St Leonard's & St Peter's
BENEFICE OF EYNSHAM & CASSINGTON

NEWSWIRE: 9th October 2026

- Services on Sunday
- Week of Prayer - meetings and resources
- Holiday Club Connect - 11th October
- CAP Christmas Hampers
- Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal

A message from Derek



Martha ***"If you had been here . . ."*** John 11:21

Mary ***"If you had been here . . ."*** John 11:32

If we are really honest, there are times when we feel abandoned and left adrift by the Lord. As a friend once said, 'I've been lost in God's email inbox'. I wonder if this is why Jesus' raising of Lazarus in John 11 is spelled out at such length and detail. This miracle gives hope to each of us. We need to hear just how Jesus responds to our own '*If You had*'.

Jesus hears that Lazarus is desperately ill. It is emphasised that Jesus loved this man, "Lord the one you love is sick" (v.3). In fact, it is emphasised just how much he loves each one of the family: Lazarus, Martha and Mary (verses 3&5).

Lazarus is a friend (v.11). And yet Jesus delays. His loving purpose is to show that for His friend, death is sleep, a sleep from which He will awaken us. So, for

us, as we follow this story, our faith is deepened (v.15). However, right there, at the graveside, despite the promise of a glorious outcome (v.4) we find that Jesus is profoundly shaken by grief.

"*When Jesus saw Mary weeping . . . he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly moved*" John 11:33

Dane Ortlund writes: 'Whatever it means to be human, Jesus was it. He had no sin; but in every other way He was a true human being. He had finger prints. His eyes were a certain colour. He trimmed his toenails and cleaned His teeth. He got tired and slept. He cried at times. There is one particular fact of being a human that He also experienced, though we don't talk about it much: He had emotions.' *

His sorrow is real. His sorrow for our sorrows is real. His tears are real. His tears for our tears are real. Peter encourages us:

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. I Peter 5:7

David also encourages us, sharing his own experience of God's compassionate care:

The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them;
he delivers them from all their troubles.
18 The LORD is close to the broken-hearted
and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18

A PRAYER:

Dear Heavenly Father, when I experience the pain of my heart I often ask where You are. But I cannot face my pain alone.

In trust I offer my pain to you sure that your care is real and Your understanding is real.

Take my pain and heal it. Help me to release my sadness, my disappointment, and my anger into Your hands. Give me the strength to face today, and help me trust that You can turn my mourning into joy.

[* '***The Heart of Jesus: How He Really Feels about You'*** Dane Ortlund p.43f – worth the read!]

Collect for the Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

O God, forasmuch as without you
we are not able to please you;
mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit
may in all things direct and rule our hearts;
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: 1 Timothy 4.1-16; Luke 9.22-25

9.30am - Morning Worship at St Peter's
Readings: Deuteronomy 6:1-9: 1 Timothy 4:1-16

10.30am - Morning Worship at St Leonard's and livestreamed on this link
Readings: 1 Timothy 4.1-10; Luke 9.22-25

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 - Evening Prayer at St Leonard's

NEXT WEEK

Monday 12th October
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 13th October
Tinies and Toddlers meet on Tuesdays (term time) from 1.30pm - 3pm in Cassington Village Hall.

Wednesday 14th October
Warm Welcome Wednesday from 10.30am to midday in St Leonard's Church

NEXT SUNDAY 18th October

9.30am - Holy Communion at St Peter's
10.30am - Holy Communion at St Leonard's
6.30pm - Shaped by the Word at St Leonard's
7.45pm - Night Prayer at St Leonard's

Looking further ahead

A memorial service for the late Christine Ward will be held at **St Leonard's** church at **1pm** on **Tuesday 20th October.**

Memorial Service for the Bereaved at **6pm** on **Sunday 25th October** at **St Leonard's church**



Click here for notes to support the week

Sunday 11th October
6.30pm - Evening Prayer at St Leonard's

Monday 12th October
11am - Morning Prayer at St Peter's

Tuesday 13th October
7.30am - Early Morning Prayer at St Leonard's

Thursday 15th October
9.15am - Morning Prayer at St Leonard's
4.30pm - Prayer for the planet and its people at St Leonard's

Sunday 18th October
6.30pm - Shaped by the Word
7.45pm - Night Prayer at St Leonard's

Shaped by the Word next Sunday at 6.30 -7.30pm (followed by Night Prayer)
We will be finishing the series on creation in scripture by looking at the hope of Creation restored in the New Testament. Do come armed with any questions you have relating to the whole series (and other people will answer them!)



