



NEWSWIRE: 7th August 2026



- Services on Sunday
 - Aunt Sally at the Red Lion on Sunday
 - Ride and Stride - 12th September
 - Open Doors update
-

A message from Margaret

Anti-aging cream anyone?

Have you ever wondered why some people manage to age into gentle, kind-hearted folk with twinkling eyes, whilst others of us just become grumpy old men (and women)? We live in a culture where a multi-million industry sells myriad creams, potions and treatments all promising to keep you looking young. And yet, there is remarkably little advice about what we should do with the real us inside.

Roald Dahl wrote in 'The Twits'

"A person who has good thoughts cannot ever be ugly. You can have a wonky nose and a crooked mouth and a double chin and stick-out teeth, but if you have good thoughts they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely."

That seems good advice – none of us can change what we look like, and as we age we will all lose some of the beauty of youth, but what is inside us can still shine out to those around us. Actually, the bible says something very similar:

Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewellery, or the clothing you wear—⁴ but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. 1 Peter 3: 3-4

So, my advice if you want to be attractive? Worry less about what you look like, and the wrinkles and grey hairs which arrive as we age, and spend more time leaning in to be more like Jesus, to spend time listening to Him and put your

effort into following him. Unlike anti-aging products, it's absolutely guaranteed to make you look even lovelier!

Margaret Thornton

Collect for the Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Let your merciful ears, O Lord,
be open to the prayers of your humble servants;
and that they may obtain their petitions
make them to ask such things as shall please you;
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: Psalm 130; Matthew 18:21-35

9.30am - Morning Prayer at St Peter's

Readings: Matthew 20:1-16; Matthew 18:21-35

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

Reading: Matthew 18:21-34; Psalm 103: 10-13

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.



NEXT WEEK

Monday 10th August

Bump to One meet from 10.30am to midday in St Leonard's church

NEXT SUNDAY 16th August

9.30am - Holy Communion at St Peter's

10.30am - Holy Communion at St Leonard's

Looking further ahead

The funeral of the late **Kathy Tombs** will be held at **St Leonard's church** at midday on **26th August 2026**.

It is with sadness that we let you know that **Christine Edwards** died on 4th August at Kings Court Care Home in Swindon (where she has been living for the past 3 years). Christine's funeral will be held at St Leonard's at 2pm on 15th September. Please pray for Christine's family and friends at this sad and difficult time.



The annual **Ride and Stride for Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust (OHCT)** will take place on **Saturday 12th September**. Ride and Stride raises funds to support the repair, maintenance and improvement of historic churches across the county. Click [here](#) for more information about taking part, including suggested walking and cycling routes.



A message from Henrietta Blyth at Open Doors

Thank you so much for inviting me to come and give an update for Open Doors at St Leonard's. It was a joy to be with you all! And I was so encouraged by the way people engaged with me and signed our petition for the Arise Africa campaign. Thank you so much for all you as a congregation do to strengthen our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world.

There were two questions people asked me. One was about the details of the petition, which can be found on our website here: [Arise Africa petition](#) The other question was about our privacy policy. There is a lot more detail here: <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/about/privacy-policy/>

We would like to properly organise the **library and welcome area at St Leonard's**, but to do so we need to purchase some new shelves. If you are able to make a contribution towards the cost, please speak to Mike Sinfield. Many thanks.

The Lions need to go hungry this year!!!

It's too long since we have had a win.

It's **The Christians vs the Lions Aunt Sally**.

The Church vs the Red Lion Cassington.

We've done it before and we can do again.

"It's coming home, it's coming home.

The Doll is coming home!" (repeat ad nauseam)

Just turn up at the **Red Lion, garden Cassington**.

Sunday 9th August 2.00pm onwards.

Roger Aston



Creation Care – the Climate Crisis:

How have you been surviving the unprecedented heatwaves this summer?

What has been your reaction to the devastating wildfires in France and Spain?

There is much evidence produced by the IPCC* that the pace of climate

change is accelerating around the world causing more intense heat waves, more extreme storms and fiercer droughts causing food insecurity.

If we are concerned to protect the planet that God has created for us, including for future generations, particularly where lives and livelihoods are more affected in poorer countries, what should we be doing about it?

- Pray to God, lamenting our failure to be good stewards of the planet, asking for mercy and for God to come to our aid, and asking for more action by governments and individuals; and at the same time trusting in God's loving care to always be there for us.
- Prayerfully consider our own carbon footprint and how we can reduce our emissions in our daily lives – and take action on this! We'll be putting suggestions in Newswire and on the Noticeboard in the coming months.

Meanwhile, have a look at the United Nations [Actions for a healthy planet](#) about 'how we can protect our environment and slow climate change'. And/or register with [CreationCare.org.uk](#) to work towards a household award (similar to the A Rocha Church Awards but for households)

- Sign up to [VoteClimate.uk](#) and sign their petition to let the government know you want them to tackle the climate emergency.

* [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (a UN body)

Jenny Griffiths & Sally Owen

Please pray for:

- For Marcella recovering from surgery.
- For Helen and Mike and their family. Helen is in a mother and baby unit with their son Nathan in Birmingham with postpartum psychosis
- Dave following his move to Oaken Holt 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

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Revd Duncan Fraser: 07810 324088 (Day off – Friday)