

NEWSWIRE: 6th March 2026



- Services on Sunday
 - Lent Book Review - Gentle and Lowly
 - Mothering Sunday Flowers - help needed
 - The Easter Story - Brick by Brick
-

A message from Derek

“You have no room for My word” Jn.8:37

Harsh words! Amazing – John tells us Jesus is speaking to, *‘the Jews who had believed in Him’* (8:31). Jesus is saying: My word is not getting through to you; My word makes no headway among you! If My word had found room in your lives, you’d truly be learning from Me and following Me.

Now Jesus wasn’t saying something that was new to these believers. In Psalm 119:11 a verse they’d know by heart, reads: *‘I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you’*. Or, again, Psalm 119:105, *Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path*. Jesus’ listeners knew these verses by heart. But these verses were not *alive* in their hearts.

Jesus’ harsh words could also be taken as: ‘You have no room for My word – and no room for Me’ John records this sharp reproof as a warning to his readers through the ages and now, to us.

In our prayers we ask the Father that *‘Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven’*. As disciples we are not spectators to the Father’s will in action. No, we are ‘doers of His will’ – James 1:22, *‘But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.’*

God’s word needs to be firmly lodged in our hearts and minds, directing our daily living. Paul puts it like this: *‘Let the word of Christ dwell among you richly’* (Col.3:16). The words of Jesus are to live in us both personally and as a local group of believers. In this verse Paul goes on to explain just how we become Word-nurtured, contributing to each other’s faith.

On a personal level, just how do we each become word-nurtured? This week there will be copies of the St Leonard’s leaflet **‘How to read the Bible, a simple guide’** available. The leaflet contains a resource guide. We each have our own

way of digesting what we read and these resources offer a number of quite a range of helps.

Over this time of Lent we could challenge ourselves as to how we hear Jesus' rebuke: *You have no room for My word*. Is that true of me?

For these few weeks we could profitably pray the collect for the second Sunday of Advent:

*Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:
Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them,
that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with
you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

Collect for the Third Sunday of Lent

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
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

9am - Holy Communion at St Leonard's

Readings: Matthew 27:1–26; Romans 5:6–11

9.30am - Morning Prayer at St Peter's

Readings: Matthew 27:11–26; Romans 5:6–11

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

Readings: Matthew 27:1–26; Romans 5:6–11

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



NEXT WEEK

Monday 9th March

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 10th March

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

Wednesday 11th March

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

NEXT SUNDAY - MOTHERING SUNDAY

9.30am - Morning Worship at St Peter's

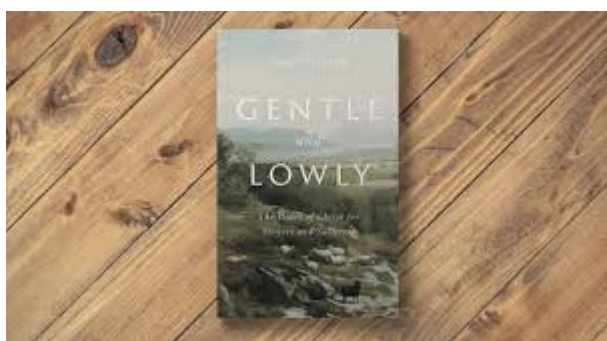
10.30am - Holy Communion at St Leonard's

6.30pm - Shaped by the Word at St Leonard's

Looking further ahead

The funeral of the late Audrey Rowland will be held at St Leonard's at midday on Thursday 19th March.

The funeral of the late Anthony Hollis will be held at St Leonard's at 2pm on Thursday 26th March.



Gentle and Lowly: The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers

This is the last [book review](#) for our Lenten recommendations. I realise it has taken a while to sit down with Derek to introduce the book and Lent is well underway. However, this book is good for any time of year and well worth a slow read. Our verse

for the year encourages us to behold Christ and this book does just that. We may be well versed on what Jesus has done for us, but who is he and what is he like? This book reflects on Jesus' only self-description of his character, "I am gentle and lowly in heart" and is written with a pastoral gentleness. If you need your heart warmed by a deeper understanding of Christ's heart for you - read this book.

