

NEWSWIRE: 20th March 2026



- Services on Sunday
 - Easter and Holy Week services
 - The Easter Story - Brick by Brick
 - 24-7 Prayer - Global Call to Pray for Peace
-

A message from John

“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting for forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.” Matthew 4: 1 – 2



Judean desert - September 1985

Recently I have been listening to Robert Alter's translation of the book of Numbers, and have learned that in the Hebrew Bible this book is called "In the Wilderness" (once translated into English).

In the passage above Matthew tells us that no sooner has Jesus been baptized and has received the blessing of his Father than he is led "in(to) the wilderness" to be tested. At school after a teacher has taught a topic to their students, the teacher then tests the students.

When Jesus spends 40 days in the wilderness, is he going to go God's way and bring in the Kingdom in God's way? Or is he going to try and bring in the Kingdom in the world's way?

As Jesus is tested for 40 days in the wilderness it is as if he is going through the story of the Israelites who spent 40 years in the wilderness. Whereas the people of Israel complained against God and rebelled, Jesus is bringing about the restoration of the people of God. Jesus succeeds where Israel failed. Whereas the children of Israel wanted to trust their own ways of doing things, Jesus utterly trusts his Father.

As we go on in our life of Christian faith, we are tested again and again. It is precisely because we are putting our trust in God that we are tested again and again. This is hard going, but we need to take Jesus as our model and follow Him whatever it costs and wherever He leads.

Collect for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
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

Reading: Psalm 22.22-31; Luke 23.32-49

10.30am - All age service at St Leonard's and live
streamed on [this link](#)



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

5pm - Evening Prayer at St Peter's

Readings: Isaiah 53:1-6; 1 Corinthians 1:18-30

NEXT WEEK

Monday 23rd 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.

Wednesday 25th March

Warm Welcome Wednesday from **10.30am** to **midday** in **St Leonard's Church**
WWW will be taking a break for Easter and will return on 15th April.

Thursday 26th March

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

NEXT SUNDAY - 29th March

10.30am - Palm Sunday Benefice Holy Communion at St Leonard's
7pm - Revive at St Leonard's

Looking further ahead

Maundy Thursday 2nd April - The Easter Story Brick by Brick at **10am** in **St Leonard's Church** (see below)

Annual Church Meetings

St Peter's - 26th April at 4pm followed by evening prayer

St Leonard's - 3rd May following the morning service which will be held at 10am



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)

St Leonard's Electoral Roll - Every parish holds an electoral roll, which is the Anglican way of recording church membership. We will soon be updating St Leonard's Electoral Roll in preparation for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Sunday 3rd May. If you wish to join the electoral roll you can do so [on this link](#) or by completing a form (available in the back of church).



StLeonard's & StPeter's
BENEFACTORS OF EYNHAM & CASSINGTON



EASTERHOPE

MAUNDY THURSDAY 2ND APRIL

10am: The Easter Story Brick by Brick for children & families

7.30pm: Tenebrae Service

Both at StLeonard's

GOOD FRIDAY 3RD APRIL

10am: Service in Eynsham Square

2pm: Hour at the Cross

at StPeter's & StLeonard's

EASTER SUNDAY 5TH APRIL

9.30am: Easter Communion

at StPeter's

10.30am: Family Holy Communion

at StLeonard's

Lego Easter Event for Families

THE EASTER STORY



Thursday 2nd April
10am - noon

St Leonard's Church

Join us for a fun morning exploring the Easter story through brick-building. Stay for refreshments, hot cross buns and sausage rolls.



faith@kids

Sign up here:



The Easter Story - Brick by Brick

We are holding a special morning to invite families from the villages 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** in St Leonard's church.

Flyers to invite families are available in the churches, please take one to pass on to friends and neighbours. Contact [Rabea](#) for more information

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.

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.

