

NEWSWIRE: 30th January 2026



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A message from Duncan

Things have come to a head and I've fallen out with New Year.

The promise of new opportunities, fresh motivation, and an inspiring vision for all that 2026 might offer has withered too often in the cold, dark of January evenings and a proclivity for winter poorliness. So I'm cancelling the next New Year!

In my defence, New Year in January is a Roman invention rather than a Christian one, as is also the strange custom of beginning the day at midnight. And in England, holding out longer than the rest of Europe, we have only observed this Roman anomaly until relatively recently (1752). Previously, New Year was March 25th, which makes more sense with the new life of Spring, and the celebration of new life in Mary's womb, nine months before Christmas. And mentioning Christmas, January 1st is also an interruption in our celebrations of the Epiphany of God in Christ. We've only just got started before the January New Year twists our arm into clearing out all the signs of Christmas into the recycling bin ready for a 'fresh new start'. Our Christian ancestors would have retained festive greenery in their homes until Candlemas on February 2nd which is why I've rebelliously kept the tree up this year (with just the lights).

This sounds like a bit of a moan (it is I hear you cry!), but really it is a note to self to let nothing distract me from the disciplined joyful celebration of the gospel despite dark nights and the latest bout of flu. For Jesus, the light of the world has come, to dispel the lingering shadows of night. So *"Arise, Shine, your light has come!"*

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry
In the dawning of the King
He the theme of heaven's praises
Robed in frail humanity
In our longing in our darkness
Now the light of life has come
Look to Christ who condescended
Took on flesh to ransom us

Matt Boswell | Matt Papa | Michael Bleecker © 2012 Getty Music Hymns and Songs; Getty Music Publishing; Love Your Enemies Publishing; Bleecker Publishing; McKinney Music, Inc. [Listen to the full track here](#)

Joy and peace to you all,
Duncan

Collect for the fourth Sunday of Epiphany

God our creator,
who in the beginning
commanded the light to shine out of darkness:
we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief,
shine into the hearts of all your people,
and reveal the knowledge of your glory
in the face of 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 Peter's

Readings: Isaiah 60.1-3,18-22; Luke 2: 22-38

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

Readings: Luke 2: 21-35; John 7: 14-17 ; John 8: 12-18



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 2nd February

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 3rd February

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

Wednesday 4th February

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

Thursday 5th February

Cassington Cafe from 10am at Cassington Village Hall

NEXT SUNDAY

9am - Holy Communion at St Leonard's

9.30am - Morning Worship at St Peter's

10.30am - Morning Worship at St Leonard's

Looking further ahead

The funeral of the late Mike Stephens will be held at **St Leonard's** in Eynsham at **midday** on Thursday 12th February 2026 followed by light refreshments in St Leonard's Church Hall. It would greatly help with organising refreshments, if you could confirm that you are attending. RSVP wendyrstephens@icloud.com by 6th February please.

LENT 26

Lent is just around the corner! It's a great opportunity to re-evaluate our lives in light of our faith in Jesus, and our resolve to follow him day by day. Over the next few weeks we will be highlighting a number of resources which some of us may find helpful during the season including a couple of book recommendations. This week Duncan introduces *'The Liturgy of the Ordinary: sacred practices in everyday life'*. [Click here to see the video.](#)

Prayer Spaces at St.Peter's

Bespace are coming again to provide prayer spaces for the children of St.Peter's School, Cassington on Monday 9th February and Tuesday 10th. It would be lovely to have a small team from either/both parishes to support this opportunity.

Please get in touch with Duncan (viarslp@gmail.com) if you are able to help for a day or part of a day.



Please pray for Paul and Jo Murrell, as they travel out to Nigeria together on Tuesday 3rd Feb, for an eleven-day work trip. Paul will be visiting translation programmes that are supported by Wycliffe. Jo will be meeting with the ten Wycliffe UK and Ireland members who currently work in Nigeria, and

strengthening the partnership between the Wycliffe People Team and the HR team in Nigeria. We would value your prayers for:

- wisdom in all the different meetings we have
- good health so as to make the most of the time we have there
- safety in our travels
- us to encourage all the colleagues we meet with.

Thank you! We look forward to telling you all about it when we get back.

Jo and Paul

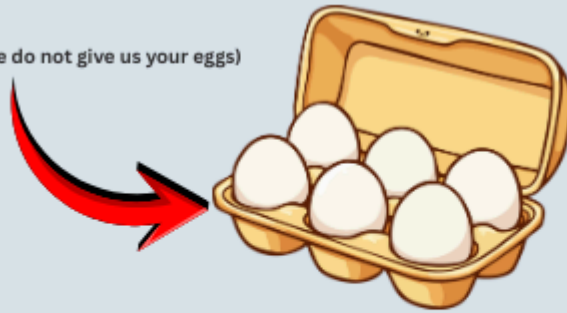
Diocese of Oxford Consultation - A process of discernment has started to appoint the **new Diocesan Bishop for Oxford**. Anyone living, working or worshipping in the diocese can contribute their views via [this link](#). On the same link, you can also download the questions to view in advance or discuss with a small group. Feed back from children and young people is particularly welcome.

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 do not give us your eggs)



WE WANT YOUR RUBBISH! (SORT OF!)

With Youth Weekend Away on the horizon, please would you consider sparing your clean rubbish for us?

We are looking for egg boxes, cardboard tubes & boxes, bubble wrap, milk cartons, chocolate biscuit boxes (let us know if you need help eating the biscuits first), that sort of thing!

As spotlessly clean as it can possibly be please!

Deposit in the Youth Office Mon-Thurs 9-3pm

Wycliffe Hall - New Renaissance Project Events

We're hosting a [series of events](#) this term as part of our New Renaissance Project, and we would love to invite your congregation. We would be especially keen to invite you to the event below:

Event details - God's Homecoming with NT Wright

Join us for the launch of Tom Wright's newest book, God's Homecoming , including a live taping of the 'Unbelievable' podcast with Premier

Date: **Monday 2nd March**

Time: **6:00-8:00pm**

Venue: **The Chapel at Wycliffe Hall**. 54 Banbury Road, OX2 6PW

All are welcome: the event is open to the public, but a paid ticket is required to attend. Books will be available to purchase on the night, and one can also be purchased as part of the ticket price.

Please book your ticket [here](#)

More information can be found at Book launch: [God's Homecoming | WYCLIFFE HALL](#)

HILARY TERM 2026

at Wycliffe Hall

NEW RENAISSANCE PROJECT

Wycliffe Showcase-
Grove Booklets

Leadership over
lunch

Film Showcase with
the Pitch Film Fund

*Reading Psalms with
the Scribes*
with John Screnock

Leadership over
lunch

God's Homecoming
with Tom Wright

*Science and Religion
in the Imagination
of CS Lewis*
with Alister McGrath

19th January
5.30pm - Lower
Common Room

2nd February

6th February
Phoenix Picturehouse

18th February
5.30pm - Lower
Common Room

23rd February

2nd March
6pm - the Chapel

12th March
6pm - the Chapel



BOOK YOUR TICKETS AT WWW.WYCLIFFE.OX.AC.UK/WHATSON



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!

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)