An Afternoon of Orchestral Classics

Join us for a wonderful afternoon of live music on **Saturday 7th March**, as the Freeland Orchestra and the West Oxfordshire Clarinets team up for a joint concert at **St Leonard's Church**. Starting at **3:30 pm**, the program offers a perfect mix of symphonic masterpieces and unique ensemble works. Tickets: £7.50 (under 18s Free)

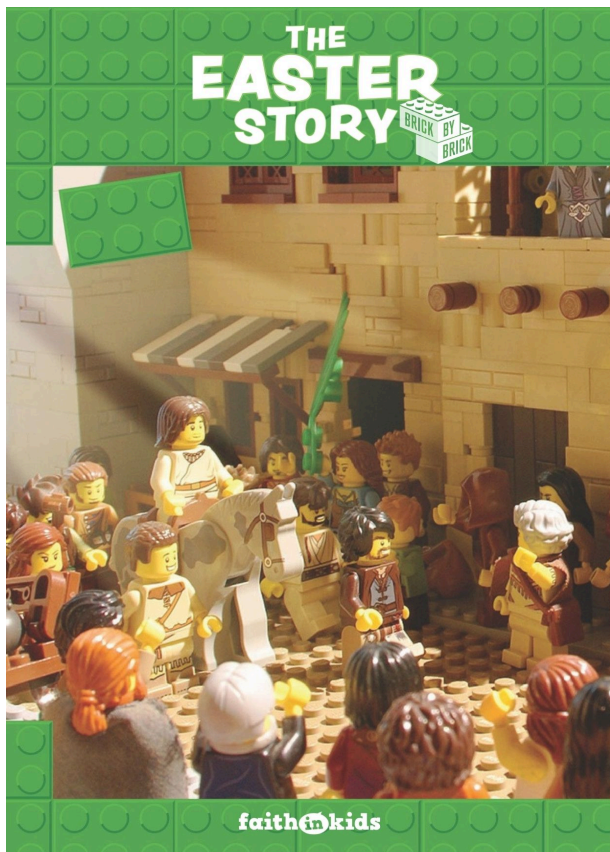
Mothering Sunday flowers - we need some men!

It has been our tradition on Mothering Sunday to honour all the women at our church, whether or not they are mothers, with a small posy of spring flowers. We also make enough posies for the women who are housebound and the new mums who bring their babies to Bump to One.

It would be lovely to find a few men to get involved in the buying and making of the posies on Saturday 14 March (exact time TBA).

Tasks required: buying some daffodils. making them into posies. Nathan Meango did this competently at age 8 last year so not being able to do is not an excuse!

All instructions will be supplied. Please let [Margaret Thornton](#) know if you can help.



The Easter Story - Brick by Brick

We are planning a special morning to invite families from the village to explore the Easter story. This year it will all be themed around Lego - there will be 15kg of Lego and lots of building fun for the families.

The activity will run on **Maundy Thursday (2nd April)** between **10am and noon** (most probably in the church hall).

Would you like to join in and help? There's help needed for setting up/clearing away, refreshments & food and of course helping out at the Lego stations.

Please get in touch with Rabea if you are able to help (slpfamilies@gmail.com).

Flyers to invite families will be available in the churches soon.

Does anyone have **old jeans** they want to discard? If you have - could you donate to June Middleton who is involved with a project to create new clothes from old.



Thank you for praying for Paul and Jo Murrell's work with **Wycliffe Bible Translators**. They came back from a successful trip to Nigeria in mid-February, and now Paul is mid-way through a three-week workshop in the Central African Republic. The main focus of his time is to work on tone with the Yaka team, whose community lives in the far south of the country, deep in the rainforest.

Paul writes, "The Yaka translators are fun to work with, and use the written form of their language with confidence and consistency. I would estimate that they make fewer than 1% mistakes when they are writing or transcribing, which is impressive! The main value of our time together is that making discoveries *together* helps give the team confidence and encourages them as to how capable they really are. As the youngest member of the team, Benjamin, commented on Friday, "I know how to speak my language. I know when to raise the pitch of my voice or lower it. But I didn't know there was a system behind it; I wasn't able to express how it works."

Alongside this work, I've been fielding questions from other teams, and helping the Mpyemo team prepare for the dedication of the New Testament.

Prayer points:

- that I am able to continue building confidence in the Yaka team's ability, which I think is probably quite low. It doesn't need to be!
- that we are able to get really good data about the different verbal forms used naturally in the language. It's very rich in this area which means they can express a whole range of fun and interesting things within the verb itself, but this needs documenting well so that the nuances are clearly understood for future translation checking.

St Peter's APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) is being held on Sunday 26 April 2026. In order to vote on any issues at the APCM you need to be included on the Church Electoral Roll. If you are not already included on

the Church Electoral Roll and would like to be, please collect an application form available in the church and return to Jan Macdonald (Church Warden and PCC secretary).

