have a new Archbishop! Dame Sarah Mullaly will be 106th Archbishop of Canterbury since Saint Augustine arrived in Kent from Rome in 597. She will also be the first woman to hold the office in that long history. She will be installed as Archbishop in March of next year.

I wonder if you have read the headlines from various news outlets: *"The new Archbishop will oversee the end of the church unless she..."*; *"The next Archbishop of Canterbury has no time to waste in making change"*, or my particular favourite: *"What the new Archbishop must do to save the Church"*. It is true that she is walking into a job very few of us would wish to have. It is also true she will face severe challenges. She already knows too well that news of her appointment has been welcomed by some, but not all; and the divisions in our global communion have been writ large in the media once again.

One thing, however, of which I am sure, and contrary to the headlines, is that it is not in the Archbishop's job description to save the church! Not only is that far too great a weight to place on any one person, but the job is already taken. Jesus is the Saviour and builder of the church. Jesus says to Peter *"on this rock I will build my church and the gates of hades will not overcome it."* (Matt 16) The rock on which he builds is the declaration that he is God's *"Messiah, the Son of the living God"*. When Peter declares this boldly he lives up to his name as "Petra - the rock". When he doubts the cross-shaped wisdom of God, as he does in only a few verses later, he becomes a hindrance to the Kingdom purposes of God (16.23).

If the Church of England is to continue as a small expression of God's eternal church it will depend on our conviction and our proclamation of Jesus as the answer to the problems of this world; and that the strange wisdom of the cross is

God's way of renewing, not just Britain, as those at the Labour party conference recently resolved to do, but everything.

So whatever your reactions to the appointment of Dame Sarah as our new Archbishop, please join me in praying she will believe in her heart, and boldly declare, that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the Living God, and that true, flourishing, eternal life is found at the foot of the cross and an empty tomb.

Grace and peace be with you all,

Duncan

Collect for the seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God,
you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you:
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself,
and so bring us at last to your heavenly city
where we shall see you face to face;
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: Hebrews 10:v19 – 25 and v32 – 39
Matthew 24:v4-14*



9.30am - Morning Worship at St Peter's

Readings: Hebrews 10:32-39; Philippians 1:1-11

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

Readings: Philippians 1.1-6; Hebrews 10:19-25, 32-39

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 13th October

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 14th October

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

Wednesday 15th October

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

Saturday 18th October

St Leonard's PCC Away Morning

NEXT SUNDAY - 19th October

9.30am - Holy Communion at St Peter's

10.30am - Holy Communion at St Leonard's

Looking further ahead

The funeral of the late **John Edmunds** will be held at **St Leonard's church** at **12.30pm** on **Tuesday 21st October**

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

St.Leonard's Away Morning PLEASE PRAY

The St.Leonard's PCC will be together for the morning on 18th October to pray and think about the year ahead and beyond in the life of the church. I would really appreciate it if you could pray for this time together and the work which will follow. Particularly, I would ask you to pray that we would be able to discern the Lord's heart for us. There are plenty of possible things we might apply ourselves to, for all of which there will be a variety of opinions. But where does the Lord Jesus have us focus our attention? ***Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain. (Psalm 127)***



Looking for ideas for Christmas gifts?

A 120 page full colour book which provides a pictorial record of the events of the St Peter's 900th celebrations and other events around the village in 2023 has now been produced on behalf of The Friends of St Peter's Cassington

(Registered Charity No 1114780) and is available to order throughout October. A preliminary draft copy is available now and you will be able to view and order copies at St Peter's services and other events in the coming weeks. If you are unable to come to those then please call Keith Turner on 01865 880492 for other ways to view it. There will be a bulk order placed in early November to maximise savings on printing and postage costs and The Friends are making the book available to purchase at cost price (including a share of the postage costs). The final price will depend on the volume of orders received but is likely to be in the region of £25-£30 per book and we require a £10 non-refundable deposit per book to secure an order with the balance payable on delivery. Please note that as The Friends will not be profiting from this publication then all books ordered must be paid for in full upon delivery or our charity will sustain the loss as we have to pay for the orders in advance. Initial reactions from those who have seen the book are very favourable and we hope to be able to distribute copies by early December.

Keith Turner on behalf of The Friends'

Remember with Thanksgiving - A service for the bereaved

We will be holding a Memorial Service for the bereaved at St Leonard's on Sunday 26th October at 6pm. This is a special service where the death of a loved one is remembered and an opportunity to light a candle in their memory. If you would like the name of a loved one read out, please contact the Church Office (stleonards_stpeters@btconnect.com or 01865 883325).

Cleaning The Church After The Electrical Work

The work on the church lighting will be finishing next week. We are planning to do a good clean around all of the church on Friday 17th in the afternoon. If anyone is able to join members of the cleaning team anytime between 2-5pm your help will be appreciated. After Friday 17th access to the church will return to normal and I will share instructions on operating the new lighting next week once I have all the details.

Thanks, Ken



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.

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

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

12.10.25: Morning Worship

13.10.25: Cell Group @ Clover Place (4pm)

13.10.25: Cell Group @ Clover Place (7pm)

15.10.25: Cell Group @ The Bitterell (7pm)

COMING UP

19.10.25: Sunday Morning Youth
*Up the Bell Tower -
Bring a jumper!*

20.10.25 - Cell Social!
*@ St Leonard's Church
7-8.30pm*

For more information please contact Laura: youth.stleonards@gmail.com

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.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)