

NEWSWIRE: 21st November 2025



- Services and Church Lunch on Sunday
 - Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal Update
 - Breeze Translate
 - Alpha Course
 - Advent and Christmas services
-

A message from John

In our home group we recently studied the book of Habakkuk, and found that its message resonates very much with what we see happening in the world today.

Habakkuk is a fascinating person: initially we read of his protests to God – not just on one occasion, but twice! He complains to God that the wicked thrive and that “justice never prevails” (1: v4). Perhaps we feel that this is happening in our world, both nationally and internationally?

However, God is gracious and loving towards Habakkuk by answering him each time. But the message which God brings to Habakkuk is certainly NOT what Habakkuk was expecting! Just have a read of chapter 1, v 5-11!

Habakkuk finds himself struggling with both the world which he cannot understand... and the God whom he cannot understand. Again, such thoughts may seem very real to us today as we look at the world around us, and question “Why doesn’t God do something about X, or Y, or Z?”

But as the prophet records his protests, and the answers which he receives from God, there are two clear threads: the absolute destruction of evil; and the triumph of God.

God’s ways may seem strange to us now. But Habakkuk makes clear that God will end all oppression and suffering for humanity and nature. God’s justice works in history now (although only partially), but his justice will be fully and completely carried out at the end of history.

So, if you find yourself despairing at what is going on in the world, have a read through of Habakkuk chapter 3 (it only takes about three minutes). Be encouraged:

*Though the fig-tree does not bud
and there are no grapes on the vines,
though the olive crop fails
and the fields produce no food,
though there are no sheep in the sheepfold
and no cattle in the stalls
, yet I will rejoice in the LORD,
I will be joyful in God my Saviour.*

Habakkuk 3: v17 – 18

John Anderson

Collect for the Sunday next before Advent - Christ the King

Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Saturday 22nd November

Creation Care Prayer Event from 10.30am in St Leonard's Church (see below)

Christmas Charity Sale from 10am to 12.30pm in Eynsham Baptist Church Hall

West Oxfordshire Wind Bands Concert at 7pm in St Leonard's church (see below)

SERVICES ON SUNDAY

9am - Holy Communion at St Leonard's

Readings: Jeremiah 23:1-6; John 18.33-37

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

Reading: Jeremiah 23:5-6



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: Jeremiah 23:1-6; Luke 23:33-44

The Week of Prayer leaflet advertised a Revive prayer meeting on Sunday. This was a mistake. Revive will be on December 7th at 7pm.

NEXT WEEK

Monday 24th 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 25th November

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

Wednesday 26th November

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

NEXT SUNDAY - 30th November

9.30am - Holy Communion at St Peter's

10.30am - Morning Worship at St Leonard's

7pm - Advent Service of Light at St Leonard's

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.

A Musical Treat at St Leonard's: From Mozart to Mary Poppins

Join us for a spectacular evening of live music right here in St Leonard's. Tomorrow at 7 pm St Leonard's Church will host three West Oxfordshire wind bands for a concert that truly has something for everyone.

Whether you love the classics or prefer a bit of rock and pop, you're in for a treat. The programme ranges from the genius of Mozart to the magic of *Mary Poppins*, and from the smooth rhythms of Santana to the hills of *The Sound of Music*.

Drinks will be available during the interval, making it a perfect opportunity to relax and catch up with neighbours.

- Where: St Leonard's Church, Eynsham
- When: Saturday 22nd November at 7:00 pm
- Tickets on the door: £7.50 for adults | Under 18s go free

Come along and support our local musicians for a wonderful night out!

SUNDAY 23rd NOVEMBER: Preparing for Advent

Our 10.30am service at St Leonard's on Sunday, will focus on preparing for Advent. It is a wonderful opportunity to spend time with those we live with, or perhaps meeting up with a friend, to prepare our hearts to receive the coming Christ. Simple devotions, perhaps around a meal table, can help fix our hearts and minds on Jesus amidst a very busy time of year. **At this service we would love people to share different Advent ideas and traditions that have been a blessing over**

the years. So have a think and perhaps you have something you could share, from a simple prayer that accompanied the lighting of an advent candle in your home, to...well...something I've never thought! (*That's the point!*)

Duncan



We will be holding a simple **shared church lunch** after the all age service at St Leonard's on **Sunday**. Everyone is welcome - [just sign up](#) . Lunch will be around **noon**.

It's not too late to sign up to help with the catering, serving and clearing up. If you can help just add your name to [this sign up sheet](#) or let me know.

