

## NEWSWIRE: 24th October 2025

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- Services on Sunday
  - A Year in Cassington Book
  - Blythwood Care Shoebox Appeal
  - CAP Christmas Hampers
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### *A message from Duncan*

Last Sunday I finished my sermon over at St.Peters with Eugene Peterson's paraphrase of Matthew 11.28-30.

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion?  
Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life.

I'll show you how to take a real rest.

Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it.

Learn the unforced rhythms of grace.

I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you.

Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.”

I had forgotten how much I love this. It is a paraphrase of the scripture not a translation, but it is deeply helpful. It reminds us how religion can be such an ill-fitting weight if we mishandle things. I'm sure Eugene's use of the word 'religion' was taking a cue from Christ's words to the Pharisees and the unnecessary burdens they placed on people.

I really hope and pray that belonging to St.Leonard's or St.Peter's doesn't feel like that, though I know it sometimes will, almost inevitably. I really hope your Christian life doesn't feel like this, but for nearly all of us, it does from time to time. Sometimes we expect too much of ourselves. Sometimes we expect too much of each other. Sometimes the vicar makes poor decisions and that affects everyone else. Sometimes we take on more than we were meant. We misidentify the work the Lord calls us to join him in and become preoccupied with the things we think are important instead. These are burdens we were never meant to carry.

Jesus says if we keep company with him we will learn to live freely and lightly. *"for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light"*. I am so far from learning these unforced rhythms of grace but I want to foreground this vision in my life, this calling of Jesus, as often as I can. Stick it to fridge; post-it note to the computer screen; bluetack it to the inside of the front door, pray it into my heart.

And if we learn these rhythms of grace together, as a community of Jesus-loving disciples, maybe it will feel like dancing. (*'Steady on vicar, we're Anglicans!'*)

*Grace and peace to you all,*

*Duncan*

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

Blessed Lord,  
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:  
help us so to hear them,  
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them  
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,  
we may embrace and for ever hold fast  
the hope of everlasting life,  
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive 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: 2 Peter 1.3-8; John 15.9-17*

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

*Readings: John 13:31-36; Romans 12:10-18*

**10.30am - All age service with Lena Meango's thanksgiving 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.

**6pm - Memorial Service for the Bereaved at St Leonard's**



## **NEXT WEEK**

### **Monday 27th October**

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

**No Walkie Talkies** this week due to Half Term.

### **Tuesday 28th October**

**No Tinies and Toddlers** this week due to Half Term.

### **Wednesday 22nd October**

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

## **NEXT SUNDAY - 2nd November**

9.30am - Holy Communion at St Peter's

10.30am - Morning Worship at St Leonard's

7pm - Revive! at St Leonard's

## **Looking Further Ahead**

### **Remembrance Services - Sunday 9th November**

St Peter's - 9.30am

St Leonard's - 10am

**Men's Curry Night - 7.45pm on Thursday 13th November** (see below)

**The Funeral of the late Trevor Robinson** will be held at **St Leonard's church** on **Saturday 15th November** at midday

**Week of Prayer: 16th - 23rd November** (see below)



### **Week of Prayer Sun 16th - Sun 23rd November**

This is an advanced notice for our annual week of prayer. We will be having the usual opportunities for prayer services and meetings at different times throughout the week but some of you may wish to host a prayer event of your own. It might be you are

passionate about the environment, or would like to focus an hour praying for the current state of politics or the Church of England. Or perhaps you would love to organise a prayer walk or simply sit in silence in the presence of the Lord but would like some company as you do. Perhaps there is a creative approach to prayer you would like to lead. We are a diverse church and it would be good to

reflect that in our corporate prayer life. **Please do get in touch with me if you would like to host an event.** *Duncan*

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**The next Men's Curry night** will be at Ready Steady Spice on Thursday 13 November at 7.45pm. There's no hidden agendas, just come along, enjoy a curry, a beer and a chat and hopefully have an enjoyable evening. If you'd like to join us please let Andy Greenwood know, by emailing Andy at [AMG1954church@gmail.com](mailto:AMG1954church@gmail.com)

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We have received a request from Tessa Farley at **West Oxfordshire Citizens Advice**, "I have helped a family who were illegally evicted move into a house in Eynsham. Having lived for 6 months in B&B they are delighted. However they have no furniture. Besom have helped with small items and I have grants to help buy whitegoods but they desperately need a table and chairs, armchairs and /or settee, chest of drawers or storage units, a desk and wardrobes. They have a baby and a teenager. Could you possibly ask your parishioners if they have any of these items they could spare and potentially deliver locally?" Should you be able to help please contact Tessa on 07900 645931

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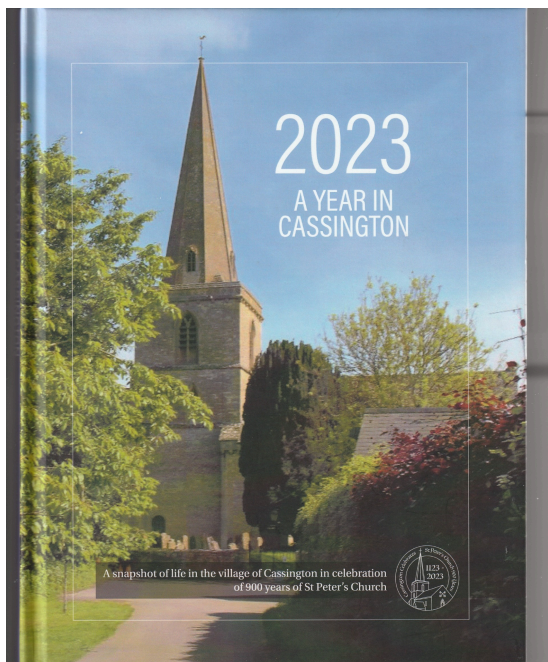
**CAP Christmas Hampers** - For several years now we have been inviting individuals and small groups from supporting churches to put together and donate a hamper of Christmas extras for a local CAP client. The idea is that hampers are given to households who are working with CAP to clear their debts and can't afford some of the extra Christmas luxuries most of us take for granted.

In order to give us time to match donors to clients, I will be grateful if offers of hampers could be sent to me at [alanthornton@capuk.org](mailto:alanthornton@capuk.org) no later than 10 November, but preferably before! We would like to have all hampers ready for delivery by Monday 15 December, to give us time to get them to the clients.

I know that many people enjoy joining in this venture each year. It always brings a lot of joy to our clients and is a wonderful expression of God's love and provision.

*Alan Thornton*





## 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'



## 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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**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.stleonardseyنشam.org.uk](http://www.stleonardseyنشam.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)*