

NEWSWIRE: 11th September 2026



- Services on Sunday
 - Help needed - St Leonard's coffee rota
 - People's Emergency Briefing on the climate
 - Cassington Community Harvest Supper
-

A message from Margaret

'Here I raise my Ebenezer'

This is a line from a hymn I sang as a child. I had no idea what it meant, but I had a teddy bear named Ebenezer and in my head I was lifting my favourite toy to Jesus! The Hebrew word Eben-Ezer means a stone of help. In 1 Samuel 7 after the Israelites turned back to God they won a great victory against the Philistines, after which Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Eben-ezer saying, 'Thus far the Lord has helped us.' The stone was to be a constant reminder for generations to come of God's help.

I wonder how often you remind yourself (and tell others) of the things God has done for you in the past? The Israelites were instructed by God to do this regularly through the Passover and Jesus also gave us the last supper – 'do this in memory of me' lest we forget his death.

This weekend marks 25 years since my mother died, slipping away peacefully after a long illness the day after the 9/11 disaster in America. For some, the death of a loved one might hold only dark memories. But surprisingly, amid all the sadness, there were still many blessings and things to be thankful for.

My brother Iain was living in California at that time and, with planes grounded for several days by 9/11, it looked like he would miss the funeral. Amazingly he caught one of the first plane out of LAX direct to Gatwick, made a tight connecting flight to Edinburgh, was met by good neighbours and arrived at the service with 15 minutes to spare! God is Good!

Similarly, a month earlier, my older brother Neil, was working in a remote refugee camp in South Sudan when my mother's failing health necessitated calling him back to the UK. We had discussed the complicated arrangements – I would call MedAir in Switzerland, they had a daily call with their team in Kampala, who in turn would pass a message by satellite phone the next time they spoke with the Sudan team. From there it would take a week or more for my brother to get back to Kampala and fly back to the UK. I called Switzerland at 9.30am one Monday morning and was astonished to get a call from Neil at 11.30am the same day! One of the trucks they were using in Sudan needed urgent repair work, so Neil had volunteered over a week earlier to drive it to Kampala to be mended and had walked into the office there, less than 30 mins after they had my message from Switzerland. He booked the last seat on the evening flight to the UK and so was able to spend precious days with our mother. God is Good!

So here I raise my Ebenezer – reminding myself of God's goodness in 2001. What memories do you have of God's goodness in the past? Why not share these with someone this week to encourage them.

Collect for the Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit
upon your Church in the burning fire of your love:
grant that your people may be fervent
in the fellowship of the gospel
that, always abiding in you,
they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service;
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: Jeremiah 12.1-4; Romans 8.18-22;
Matthew 10.28-31*

9.30am - Morning Prayer at St Peter's

Readings: Genesis 1:26-31; Romans 8:18-27



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

Readings: Jeremiah 12.1-4; Matthew 10.28-31; Romans 8.18-22

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.

7pm - Revive Eynsham at St Peter's Catholic Church (see below)

NEXT WEEK

Monday 14th September

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 15th September

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

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

Wednesday 16th September

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

NEXT SUNDAY 20th September

9.30am - Holy Communion at St Peter's

10.30am - Holy Communion at St Leonard's

Looking further ahead

People's Emergency Briefing on the climate and nature crisis on Sunday 20th September at 4pm at St Leonard's (see below)

The funeral of the late Jimmy Hatwell will be held at St Peter's church in Cassington at 12.30pm on Wednesday 30th September.



Revive Eynsham - 7pm on Sunday 13th September at St Peter's Catholic Church

An opportunity for Christians from all churches in Eynsham and for others who live in Eynsham but worship elsewhere to worship together and to pray for our village. This time it will be hosted by St Peter's Catholic Church. All are very welcome

When and how did you come to care about climate change?

In 2014 I was reading a special issue of the charity Tearfund's magazine dedicated to the topic and felt convicted as a Christian that the threat was so serious and urgent I needed to act. Alongside lifestyle changes, I got involved with behind the scenes organisation in various climate groups, contacted MPs, and have turned up to many protests and marches in Oxford and London.

Why should Christians care about climate change?

