

NEWSWIRE: 15th May 2026



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A message from Margaret

MADE FOR COMMUNITY

*Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves.
Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practise hospitality
Romans 12;10,13*

We're in the middle of a series of sermons on community which I'm really loving. It's a great reminder that our community, the Kingdom of God, is - or should be - radically different from secular life. We live in a society where many people value their individual space above a shared community with others. And, to be fair, it's not always easy to love other people who can sometimes be very annoying! However, we are called by Jesus to love each other unconditionally and to live as His radical community – building each other up and encouraging each other. It is counterintuitive but it's the way of Jesus.

So how can we practically build better community in our lives? Maybe it's something you have lots of experience of, in which case, what can you encourage others to join in with? Or, maybe, it's not something you have much experience of, and you are not sure where to start. There are so many ways to build community, but it's often easier to begin with small simple actions with one or two others.

Why not ask yourselves:

1. What resources do I have – time, energy, skills etc?
2. Who could I team up with to do something together?
3. What's a simple one-off way of helping people as a quick win to start with

You might think that, if it's all about giving, you will quickly exhaust your time and energy but, surprisingly, sometimes what we receive back in friendship and love

exceeds our expectations. And, even if others forget to be grateful, we know that God loves what we do and strengthens us for the task.

So, whether you are a listening ear, a helping hand, a provider of meals, a driver to help with transport or someone who will tackle the brambles in the churchyard, be confident that each action you take, however small, will build God's Kingdom here on earth.

Margaret Thornton

Collect for the Seventh Sunday of Easter

O God the King of glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us
and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before,
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: Leviticus 9.22-24; Luke 24.44-53

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

Readings: Leviticus 9.22-24; Luke 24.44-53

Click [here](#) for the Service Sheet

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

NEXT WEEK

Monday 18th May

8am - Morning Prayer at St Leonard's

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 19th May

8am - Morning Prayer at St Peter's

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

Wednesday 20th May

8am - Morning Prayer at St Leonard's

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

Thursday 21st May

8am - Morning Prayer at St Leonard's

NEXT SUNDAY 24th May

9am - Holy Communion at St Leonard's

10.30am - All age at St Leonard's

5pm - Evening Prayer at St Peter's



At Jesus' Ascension into heaven Jesus instructed his followers to wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit, that they might be witnesses of Jesus, the Messiah, in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth. The days between Ascension Thursday and Pentecost Sunday each year has become a period of prayer, focussing

particularly on the mission of the Church. There are a few things you might wish to join in with prayer this coming week:

1. There is booklet of **daily readings and reflections** from Archbishop Sarah. You can download ['Novena' pdf here](#).
2. There is **Morning Prayer** at 8am on Monday to Thursday next week. (*Mon, Wed, Thurs at St Ls, Tues at St Ps*)
3. **PRAY for 5** friends, family members or colleagues to encounter the lifetransforming love of Christ. If something tangible helps you, cut a piece of string, or cord and tie 5 knots as a reminder to pray for your 5. [See here](#) for some ideas of how you might pray for your 5.

And as we pray we will be joining in with the church across the globe, praying 'Thy Kingdom come'.

Church picnic

On Sunday 24th May there will be an opportunity to bring a picnic and share some time together with others from our St Leonard's church community after the morning service. All are welcome.

Please bring your own food and drink and something to sit on. If it is wet (Surely not on a bank holiday weekend?!) it will go ahead inside the church.



St Leonard's Creation Care

St Leonard's now has a small group to help put the New [Environmental Policy](#) into effect. One of our aims is to keep the congregation informed so there will be regular updates in Newswire that will cover events, issues and suggestions about the part we can play in caring for God's creation.

And here is the first!

St Mary's Magdalene Woodstock has gained the Silver [A Rocha](#) award for Creation Care and is having an [open day in the company of its Eco Church group](#) to look at what it has been doing to make its churchyard wildlife friendly. This is on **Saturday 23rd May at 10.30**. If you would like to join a few of us who will be going, please speak to Margaret Johnson or Sally Owen or email us (madevereux@hotmail.com or just4sally@gmail.com)

Volunteers Needed for Walkie Talkies

This is your chance to make a real difference for families with young children in the village and show them God's love in a very practical way: With a warm welcome, a safe place to play and build friendships, a hot cup of tea and a listening ear.

Even if you think you're not very good with toddlers, you can still get involved: we need help in the kitchen to prepare refreshments and snacks for the children.

All you need is to be available on Monday mornings between 9.30 and 11.30 am.

If you'd like to get involved or find out more, please speak to Rabea or someone from the Walkie Talkies team.

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.

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, meditations, questions, and expertise and together we'll sit under the word together to try to see these things from God's perspective.

Duncan



My grand-daughter, Ealish, (aka Ash), is also taking part in the **A+ Witney to Westminster canoe marathon**, and hoping to raise as much as she can for the charity. A+ is dear to her heart and has been a second home to her for many years, and I would like to help her achieve her target with your help. Please use [the link](#) to give what you can. Many thanks, *Janet Haskett*.

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!



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)