

NEWSWIRE: 16th January 2026



- Services on Sunday
- Church Lunch - Sunday 25th January
- Ladies Curry Night - 29th January

A message from Margaret

Together is better

*Two are better than one,
because they have a good return for their labour:
if either of them falls down, one can help the other up.
But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.*

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

We live in a Western culture in which an individual's rights are considered paramount. I am constantly encouraged to think whatever I want to think, to believe whatever I choose is right, and to do whatever I please, regardless of others. That is not the way God designed us. It results in loneliness, selfishness, inequity and broken communities which don't work.

The Bible tells us we are made to be together. Genesis talks about the creation of woman, out of Adam's side to be a powerful helper. Two are better than one. God chose the Jewish nation – the descendants of Abraham - to show the world how a community living under God's laws could work. Sadly, it wasn't always successful – even God's people had an incredible capacity to mess up, but God loved them and never rejected them.

When Jesus came, the model for his disciples was not for us to be individuals responding on their own to God, but a community of disciples, the church: a holy nation, a royal priesthood, a body with many parts, living stones being built together. We continue to have the capacity to mess up but, with the help of God's Holy Spirit, we can build a loving community together.

As we start the new year, I want to commit myself to you all as my community. Yes, we are imperfect, yes, some of you will sometimes annoy or frustrate me (but probably not as much as I annoy and frustrate you!) but I want to be a stone that supports others, a hand that holds others' hands, I want to learn to rejoice when you rejoice and to weep when you weep.

Together is better – right?

Margaret Thornton

Collect for the second Sunday of Epiphany

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
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: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; Matthew 5:1-12



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

Readings: Romans 8:18-39

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

6.30pm - Shaped by the Word at St Leonard's (See below)

NEXT WEEK

Monday 19th January

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.

The funeral of the late Cecil Mark Pratley will be held at St Leonard's in Eynsham at 1.30pm on 19th January 2026

Tuesday 20th January

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

The funeral of the late Pat Evans will be held at St Peter's in Cassington at 1pm on 20th January 2026

Wednesday 21st January

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

NEXT SUNDAY

9am - Holy Communion at St Leonard's
10.30am - All age service at St Leonard's
5pm - Evening Prayer at St Peter's

Looking further ahead

Church Lunch on Sunday 25th January (see below)

Ladies Curry Evening at 7pm on Thursday 29th January (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 7-8.30pm (Year 9, 10)
Sunday Morning Youth runs on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month during our 10.30am service, up the bell tower.



THIS WEEK



COMING UP

18.01.26 - Morning Worship: Guest Speaker <i>Youth to stay in the service.</i>	■ 25.01.26 - All Age Service
19.01.26: Cell Group @ Clover Place (4pm)	■ 26.01.26: Cell Group @ Clover Place (4pm)
19.01.26: Cell Group @ Clover Place (7pm)	■ 26.01.26: Cell Group @ Clover Place (7pm)
21.01.26: Cell Group @ The Bitterell (7pm)	■ 28.01.26: Cell Group @ The Bitterell (7pm)

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



SHAPED BY THE WORD: Sunday 18th Jan, 6.30pm - 7.30pm
Every third Sunday of the month there is an opportunity to gather at St.Leonards for an evening of interactive bible study. We will be seeking to 'behold the glory of the Lord' in scripture and so be 'transformed into the same image of glory'. There will be opportunity to engage with the text in groups, hopefully in creative ways, and pose questions and comments, so that we might grow together in our understanding and amazement at the ways of God. For the January and February sessions we will be looking at the first few chapters of Genesis and growing our biblical imagination as we look again at these texts that form the bedrock foundation for the way Christians are to view life in this world.



Church Lunch - Sunday 25th January

We will be having a shared lunch after the 10.30am service at St Leonard's on Sunday 25th January. **Everyone is welcome.** Please either [sign up on Churchsuite](#) or contact me to let me know you are coming. As previously, we are looking for volunteers to bring contributions of soup, bread or cakes as well as helpers to help serve and clear up after the lunch. If you are able to help please sign up [here](#) or contact me to let me know.

Margaret Thornton





Have you started thinking about Easter break yet?

We'd love to see your 8-11-year-olds for our incredible [Total Adventure Holiday](#) at [Adventure Plus!](#) They will spend an amazing four-day week exploring 80 acres of space designed for incredible

fun and adventure! With a mix of outdoor and indoor activities, everything from climbing, archery, stand-up paddleboarding, biking, slacklining, fencing, and so much more! During downtime, the fun doesn't stop: enjoy 9-square, Octoball, Bouldering, and plenty of space to relax and connect with friends. And each evening, we'll wrap up the day with the TA Roadshow, packed with hilarious games and an inspiring speaker.

It's going to be an incredible, fun-filled week that they won't want to miss!

Will you join with Christians across the globe to pray for the Muslim world during their fast month of Ramadan?

Ramadan begins on 18 February 2026. Join with hundreds of thousands of believers around the world for this annual prayer event by using the 30 Days of Prayer booklet which is now available to order. The 2026 guide focuses on Muslim peoples from whom there are now radiant believers, sharing the good news of Jesus with their own or nearby Muslim people groups. They are co-labourers with God, and we are invited to co-labour with them, as we join with them in prayer.

Rosemary Foster will be ordering copies for any who may want one (Price £2.20 each). Please talk to her in church or email: derekrosemary@gmail.com

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)