

NEWSWIRE: 13th March 2026



- Services on Sunday
 - Mothering Sunday posy making - help needed tomorrow
 - Shaped by the Word
 - The Easter Story - Brick by Brick
-

A message from Duncan

Jesus replied, "I tell you the solemn truth, unless a person is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3.3

Lent is a penitential season in which we meditate on subjects we might usually avoid: our mortality and our sin. Throughout Lent, however, there are many opportunities to rejoice. Firstly, Lenten fasts are always broken on Sundays, as every Sunday is a memorial to the Resurrection. Added to this, on the fourth Sunday we get to celebrate Mothering Sunday.

Now Mothering Sunday promotes mixed feelings. There is sadness for some for all sorts of different reasons, and so we hold one another in prayer and with grace. But I would love to encourage us all that there are plenty of reasons for every one of us to be glad on this day. For one, the daffodils are well and truly out and that is simply joyous! Secondly, each of us have been born of a mother and it is truly good to be alive, even as we shoulder suffering, disappointment, pain and much more. It's still good to be given the chance to be alive.

But first and foremost, Mothering Sunday is about the verse above. In some versions it is translated with the slightly more familiar "born again". It could go either way, possibly weighted towards "*from above*" as it is in the rest of the gospel. I'm no Greek expert, but I certainly prefer the latter, because it describes my Christian origins in relational terms. My spiritual aliveness didn't just randomly materialise, but was birthed by God, as a mother gives birth to her baby. And that is a precious and comforting thought.

It is because of this truth that original Mothering Sunday traditions included a visit to the church in which you were baptised. In other words: "this is where God gave birth to me from above - let's celebrate!". We give God a gift of praise as the one who gave us birth into the life of his Kingdom. And just like Christmas,

this spills over into giving cards, gifts and best wishes, in this case, to our mothers and spiritual mothers.

And to all the above, we say, *'Thank you, thank you, thank you!'*

Grace and peace to you all,

Duncan

Collect for Mothering Sunday

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:
strengthen us in our daily living
that in joy and in sorrow
we may know the power of your presence
to bind together and to heal;
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 - Mothering Sunday Service at St Peter's

Reading: 2 Timothy 1:1-7

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

Readings: John 10: 25-30, Romans 8:31-39



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 16th 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 17th March

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

Wednesday 18th March

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

Thursday 19th March

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

NEXT SUNDAY - 22nd March

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

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

Craft and Chat Saturday 14th March 14:00 to 16:00 22 Falstaff Close. Contact Jennifer Clarke for details. Bring your latest project and come for conversation and laughter.

Mothering Sunday Posies - We will be making posies for Mothering Sunday tomorrow morning (Saturday 14th March) at 11am in St Leonard's church. **Volunteers still needed.** No expertise required! For more information contact Margaret Thornton (margaret@2cp.uk)



Session 3: Genesis 3 - This Sunday, 6.30-7.30pm.

St Leonards Church

Come and join us as we continue our exploration of Genesis 1-3. These are foundational chapters for the whole of the story of the bible - and thus, if you believe God's word, the whole of human life on this planet. These sessions are not about working out who's right and who's wrong in the big debates these chapters sometimes generate, it is about learning to read the Bible so we can grow in wisdom and practice that wisdom in our lives. There is always an opportunity to engage with one another, disagree with the vicar(!) and discover something you

never realised before about these world shaping ancient words. Come and be amazed! *Duncan*

Here are the notes from the first two sessions (with pictures!).

[Shaped by the Word 1: Genesis 1 notes](#)

