

NEWSWIRE: 6th February 2026



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A message from Ruth

'Be holy, as I am holy' is an instruction from God given in Leviticus and repeated in 1 Peter, to which my heart says yes, but which in reality is a long way from being as straightforward as my desire.

At this time of year, after what feels like weeks of cold rain and with only rain in the forecast, I have my own (less spiritual, but very heartfelt) instruction – 'Be Spring!'

Being in the midst of Winter and longing for Spring feels a bit like my journey towards holiness. As I yearn for warmer and sunnier days, so I long for holiness, to be transformed into Jesus' likeness.

However, the sad reality is that when I wake tomorrow, despite my longing, I am neither going to be holy, nor will it be Spring!

But, the waiting for Spring gives me hope for my spiritual journey. Through the long winter months, buds are growing and bulbs are pushing through the earth. Though Winter may appear only to offer cold darkness, in fact it is a time of essential growth, of renewal, of new life being created.

Spring does not arrive overnight, nor at the flick of a switch; it comes only as the work of Autumn and Winter is complete. It comes little by little as plants draw nutrients from the soil and the earth slowly rotates.

I therefore take heart, that as the bulbs make their slow but certain progress through the cold earth, so my faltering and slow steps towards holiness will also one day see their fruition. I just need to keep going and not lose heart...

Collect for the second Sunday before Lent

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things,
now and for ever.

SERVICES ON SUNDAY

9am - BCP Holy Communion at St Leonard's

Reading: John 15:12-17: Isaiah 41:8-10

9.30am - Morning Worship at Peter's

Reading: John 15:9-17

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

Readings: John 15:12-17: Isaiah 41:8-10



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

NEXT WEEK

Monday 9th 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.

BeSpace Prayer Spaces at St Peter's

Tuesday 10th February

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

BeSpace Prayer Spaces at St Peter's

Wednesday 11th February

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

Thursday 12th February

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.

NEXT SUNDAY

9.30am - Holy Communion at St Peter's
10.30am - Holy Communion at St Leonard's
6.30pm - Shaped by the Word at St Leonard's

Looking further ahead

Ash Wednesday - 18th February 2026

11am - Holy Communion at St Peter's
7pm - Holy Communion at St Leonard's

LENT 2026



This year's Lent resources from the Church of England have at their heart the theme of a 'rhythm of life' – habits and patterns which help us grow as disciples of Christ day by day, especially as we prepare to celebrate the great mystery of God's saving love at Easter.

Each week a different contributor



explores a different aspect of Christian discipleship – **worshipping** together, **praying**, **exploring the Bible**, sharing **communion**, offering **service** and **sharing the good news** with others.

There are various resources to help explore these themes as part of your own Lent journey, with those you live with, or with a friend or an informal group:

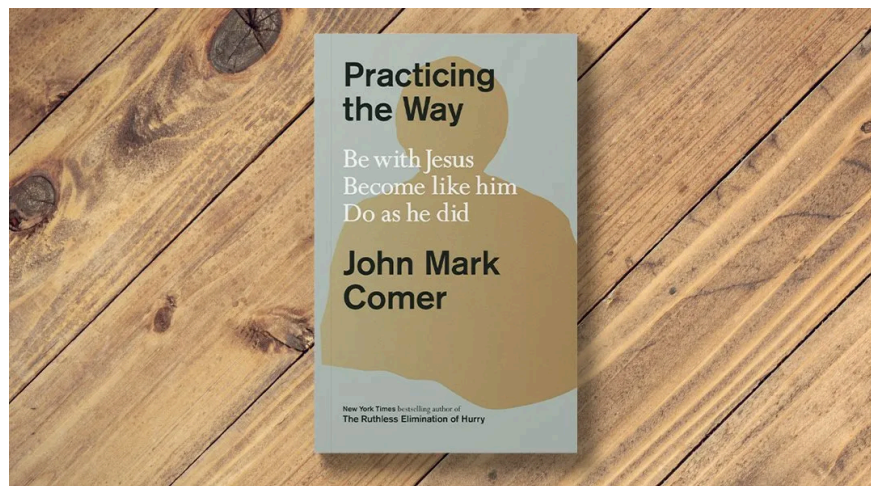


Daily Reflections: You will be able to sign up for daily emails or you can download the new Church of England devotional app [Everyday Faith](#). There is also a [printed booklet](#) and you will find copies in both churches. We can order them in, if you would like a copy. There will be a sign up sheet in St Leonard's on Sunday or just let the [office know](#) as soon as possible.

Resource for a group [can be found here](#). A very simple resource, with an accompanying video, to allow you to chat about the theme of the week with a friend or a small group. It is great to use alongside the daily devotions

[Daily Reflections for family](#) encourage a family to reflect on a bible verse along with something to put into practice each day. Speak to Rabea if you would like to see a copy.

Book Reviews for Lent



This year we will be recommending three books to help those who would like to read a book during Lent. This week Margaret recommends *Practicing the Way* by John Mark Comer. You can see her review [here](#).



In case you missed it, last week Duncan introduced '*The Liturgy of the Ordinary: sacred practices in everyday life*'. [Click here to see the video](#).

SHAPED by the WORD: Sunday 15th February, 6.30pm.

Last month we went back to the beginning to explore the creation of all things in Genesis chapter one. For those who want a reminder of what we covered or if you weren't around and would like to catch up [the notes are here](#).

We particularly looked at what we can learn from the literary structure which is a key part of understanding how the authors of the bible communicate.

This month we are going to move into chapter two as we examine 'The Geography of Eden'... and we will get to draw pictures! Hope to see you there.

Duncan



Please pray for Paul and Jo Murrell, who are now in Nigeria together for an eleven-day work trip. Paul is visiting translation programmes that are supported by Wycliffe. Jo is meeting 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
- 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

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

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)