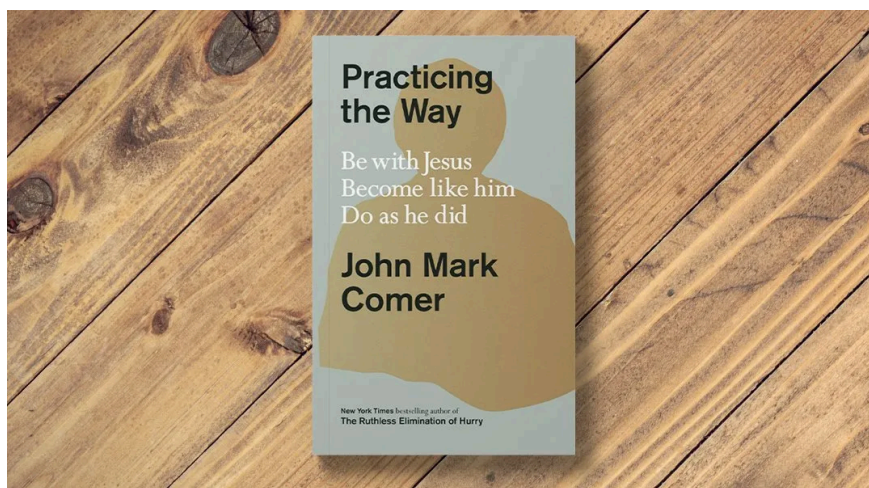
How it works:

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.

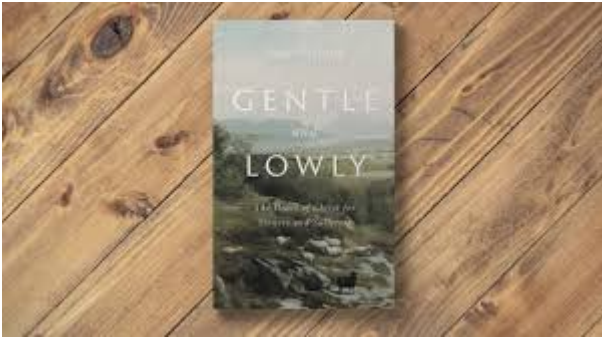
Book Reviews for Lent



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.

24-7 PRAYER

A Prayer for the Global Call to Pray for Peace

At this time of global uncertainty and instability, in which we bear witness to many wars and conflicts, including the war in Ukraine, Sudan and many other places alongside the unfolding chaos and mayhem that is rapidly spreading through the war in the Middle East - we pray:

Lord Jesus, we dare to believe that you are still the Prince of Peace. Faced with the horror of war, we are confident that you still reign and are in control. You are the only answer to the turmoil of the nations.

Forgive those of us who have lived in comfort and not turned our ears to the cries of the suffering.

Your people are suffering globally; when one of us suffers, we all suffer, and in the midst of this suffering we cry out to you, our great Hope and great Peace. We pray, come Lord Jesus, come and reign in peace at this time.

We pray for your protection and your security to prevail and that death and destruction would end.

We pray for those who want to escalate violence, that your Holy Spirit would move them to de-escalate; for those who seek to kill, steal and destroy, that they would be inspired to seek peace and adopt a posture of love.

Lord, we pray that in nations where conflict abounds you would raise up righteous leadership; leaders who care for all the people they serve and who are willing to pursue peace over power.

Lord, we pray that you would meet with our brothers and sisters in these conflict-ridden zones; filling them with your peace, comforting them with your presence, giving them strength and compassion to be Christlike within the storms of war.

Lord, your kingdom coming on earth as it is in heaven is what we yearn for; we pray that at this time, in this hour, your Kingdom would come. That guns would be laid down, that weapons would be turned away, and that your love would reign supreme in a world so quickly moving towards hatred.

Lord Jesus, we dare to believe that you are the Prince of Peace. Lord have mercy, bring peace to our world, and be glorified throughout the globe. In the name of the Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit, Amen.

Please pray for:

- Dave following his move to a care home.
- Ben and healing for his mental health.
- 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)