

NEWSWIRE: 1st May 2026



- Services on Sunday
 - St Leonard's Annual Meeting
 - Holiday Club - help needed!
-

A message from Duncan

Today is May Day. The celebrations of May Day have an uncomfortable history in the life of the church. There were likely some pre-Christian spring celebrations in these Isles then In the Medieval period May festivities were adopted to celebrate Mary, the mother of Christ; May celebrations were then banned during Oliver Cromwell's Commonwealth, reintroduced during the Restoration, and also revived significantly in the Victorian era.

The discomfort for some are the pagan origins and overtones, although defining an accurate history of these origins can be quite complex (not everything we read on the internet is true!) But the key celebrations in view: the beginning of summer, new life returning to the land and the prospect of produce, harvest and shared community joy for the months to come are good gifts from God. As James says (1.17): *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.* And the Apostle Paul draws the attention of pagan worshippers in Lystra to the goodness they received through creation: *In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.*" Acts 14.16-17. They had half the story right by enjoying the gifts. Paul then exhorted them to transfer their allegiance to the actual gift-giver, *"the living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them."*

So let us pray that many, through enjoying the gift of creation life this bank holiday weekend, might behold the Gift-Giver - the living God who made it all - and join with us in the eternal chorus of praise.

Grace and peace to you all,

Duncan

Collect for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen 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 St Peter's

Readings: Ephesians 2.11-23; Matthew 16.13-20

10am - Morning Worship at St Leonard's and live
streamed on [this link](#)

Readings: Ephesians 2.11-22; John 13:1-17



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

NEXT WEEK

Monday 4th May

No Bump to One and Walkie Talkies this Monday due to the Bank Holiday

Tuesday 5th May

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

Wednesday 6th May

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

A memorial service for the late Enid Anderson will be held at St Leonard's church at 2pm on Wednesday 6th May.

Thursday 7th May

Cassington cafe will not be meeting on 7th May due to the election. The next cafe will be on Thursday 14th May.

NEXT SUNDAY 10th May

9am - Holy Communion at St Leonard's

9.30am - Morning Prayer at St Peter's

10.30am - Morning Worship at St Leonard's

Looking further ahead

The funeral of the late Alec Harris will be held at St Leonard's church at 2pm on Monday 11th May.

St Leonard's APCM - The annual meetings at St Leonard's will be held after the 10am service on **Sunday 3rd May**. Follow the links to see the [2025 Accounts](#), [Annual Report](#), [Agenda](#) and [Minutes of the last APCM](#). There are a small number of printed copies in church, but it would help if you could access the documents electronically during the meeting.

There are a number of vacancies for members of the [Parochial Church Council](#) and Deanery Synod representatives. Should you be interested in serving on either, please speak to Duncan or any member of the PCC.

St Leonard's PCC priorities for 2026.

The PCC have developed initial ideas for various projects to pursue in 2026 which you will find on [this link](#). Printed leaflets are also available in the church.

Gatehouse Sunday - 10th May

Our next Gatehouse Sunday is 10th May. If anyone is able to make donations of sandwiches or cakes please get in touch with Jennifer Clarke jenniferclarke362@gmail.com

Safeguarding at St Leonard's

St Leonard's strives to be a welcoming environment for all ages. Children are especially welcome! We would like to kindly remind all parents and carers that

they remain responsible for their children's safety and wellbeing while in the church, both during and after the service.

If you notice a situation involving a child that may require parental guidance, we encourage you to **alert the parents directly** so they can manage the situation. Thank you for helping us keep our community safe and supportive for everyone.

Sue Greenwood.
Parish Safeguarding Officer.

SCHOOL YEARS 1-6

SHIPWRECKED

21ST-24TH JULY
(LEADERS PREP DAY 20TH)

We Need You!
(Yes, you!)

We are looking for enthusiastic leaders to Join the *Shipwrecked* Crew for a fun-filled Holiday Club, jam-packed with songs, craft, games, refreshments, and exploring the book of Jonah from the Bible!

There is a role for everyone, whether big or small! From Drama, to Craft, from Refreshments to Registration - ***We Need You!***

And if all of that sounds a bit out of reach for you, we need your prayers! Please pray that we will have a good, safe time at our Holiday Club, and that the children who come will clearly hear the message of Jesus!

If you would like to get involved, please speak to Laura, Rabea or any of the Team in church - or get in touch by email:
youth.stleonards@gmail.com

Keep your eyes peeled for more information!

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH HOLIDAY CLUB

Shaped by the Word: Is there a biblical basis for Creation Care?

Following our explorations of Genesis 1-3, and in view of the recent adoption of an Environmental Policy by St.Leonard's PCC, we will be exploring scripture to see if caring for creation should be a priority for a New Testament Christian in the 21st Century. After all, isn't the New Testament largely silent on the matter and isn't God just going to start again with New Creation one day? So why bother?!

I will be leading **two informal bible study sessions on Sundays May 17th and June 21st at 6:30pm in St.Leonard's**. This is a new topic of study for me so

bring your own thoughts, mediations, questions, and expertise and together we'll sit under the word together to try to see these things from God's perspective.

Duncan

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.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)