

NEWSWIRE: 14th August 2026



- Services on Sunday
 - BBQ lunch on Sunday 23rd August
 - Ride and Stride - 12th September
-

A message from Duncan

Did you catch the eclipse on Wednesday evening? We used the highly advanced 'colander method'! Laura's brother happened to be in Spain and took an amazing photo of the total eclipse.



It got me thinking. *What does a solar eclipse mean? What is its purpose?* Some might say, "*It's just an eclipse*" or "*it's just science*". But there's nothing "*it's just...*" about the world God has made. All things come from the mind of Christ and nothing is made without a reason. God never creates anything randomly. Even processes that may well be random are random for a reason and teach us something about the mind of Christ.

We learn from Genesis 1 that the celestial bodies, including the sun and the moon, were created and commissioned with a purpose - "*for signs and for seasons, and for days and years*". The seasons (liturgical), days and years make sense to us. But what about the sun and moon as signs? Signs point to something. What are the sun and moon, and eclipses pointing to? What are we supposed to think and meditate upon during an eclipse?

Psalm 19 puts it another way when speaking of the heavens (skies): *Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge*. So the sun, moon and

stars are saying something every day and every night. What are they saying? And what might an eclipse be saying to us?

There are plenty of clues in scripture to help us, and so I will leave that to you to think about. But my main encouragement, for these months when we spend more time outdoors than usual, is to be theologically curious about the world around us. It is wonderfully made for wonderful reasons and teaches us much about our wonderful Maker and Saviour. *"Ask the beasts, and they will teach you; the birds of the heavens, and they will tell you; or the bushes of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you."* (Job 12.7)

Grace and peace to you all,

Duncan

Collect for the Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

O God, you declare your almighty power
most chiefly in showing mercy and pity:
mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace,
that we, running the way of your commandments,
may receive your gracious promises,
and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure;
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 - Holy Communion at St Peter's

Readings: Isaiah 25.6-12; Matthew 22.1-14

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

Readings: Matthew 22:1-14

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 17th August

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

NEXT SUNDAY 23rd August

9am - Holy Communion at St Leonard's

10.30am - Morning Worship at St Leonard's

5pm - Evening Prayer at St Peter's

6.30pm - Shaped by the Word at St Leonard's

Looking further ahead

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

A memorial service for the late Malcolm Cook will be held at St Leonard's at 4pm on 2nd September.

The funeral of the late Christine Edwards will be held at 2pm on 15th September



We will be holding a simple **BBQ for our shared church lunch** after the all age service on **Sunday 23rd August**. Everyone is welcome - just [sign up](#). In particular we need to know about any allergies or preferences for veggie options. Lunch will be around noon. It would be helpful if you can bring any plates and cutlery if you need it. Tea, coffee and juice will be provided. If it's wet (!) it will still happen, we will use the hall or church.

Are you are able to help with the catering? [Please sign up here](#)

- * either bring some buns for burgers or hot dogs
- * or a salad/side
- * or a cake or traybake for afterwards (shop bought is absolutely fine)

Please bring a list of ingredients for those with allergies.

If you are willing to cook on the BBQ or help serve food and clear up afterwards then please let me know.

Any queries please contact Margaret Thornton

A couple of weeks ago the **Parable of the Influencer** (which Margaret Thornton wrote based on the parable of the sower) was read in church. Several people have asked for a copy, so it is [here](#).

Envelopes. We have found several hundred good quality C6 envelopes in the Church Office. This is not an envelope size that we use in the office, however, they would be ideal for card makers. If you have a use for C6 envelopes (or know someone who does), please help yourself from the box in St Leonard's church porch. There are three boxes in total, so let me know if you need any more. *Louise*



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.

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.



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.
- 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.

Update on Helen - thank you for all of your prayers. Pam's daughter Helen is now at home and Nathan is doing well.

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)