

NEWSWIRE: 7th November 2025



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 - Alpha
 - CAP Christmas Hampers
-

A message from Duncan

We are in a season of remembering. But remembering is not always easy.

Remembering can sometimes be painful for all sorts of reasons. It can be painful to remember those we have loved and lost, as we did in the Bereavement Service at the beginning of this season. It is upsetting, but important, and at the same time comforting, or at least, one feels, significant. Or is it poignant? Words fail us. Perhaps that is why ritual becomes helpful. Through actions we say something that we can't put into words. Like a simple act of lighting a candle.

Remembering is a central theme throughout scripture. Remembering is important. In fact, one of the reasons for the problems and disasters the people of God suffer is precisely because of the innate human tendency to forget. And I am well acquainted with this tendency.

But remember we must.

Particularly when our faith is challenged and hope has dried up. The Psalmist calls us to *remember the days of old*; and *meditate on all that (the Lord) has done*; (Psalm 143). It is precisely the days of old we remember because sometimes it seems that God is absent in the present. Perhaps the season we, or those around us, travel through is particularly challenging and so we ask, 'where is God?' But we are called, as followers of Jesus, to trust in God. If he has proved himself faithful in the past, against all odds, why should he not prove his faithfulness in the future.

So we remember.

Remember loved ones lost to us. Remember lives laid down for others. And remember the faithfulness of God and his promise to make all things new.

For great is his steadfast love towards us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures for ever.

Praise the LORD! (Psalm 117)

Grace and peace to you all

Duncan

Collect for the third Sunday before Advent

Almighty Father,
whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the King of all:
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority,
and bring the families of the nations,
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,
to be subject to his just and gentle rule;
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 - Remembrance Service at St Peter's

Readings: Micah 4:1–5; Matthew 5:1–10

10am - Remembrance Service at St Leonard's and
live streamed on [this link](#)

Readings: Isaiah 2:2-5; Matthew 5:1-15

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



NEXT WEEK

Monday 10th November

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

Walkie Talkies meet on Mondays (term time) from 10am to 11.30am in St Leonard's church hall.

Tuesday 11th November

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

St Leonard's PCC meeting

Wednesday 12th November

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

Thursday 13th November

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

Saturday 15th November

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

NEXT SUNDAY - 16th November

9.30am - Holy Communion at St Peter's

10.30am - Holy Communion at St Leonard's

Looking Further Ahead

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

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	COMING UP
09.11.25: Morning Worship <i>Remembrance Sunday [10am]</i>	16.11.25: Sunday Morning Youth <i>Up The Bell Tower - 10.30am</i>
10.11.25: Cell Group @ Clover Place (4pm)	17.11.25: Cell Group @ Clover Place (4pm)
10.11.25: Cell Group @ Clover Place (7pm)	17.11.25: Cell Group @ Clover Place (7pm)
12.11.25: Cell Group @ The Bitterell (7pm)	19.11.25: Cell Group @ The Bitterell (7pm)

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



On Friday evening last week (Hallowe'en) Sue Greenwood led a team serving hot chocolate to passersby and handing out bags containing glow sticks, sweets and a short leaflet about Jesus. The bags quickly ran out but the hot chocolate continued to flow and altogether, around 150 cups were served to appreciative families. Several asked when the Christingle service is going to be and there were some encouraging faith-related conversations. Watch this space as the plan is to do something a little bigger next year! *Catherine Atherstone*

We are hoping to run the **Alpha course** in the New Year, a course which allows the pressure-free exploration of faith in an open and friendly environment. The course begins with a meal, includes a short video presentation which leads into a group discussion where any questions can be asked and discussed. It is a wonderful opportunity to present Jesus to those who do not yet know him, or to refresh our own faith. In order to run this course, however, we need some help. Perhaps you love leading discussion groups (no one expects anyone to have all the answers) or you can help with setting up or in providing food (alongside others). Both attending and serving on this course is often both exciting and transformational. So please get in touch with myself or the church office if you might be able to help or would like to know more. *Duncan*



Shoebox Collection - 18th November. Please make sure that shoeboxes are brought to St Leonard's in time for collection on Tuesday 18th.

Walkie Talkies: one member of the Walkie Talkies team is stepping down at the end of this term. This makes us short of one volunteer in the kitchen to do

refreshments. We urgently need someone to fill this gap in January. It could be either in the kitchen or in the main part of the hall. The role in the main part of the hall comprises putting out toys, mats and chairs and the reverse at the end of the session; also importantly welcoming mums and other carers and their toddlers, and talking to them about their concerns or just generally. Please speak to one of the team if you are interested in joining the rota in alternate weeks, or even less frequently. We all find it's an enjoyable and worthwhile way of spending a Monday morning. *Denise McKemey, Elly Wastie, Eileen Crosby, Jenny Griffiths.*

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



Greetings from La Paz, Bolivia!

We are grateful to God for the wonderful opportunity to visit Eynsham this October. The fellowship in Christ was renewed in a very special way. Silvana and I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to our brothers and sisters in Christ. Through the generosity of dear friends, we were able to visit Eynsham, share with the church during two Sunday services, and enjoy meaningful times with friends and families from St. Leonard's. It was a great joy to see and talk with long-time friends—and also to meet new people who are now part of St. Leonard's.

Now back in La Paz, we continue serving the Lord with gratitude, encouraged and strengthened by the love and partnership we share with you.

With love, Marcelo and Silvana

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. [PLEASE SEE HERE](#). 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 wish to focus an hour praying with others for the current state of politics or for the Church of England, or for schools, or the business or financial world (the possibilities are endless). 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 and we can advertise it for others. *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.

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](#).



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

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)