Here are three reasons: 1. We are commanded by God to be good stewards over creation. 2. It is a significant factor in our ministry to the poor. Climate change already disproportionately affects the poor and the marginalised, particularly in the Global South, and will continue to do so. This is a justice issue. 3. We are a people of hope, and know that when God ushers in the New Creation, he will join heaven and earth under Christ (Ephesians 1:10). Part of living in anticipation of that and growing the Kingdom of God is pointing forward to the renewal of creation. Many are very anxious about this crisis. Christians can offer hope.

What is the People's Emergency Briefing, and why should the church family come along?

The PEB is a 45 minute documentary (age rating: 16+) based on a series of talks held in November 2025 for MPs by experts in several disciplines (climate and weather, food security, health, economics, defence, energy security), focusing on how the climate crisis is affecting their area of expertise in the UK. Communities are being invited to host screenings of the PEB all over the country because this crisis is so urgent and many are unaware of the dangers: it is a national emergency. We are showing it at 3.45 for 4pm on 20th September in St Leonard's, followed by a Christian response of prayer and discussion. I urge you to make this a priority and come along - collectively we can really make a difference as Christians and small actions can have an amazing ripple effect.

People's Emergency Briefing

On the climate and nature crisis

St Leonard's Church Eynsham

Film screening for local Christians
followed by prayer and discussion

Sunday 20th September
4-5.30pm (tea & coffee from 3.45pm)
for more details:
victoriajoannethomas@gmail.com

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www.nebriefing.org

St Peter's Church, Cassington Village Hall and
Cassington Sports and Social Club invite you to a

HARVEST COMMUNITY SUPPER

Saturday 3 October 2026 6.30pm – 10.00pm

ALL WELCOME

Join us for a community evening of fun, music and laughter following in the long tradition of people in Cassington celebrating the gathering of the Harvest.

- ★ **Home-grown local entertainment**
- ★ **Buffet Supper included in the ticket price**
- ★ **Pay bar**



Tickets in advance: Adults £12 / Under 16s £5

Family ticket (up to 5 members) £30 from ...

Jan Macdonald: 07941 419219 – janmacdonald78@aol.com

Anne: 07768 167209 – anne.luttmanjohnson@gmail.com

Joy Merry - we have received a letter addressed to Joy Merry, care of Eynsham C of E church. If anyone knows Joy's address, could you please [let me know](#) and I will forward the letter. Many thanks. Louise

An Iranian pastor begins training for Anglican ministry at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford on 1st October. He's been looking to rent for himself and his wife, but is now looking for somewhere just for himself, in order to be able to begin the course. (And continue his search). If you know of, or could provide accommodation for a short time, please would you contact me at : jenhellyer@yahoo.com
Thank you. *Jenny Hellyer*

Help needed please for the Sunday coffee team! We are looking for new team members to serve refreshments after the Sunday morning service at St Leonard's. We particularly need help on the SECOND SUNDAY of every month. If you are interested in being part of this vital ministry please do contact Angela Holton or Jenny Hogan for further details. Thank you.
adwilkinsonholton@gmail.com

Paul is now over halfway through the workshop and says that it's going very well.

**Wycliffe
Bible
Translators**

The teams are working really hard and learning new concepts every day. One participant said "I'm starting to understand certain mistakes I'm making when I translate." Amongst other things, they are learning to make important changes to their translation drafts to make them sound more natural. At times they are dealing with quite abstract and complicated concepts.

Paul thanks us for our prayers and asks us to continue to pray...

- that everyone grasps what they are talking about quickly, and can apply it to their own languages.
- that this knowledge will not just be theoretical, but that each participant will leave with some practical translation tools at their disposal.

Meanwhile... **Jo**, based here in the UK, is enjoying having more responsibility on the People Team, as she has taken on the supervision of four other People Care Coordinators. This has tied in really well with a course on leadership and management that Wycliffe sent both Paul and Jo on.

Jo is currently involved with prep for leading this year's 'Healthy Community Engagement' course at Moorlands College in October, as well as her normal member care work, and is finding her workload quite heavy at the moment. The college will be having the university equivalent of Ofsted the first two days that Jo will be teaching, which is an added pressure. **Please pray for her in all her responsibilities, and to be able to make wise choices in prioritising what needs doing.**

Please pray for:

- 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

Tel: 01865 883325 E-mail: stleonards_stpeters@btconnect.com

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