There will also be vacancies to serve as PCC members. If you are interested in this role, please contact Duncan Fraser or any current member of the PCC for more information.

An appeal from Graham Griffiths - Eynsham Neighbourhood Car Scheme has, for many years, provided lifts to medical appointments for village residents who are unable to drive, or can't walk to a bus stop. The volunteer drivers are getting a little older these days, and we would love to recruit some younger people, to keep the scheme going when the older ones retire.

How it works:

A coordinator receives requests from clients by phone, and emails anonymised details to around 20 volunteer drivers, asking who could do that journey. The drivers choose how often to do a journey: it could be as many as one or two a week, or as little as one a month, or less.

I've been driving as a volunteer for something like 15 years, and have enjoyed it hugely. You meet some lovely people, and the service we give is a lifeline to them. We park free at the Oxford University Hospital sites, can apply for free passage through Oxford's congestion zones, and are reimbursed at a rate which covers our fuel and maintenance expenses. Most insurance companies don't increase premiums for such voluntary work.

If you enjoy driving, like helping others, and could contribute to keeping this wonderful service going, please leave a message for the coordinator on 07469 764 174. Thank you.

Keswick Convention 2026

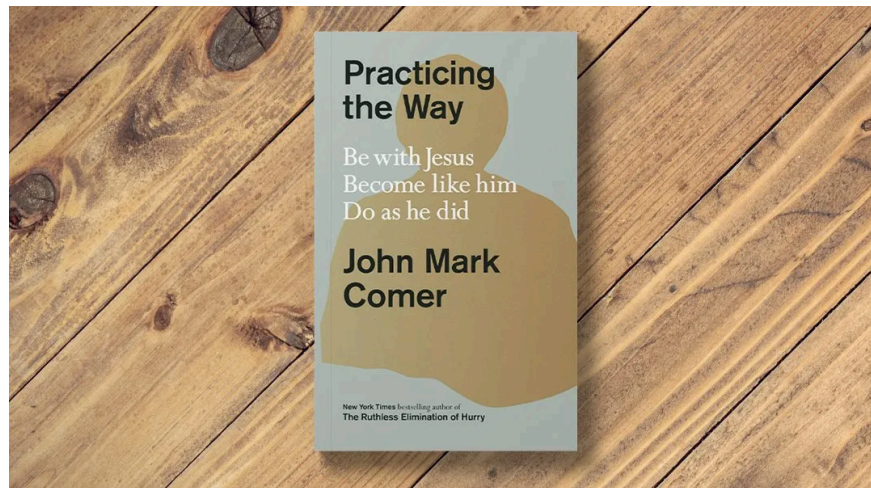
Have you ever thought about having a week's holiday in the Lake district with some excellent teaching worship and spiritual refreshment ?

Just plan and book your accommodation, camping, holiday cottage or Airbnb in the Keswick area. We generally attend the convention in the mornings and some evenings or you can dip in little as much as you want.

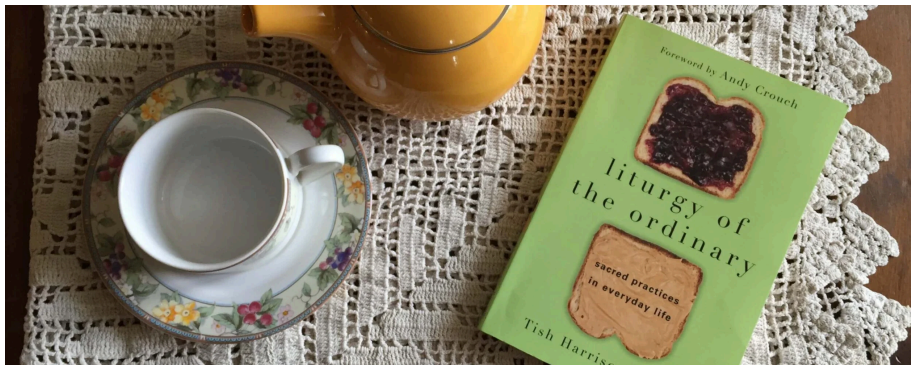
There is a group of us planning to attend week 2. 25th July - 1st August 2026. If you are interested in joining us or want any further information please contact us or find the cards at the back of St Leonard's church.

Sue Greenwood, Suzanne Cook, Ruth Webster and Jo Murrell.

Book Reviews for Lent



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



Duncan introduces 'The Liturgy of the Ordinary: sacred practices in everyday life'. [Click here to see the video.](#)

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.

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)