

NEWSWIRE: 21st August 2026



- Services on Sunday
 - Lunch on Sunday 23rd August in the Church Hall
 - Ride and Stride - 12th September
 - Creation Care - St Leonard's churchyard
-

A message from Derek



*You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you;
I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you,
in a dry and parched land where there is no water. Ps.63:1*

*“ . . . whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst.
Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of
water welling up to eternal life.” John 4:14*

“At the turn of a tap” – a daily phrase for the accessibility of so much we take for granted. That is, of course, until drought strikes. It's an inconvenience not to be

able to hose down the car and water the garden but what if our home water supply is suddenly NOT there “at the turn of a tap”?

Years ago, living in a remote, mountainous part of Indonesia we took our water supply for granted. The church centre where we lived piped the water from the base of massive limestone cliffs. That was until a severe drought struck and the water failed. However, down in the valley, there was a spring that never ran dry. We’d load up our Land Rover and collect water in jerrycans. If there was a sudden thunder storm with a brief thunderous rain torrent our home water tank would fill. We had water . . . for a while. It only provided for a couple of days then it was back to the spring.

Jesus speaks of relationship with Him as a source of life-giving, thirst-quenching water. A source of life for all who are in the drought of spirit caused by our distance from God. But it is worth noticing that the life-giving, thirst-quenching water that Jesus gives is to be a source in us, in ourselves, to refresh those around us. Might each of us make it a matter of prayer to ask God’s leading to be thirst-quenchers to others in the church, to our neighbours, colleagues, and to those we meet around the village. By listening to others, we can start encouraging others. In fact, we can be a source of thirst-quenching life to others.

Loving Father, thank You that Jesus is that well-spring of water that has been poured into my weary soul and is a well of water springing up to everlasting life. Enable me to be a channel through whom Your love and refreshment may stream out to all those with whom I come in contact, so that they too may know You as the water of their life. In Jesus' name I pray, AMEN.

Collect for the Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray
and to give more than either we desire or deserve:
pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid
and giving us those good things
which we are not worthy to ask
but through the merits and mediation
of 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: Amos 5.18-24; Matthew 25.1-13

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

Readings: Matthew 24:36 – 42; Matthew 25:1 – 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.

5pm - Evening Prayer at St Peter's

Readings: Isaiah 51:1-6; Matthew 25:1-13

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

NEXT WEEK

Monday 24th August

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

Wednesday 26th August

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

NEXT SUNDAY 30th August

9.30am - Holy Communion at St Peter's

10.30am - Morning Worship at St Leonard's

Looking further ahead

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 bread and soup lunch after the all age service on **Sunday 23rd August in the Church Hall**. We are not holding a BBQ in light of Government guidance.

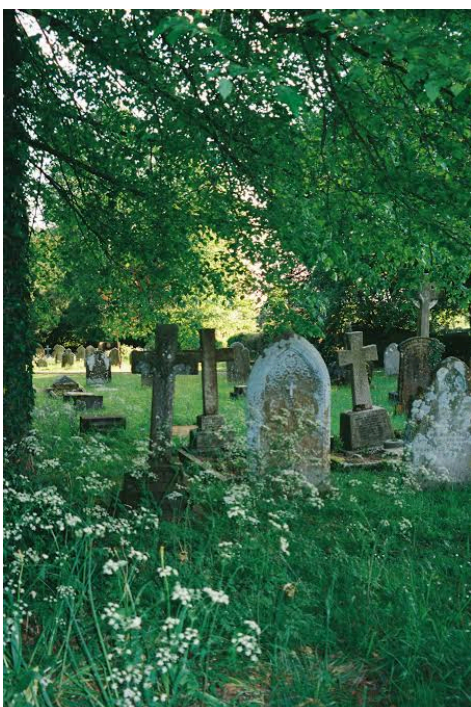
Everyone is welcome - just [sign up](#) if you have not already done so. Lunch will be around noon.

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

- * soup
- * or bread / rolls
- * 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 help serve food and clear up afterwards then please let me know. Any queries please contact Margaret Thornton



Creation Care – the Climate Crisis:

As part of the A Rocha UK's Eco Church programme, we are committed as a Church to protect and manage our land for nature, providing habitats to encourage and increase biodiversity. Once such vital piece of land is our Churchyard. Churchyards are vital biodiversity refuges as they have never been farmed and are free from fertilizers and chemicals. This provides an ideal shelter for dwindling wildflower species. Ancient trees provide nesting sites and food sources for birds, bats and invertebrates. Stone walls, old monuments and weathered gravestones provide

ideal conditions for a variety of lichens. Dry stone walls and ivy-clad structures provide safe places for amphibians, reptiles and small mammals.

In our Churchyard we have areas such as these as well as areas we have been gradually improving to encourage and protect biodiversity. We have left areas of longer grass around the boundaries along the stone walls and provide extra cover such as corrugated sheets for slow worms and newts. Only grass on footpaths is mown short to mark the walkways through the Churchyard. If you look up you may see bird and owl boxes high in the trees.

We have also been working very hard supported by the volunteers from the Nature Recovery Service to re-introduce areas of native wildflowers to the Churchyard.

I spent a lovely morning in the sunshine last weekend helping cut back and clear the spent wildflowers. Volunteers from the Nature Recovery Service came with scythes to cut down the wildflowers close to the ground. Scything is an old farming skill, which makes no noise and does not frighten any resident birds and mammals, it uses no fuel and moves slowly, allowing small insects to escape safely. It can also be used in more intricate areas such as between headstones where mowers cannot go.

As the scything cut back the wildflowers, some Church volunteers used hay rakes to collect the stems and grasses into large bundles and took them to the compost heap. Removing the old flowers prevents the nutrients going into the ground as they rot down, providing perfect conditions for next year's wildflowers. The old stems and grasses will rot down on the compost heap providing nutrient rich compost for other areas of the land later in the year. The compost heap also provides a refuge for slow worms and hedgehogs.

It was a very relaxed and social morning listening to the array of birds in the Churchyard and the grasshoppers in the dry grass, being immersed in nature and working with the land doing something physical, which is not only good for biodiversity but good for our mental health as well!

Penny Thomas

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](#).



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.

International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES) Vacancies

2 vacancies have arisen at IFES in Oxford for a Financial Controller and an Administrator. Click [here](#) for more information.

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.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)