Holiday Club Connect

Captain Eye Eye and First Mate Kate warmly invite children and their families for an afternoon of Bible stories, crafts, games and drama on **11th October, 3-5pm** at **St Leonard's Church.**

There will be a meal towards the end of the afternoon, please let us know of any allergies or dietary requirements on the form.

This event is for all the family, feel free to bring older and younger siblings but please ensure there is a parent or guardian supervising them at all times.

Please also invite other families along - you don't have to have taken part in Holiday Club to enjoy this event!

Sign up using this link:

https://stleonardseynsham.churchsuite.com/events/bcn9o63y

Captain Eye Eye and First Mate Kate are looking forward to inviting you back onboard!

Remember with Thanksgiving - A service for the bereaved

We will be holding a Memorial Service for the bereaved at St Leonard's on Sunday 25th October at 6pm. This is a special service where the death of a loved one is remembered and an opportunity to light a candle in their memory. If you would like the name of a loved one read out, please contact the Church Office (stleonards_stpeters@btconnect.com or 01865 883325).

Light on Halloween



Like in past years, we want to bless people in our village on Halloween evening by giving out hot chocolate and little treat bags that point to Jesus.

We will need helpers to prepare the hot chocolate in church and others to be in front of the church giving out the drinks and treat bags.

If we get enough helpers, we would like to invite the families into church for some craft activities.

Timings will be 5pm - 8pm, but you can just help for an hour, too.
If you would like to get involved, please contact Rabea as soon as possible (slpfamilies@gmail.com).

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christians against poverty

CAP

CAP Christmas Hampers For several years now we have been inviting individuals and small groups from supporting churches to put together and donate a hamper of Christmas extras for a local CAP client. It is that time of year again, and I am starting the process of coordinating this year's hampers.

The idea is that hampers are given to CAP clients who are struggling with their finances and can't afford some of the extra Christmas luxuries most of us take for granted.

In order to give us time to match donors to clients, I will be grateful if offers of hampers could be sent to me at alanthornton@capuk.org **no later than 2 November, but preferably before!** We would like to have all hampers ready for delivery by Monday 7 December, to give us time to get them to the clients.

In the past we have nearly always received more offers than we need, and we anticipate needing a smaller number of hampers this year. Several church groups have previously offered to provide a generous number of hampers, but I do not expect to need to ask any to provide more than one or two this time.

I know that many people enjoy joining in this venture each year. It always brings a lot of joy to our clients and is a wonderful expression of God's love and provision.

Please contact me if you have any questions and I will do my best to answer them. Kind regards. *Alan Thornton*



BLYTHSWOOD CARE SHOEBOX APPEAL

Please support this very worthy cause and bring a smile to someone this Christmas.

This year's Shoebox Appeal is now operational and shoeboxes will be going to very needy people in Eastern Europe including Ukraine. Shoeboxes can be filled for girls, boys, teenagers, women, men and elderly women. You can find out more about the appeal on this link. Leaflets with instructions and what to

put inside your shoebox can be found inside the porch at St. Peter's Church and will shortly be available in St Leonard's.

Completed shoeboxes can be left in St Leonard's church or delivered to Jane Aston at 9, Bell Close, Cassington before the end of October.

If you would like to know more about this appeal please contact:

Cassington - Jane Aston 01865 880757 or by email janeaston53@aol.com
Eynsham - Janet Haskett - jehaskett1@googlemail.com



Responses welcome
Creationtide is now over, but the Creation Care group will continue to think about how we live out what we've been learning as a church. If you weren't there last Sunday, or have had thoughts since, then here is the Google Form version of our response sheet that gives you the opportunity to let us know anything you personally are going to try to do and/or any questions/comments/suggestions that you'd like to send us to feed into our thinking. Alternatively feel free to email Sally (just4sally@gmail.com) or speak to us.

Join us to pray
In the week of prayer, do join us in if you're able to pray for **'The planet and its people'** - where we plan to pray for people who both affect and are affected by creation neglect or mis-use and the fall-out of war, greed, etc. as well as those trying to action care. - **Thursday 15th - 4.30-5.30 in St Leonard's Church**.

Links to Creation Care Sermon Notes and Resources

Rejoicing in a Wonderful World - Psalm 104

Lamenting a broken World - Romans 8:18-25

Hope for Creation - Colossians 1:15-23

John Stott on Creation

Martin Lloyd Jones on "All things reunited in Christ"

Shaped by the Word - Creation Care

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.

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www.stleonardseynsham.org.uk | www.stpeterschurchcassington.org | Youtube channel | facebook page

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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)