Margaret Thornton margaret@2cp.uk 07971 857711

BLYTHSWOOD CARE SHOEBOX APPEAL

Thank you to everyone from both Eynsham and Cassington who donated to the Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal once more this year. 49 shoeboxes were collected by Blythswood Care this week. In Cassington, a combined effort by the church, the school and the village resulted in 31 shoeboxes being donated.

The shoeboxes are now on the way to needy children and adults in Eastern Europe including Ukraine. Your generosity is much appreciated and will bring happiness this Christmas to those less fortunate than ourselves.

Thank you again, Jane Aston and Janet Haskett



BREEZE TRANSLATE - CAN YOU GIVE UP A COFFEE A MONTH?

Many of you will know that we have been on a free trial for this software since August and the time has come for us to sign up. It is, in my opinion, absolutely amazing. It enables anyone who cannot speak English to listen to our services in their own language using their own smartphone and headphones. It works in 240 different languages, and is really simple for the tech operators and for those listening to use.

In our current congregation we have two Ukrainians, who have been coming regularly to St Leonards for 4 years but speak little or no English. Can you imagine the change when they can now hear the service in Ukrainian? They are delighted. In addition we have had occasional visitors who speak little English who have used it.

We are able to subscribe for the basic level (on average 2 or fewer languages per week) which costs £6 per week or £26 per month.

I think many people would support this and even if money is tight you might consider giving up a coffee a month to contribute, if so I'm looking for 6 -7 people who are willing to each give £4 per month to the church to pay for this. You can do it by increasing your current monthly donation (or by giving a one off amount if that is easier).

We would love to invite other non English speakers in the village to our services so if you have friends and neighbours who might use it please let them know.

Make Pentecost happen today!

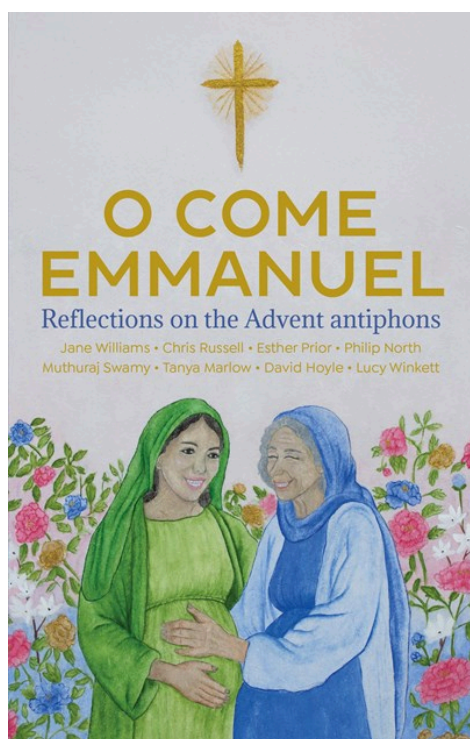
Margaret Thornton



Services and Events during Advent and Christmas

I don't know whether you had realised but Christmas is around the corner! It will be a busy time for you all, I have no doubt, so I thought it was worth letting you know what is happening in the Benefice throughout the Season. Please [SEE FULL DETAILS HERE](#). I thought I would draw your attention to a couple of things. **Christmas**

Round the World is happening again in St.Leonard's Church Hall following its great success last year and is a delightfully unusual and easy event to invite a neighbour or friend to. We're taking a break from the Tree Festival this year for a variety of reasons but I expect it to return next year. There is a **traditional Candlelit Carol service** over in St.Peter's to which anyone is invited, featuring a small pop-up choir. Over at St.Leonards a **Christmas carol celebration** will have the usual opportunity to sing well known carols and hear the Christmas readings but will have a different feel this year. It might particularly appeal to young people, but will have something for everyone. Again, a wonderful opportunity to invite neighbours and friends to hear of the wonderful love of God writ large in the gift of Jesus for us all. And it all begins with a quiet, traditional, candlelit **Advent Service** in the evening on Advent Sunday. Come Lord Jesus.



Advent: O Come, Emmanuel

The Church of England's Advent and Christmas theme this year is **Joy**. A new book has been published to help prepare for the joy of Christmas. With daily Advent reflections, 'O Come Emmanuel' explores the symbolism behind the hymn.

The book is published by [Church House Publishing](http://ChurchHousePublishing.com). You will find a copy on the Bible trolley in St Leonard's church.

The reflections will also appear on the Church of England Everyday Faith app from 1st to 24th December.

Ladies - why let men have all the fun? Let us have a curry night as well! Let me know if you are interested email or speak to me billandjunem@gmail.com
June Middleton

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*

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)