



NEWSWIRE: 31st October 2025



- Services on Sunday
 - Week of Prayer - 16th - 23rd November
 - CAP Christmas Hampers
-

A message from Margaret

FOR ALL THE SAINTS

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

Hebrew 12:1-2

Today is All Hallows Eve, in the church calendar, and Halloween in popular culture and I guess your reaction to it will depend on your viewpoint. A day of fun for kids with carved lit pumpkins, children high on sugar and outrageous costumes? Or a day when the darker side of life seems to creep a bit closer, when the threat of tricks or strangers in the dark is too easily magnified into evil.

31 October, the day before All Saints Day, is when the church remembers all the Christians who have gone before us and who now have died. Many people fear death, especially in our society which rarely talks about it. Halloween partially flourishes as a way for shops to sell themed merchandise, but it also represents that strange way in which we sometimes deliberately scare ourselves silly, in order to try and make our real fears seem less frightening.

But we don't need to be frightened. Jesus has gone before us into death and beyond the grave. We have hope. In Hebrews, the writer describes the people of faith who have died over the years as 'a great cloud of witnesses'. I like to think of them sitting in rows of tiered seating on either side of our path of faith in this world, watching intently. We may not see them, but they are all there: the grandparents who loved you, that youth leader who kept listening to you, the

person who led you to faith, your friend who cared for you – whoever it was who helped you along your way but is no longer with us.

When you run with perseverance, they are on their feet cheering every difficult step. When you are almost on your knees, just stumbling forward, their eyes are filled with compassionate tears and their hearts are one in prayer that Jesus will give you strength as he aided them.

So, whether you are putting a pumpkin out or not this Halloween, remember that you do not need to be scared by powers of darkness, because Jesus has overcome death and evil; and all those saints, who have gone before us into glory, are cheering us on to keep our eyes fixed on Him.

Margaret Thornton

Collect for All Saints' Day

Almighty God,
you have knit together your elect
in one communion and fellowship
in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord:
grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints
in all virtuous and godly living
that we may come to those inexpressible joys
that you have prepared for those who truly love you;
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

9.30am - Holy Communion at St Peter's

Readings: 2 Peter 1:1-11; Matthew 22:34-40

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

Reading: 1 John 4:19; 1 Corinthians 13

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

7pm - Revive! at St Leonard's



NEXT WEEK

Monday 3rd November

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

No Walkie Talkies this week due to an Inset Day

Tuesday 4th November

Tinies and Toddlers meet on **Tuesdays (term time)** from **1.30pm - 3pm** in **Cassington Village Hall**.

St Peter's PCC meeting

Wednesday 5th November

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

Thursday 6th November

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

NEXT SUNDAY - 9th November

9.30am - Remembrance Sunday Service at St Peter's

10am - Remembrance Sunday Service at St Leonard's

Looking Further Ahead

St Leonard's PCC meeting - Tuesday 11th November

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)



POP-UP SINGERS

We are looking for an enthusiastic group of singers to be led by Revd Duncan Fraser, for the

Carols by Candlelight

St Peter's Church

Sunday 14 December at 4pm

No previous experience is necessary and there will be some practice sessions.

Please contact Jan Macdonald

janmacdonald78@aol.com or message on

07941 419219



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. However, some of you may wish to host a prayer event of your own, such as the

Creation Care prayer event on Saturday 22nd November (details below). You may 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*

Creation Care Prayer Event - Saturday 22nd November - 10:30am

Join us at **St Leonards**. We will be thinking and praying for:

- **How as God's people we can love the world** (both his good creation and all who inhabit it) by being good stewards of all that he has entrusted us with.
- **Tearfund** (one of our mission partners) as they care for the poor through caring for creation
- **Local initiatives** that members of St Leonard's are involved with that reflect how we want to live as 'small models of new creation' in caring for the created world.

If there is interest from youth and/or children or others who find craft a helpful way of praying, we may provide a craft based prayer station.

Please express interest (even if you can't come) by completing this [Google form](#) or alternatively speak to Sally Owen or Margaret Johnson.



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

So many thanks from Roy and Elly for the loving prayers, kind help, concern and thoughtful messages after Roy's cycling accident. We have felt so supported.

Someone kindly made a tomato salad for lunch last Sunday, and left the dish behind! Please contact Margaret Thornton, who will reunite you with your dish.

Pathways Magazine - The Diocese is seeking feedback on [Pathways Magazine](#). If you would like to take part, you will find a short survey [on this link](#).

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 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*

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)