

## NEWSWIRE: 28th November 2025

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### ***A message from Duncan***

Advent is a solemn season of penitence and fasting. That is why it shares the liturgical colour of Lent. In the words of an Advent collect, we engage in a *serious seeking after God, and an affectionate walking with him*. It is a season of waiting and longing. We allow our hearts to ache for Christ's return and the putting right of all things.

It is not easy to hold onto this within our culture today. Our advent calendars increasingly encourage us to abandon the valuable virtues of restraint, patience and frugal simplicity as increasingly exotic and luxurious treats lie behind the advent door each day. It is also highly likely that many of us will have had several Christmas lunches before Christmas day. It may seem to be all feasting and celebration with little time to pause and prepare. In the life of the church we have engaged in this tendency to pass over Advent swiftly and move on to Christmas over the last 50 years or so. And I think this is for the good reason of meeting the community where they are so we can share the good news of the incarnation, God with us. For this reason I am not about to abandon all carol services before 17th December!

However, as much of a challenge it is in this busy time, let's not forget to pause to reflect on the return of Jesus to judge the 'quick and the dead' and usher in the 'renewal of all things'. It should move us to examine our hearts and our lives, to rekindle our hope, and to renew the ache of longing for the time when, at last, we will see Jesus, not through a glass dimly, but face to face.

Keep us, O Lord,  
While we wait on this earth,

In a serious seeking after you,  
And in an affectionate walking with you,  
Every day of our lives;  
That when you come, we may be found  
Not hiding our talent, nor serving the flesh,  
Nor yet asleep with our lamp unfurnished,  
But waiting and longing for our Lord,  
Our glorious God for ever. Amen.

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### **Collect for the First Sunday of Advent**

Almighty God,  
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness  
and to put on the armour of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life,  
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;  
that on the last day,  
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty  
to judge the living and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him 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**

#### **9.30am - Holy Communion at St Peter's**

*Readings: Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44*

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

*Reading: 2 Peter 3:1-15a, 17-18; Psalm 96:9-13*



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

**7pm - Advent Service of Light at St Leonard's** and live streamed on [this link](#)

### **NEXT WEEK**

#### **Monday 1st December**

**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 2nd December**

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

### **Wednesday 3rd December**

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

### **NEXT SUNDAY - 7th December**

9.30am - Holy Communion at St Peter's

10.30am - Morning Worship at St Leonard's

4pm - Christingle at St Leonard's

7pm - Revive at St Leonard's

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**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.

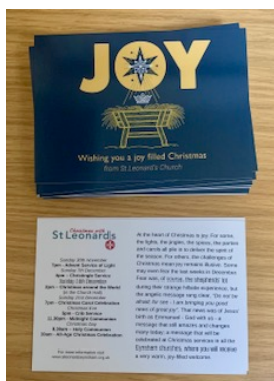
THIS WEEK	COMING UP
30.11.25: 10.30am Morning Worship 7pm Advent Carol Service	7.12.25: 10.30am Morning Worship 4pm Christingle 7pm <i>Revive!</i>
01.12.25: Cell Group @ Clover Place (4pm)	08.12.25: Cell Group @ Clover Place (4pm)
01.12.25: Cell Group @ Clover Place (7pm)	08.12.25: Cell Group @ Clover Place (7pm)
03.12.25: Cell Group @ The Bitterell (7pm)	10.12.25: Cell Group @ The Bitterell (7pm)

For more information please contact Laura: [youth.stleonards@gmail.com](mailto:youth.stleonards@gmail.com)

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**Advent Reflections** - We will be sending out daily reflections by email during Advent. Many of you are already signed up to receive them, but if you wish to join the mailing list please contact Margaret Thornton ([margaret@2cp.uk](mailto:margaret@2cp.uk)).

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## EYNSHAM CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas cards with details of Christmas services and events at St Leonard's are now ready to go out! You will find three boxes of cards in the church porch, which have been bundled into streets. Please pick up a bundle to deliver to your neighbours, or when you are out walking the dog, on your way to school or work etc.

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## 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.

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**Eynsham Choral Society concert, Saturday 6th December at 7.30pm in St Leonard's Church.** It will be a Christmas concert including Rheinberger 'The Star of Bethlehem' and music by Max Bruch and Judith Weir. The concert will finish with traditional carols including audience participation. Tickets available from Eynsham DIY.

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# *Christmas around the World*

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December,  
2 - 4.30 pm

St Leonard's Church Hall  
Thames St, Eynsham  
Witney OX29 4HF

*A free family-friendly event with crafts,  
quizzes and food celebrating the diversity of  
Eynsham. (Please bring some food from  
another country to share, if you feel able)*


Last year St Leonard's Church organised a 'Christmas around the World' event which was attended by around 60 people, many of whom had no church connection, but did have links with other countries. We are repeating the event this year, on Sunday December 14th, and we need your help!

- Do you have any children's books about Christmas that we could borrow?
- Would you like to take a 15 minute slot reading the above books to children in a 'quiet corner' in the hall?
- Do you have any photos of yourself celebrating Christmas in a different country, that we could use for a quiz? If so, please email it to josephinemurrell@gmail.com and tell me which country it was in!
- If you are available on the afternoon and would like to help in setting up or assisting with the event, we'd love to have you.
- Please pray for God to use the event to draw people closer to himself this Christmas.

Thank you! For more info or to offer help, please see Luda Repetska, Olha Nikulin, Jo Murrell, Sara Tindall or Ruth Webster.

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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*



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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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Eynsham Community Choir present

# SING WE ALL NOEL!



SONGS AND READINGS FOR THE SEASON

Saturday December 13th

7.30pm - 9.15pm

**St Leonard's Church, Eynsham**

Ticket price £10 / £5 for under 16s available from Evenlode DIY from 1st December (cash only) & on the door. Cheese & wine / juice included in the ticket. Supporting the Friends of St Leonard's & Eynsham Food Bank.



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Reply

[www.stleonardseynsham.org.uk](http://www.stleonardseynsham.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)*