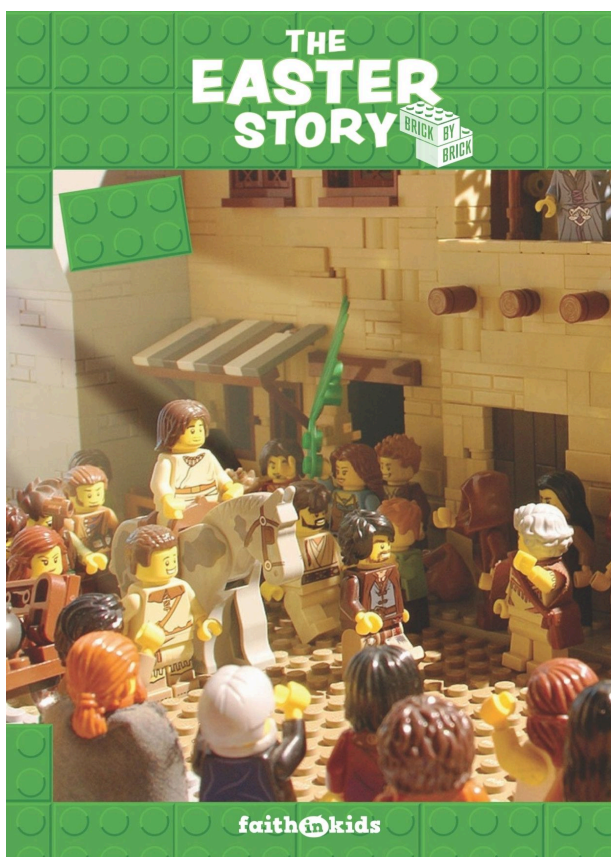
[Shaped by the Word 2: Genesis 2 notes](#)



Shared Church Lunch

There will be a shared church lunch in the church hall after the morning service at St Leonard's this Sunday (22 March). Everyone is welcome. If you are planning to come please sign up [here](#) to help with organising catering.

We will be having baked potatoes, cheese, beans, chilli and salad followed by desert. If you are able to bring chilli, salad, fruit or desert, or if you are willing to either help set up or clear up, please either sign up on [this link](#) or contact Margaret Thornton (margaret@2cp.uk)



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 coming to the end of 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.

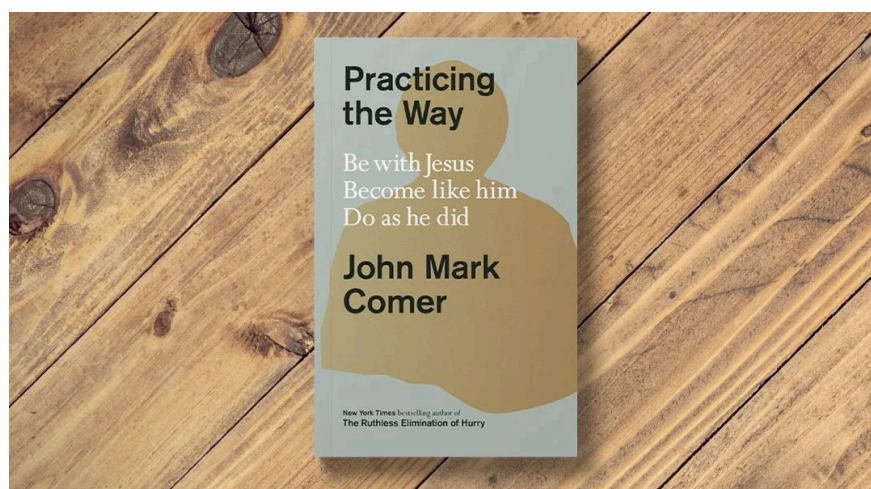
How it works:

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.

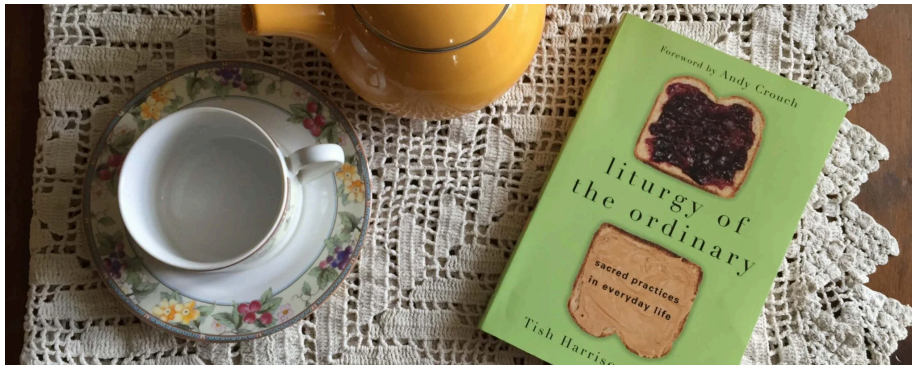
I've been driving as a volunteer for something like 15 years, and have enjoyed it hugely. You meet some lovely people, and the service we give is a lifeline to them. We park free at the Oxford University Hospital sites, can apply for free passage through Oxford's congestion zones, and are reimbursed 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.

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.](#)



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

This is the last [book review](#) for our Lenten recommendations. 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.

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.stleonardseysham.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)