StLeonard's & StPeter's
BENEFICE OF EYNSHAM & CASSINGTON

NEWSWIRE: 23rd October 2026

- Services on Sunday
- Memorial Service for the Bereaved
- Light on Halloween
- Newcomers Tea
- Men's Curry Night

A message from Margaret

BELONGING

At the entrance to Eynsham the sign announces that it is 'a great place to belong'. Interesting sign – do you agree?

I have a wall in front of my desk at home where I put lots of post-it notes with interesting quotes. Three are about belonging:

- 'Everyone belongs to God'[1]
- 'Belonging is being accepted for who you are, fitting in is changing who you are to be accepted'[2]
- 'Belonging comes first, then belief follows'[3]

We all want to belong, to feel part of a family, a community, a relationship. It is part of our human DNA. But sometimes, and maybe for some of us it's not just sometimes but often, we don't feel we belong, we don't feel welcome or we feel we need to pretend to be something different to belong.

So what do these quotes remind me?

Firstly, that we all belong to God. He made us and we are his in a deeply loving way like a parent with their child. He looks out for us, guides us with his wisdom and feeds us. However, like all good parents, he sometimes stands back and gives us space to take the next steps, so we can grow.

Secondly, belonging means being accepted as we are, not as other people might like us to be. In theory church should be like this and the joy is that it often is, although we love each other imperfectly so people can still feel excluded or expected to change to fit in.

Thirdly, can those without a faith also belong? I would argue yes. If we are a welcoming community where people feel accepted for who they are, whatever that may be, then they are more likely to stay and grow in their belief in God. Seeing God's love in action in a community where everyone is welcome is a powerful illustration of the gospel message.

So what do you think? Do you feel you belong at our church?
What could you do to help others to belong more?

Margaret Thornton

[1] C F Blumhardt – This is the title of his book
[2] Shelly Millar – Rhythms of Rest. P26
[3] Shelly Millar - Rhythms of Rest. P75

Collect for the Last Sunday after Trinity

Blessed Lord,
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:
help us so to hear them,
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,
we may embrace and for ever hold fast
the hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

DON'T FORGET - THE CLOCKS CHANGE THIS WEEKEND!

SERVICES ON SUNDAY



9am - Holy Communion at St Leonard's
Readings: Psalm 1; Matthew 6.5-14

10.30am - All age service at St Leonard's and livestreamed on this link
Readings: Psalm 1; Matthew 6

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: Psalm 1; Matthew 6:9-13

6pm - Memorial Service for the Bereaved at St Leonard's

NEXT WEEK

Monday 26th October
Bump to One meet on Mondays from 10.30am to midday in St Leonard's.

No Walkie Talkies this week due to Half Term.

Tuesday 27th October
No Tinies and Toddlers this week due to Half Term.

Wednesday 28th October
Warm Welcome Wednesday from 10.30am to midday in St Leonard's Church

Thursday 29th October
The funeral of the late Denise Ridler will be held at **St Leonard's church** at **1pm** on **Thursday 29th October.**

NEXT SUNDAY 1st November
9.30am - Holy Communion at St Peter's
10.30am - Morning Worship at St Leonard's
7pm - Revive at St Leonard's

Looking further ahead

Light on Halloween - 31st October at St Leonard's church (see below)

Newcomers Tea - Sunday 15th November at 3pm (see below)

Men's Curry Night - Thursday 19th November (see below)



CHURCH LUNCH

There will be a simple shared lunch in the church hall after the All Age service at St Leonard's on Sunday 25th October. Everyone is welcome. If you are planning to come please sign up here to help with organising catering. We will be having soup, bread rolls, fruit and cake. If you are able to bring soup, bread rolls, fruit or cake, or if you are willing to either help set up or clear up, please either sign up on this link or contact Margaret Thornton (margaret@2cp.uk)

Light on Halloween - Please Pray!

Like in the past years, we will bless families in our village on the evening of 31st October by giving out hot chocolate, treat bags that point to Jesus and also offering the opportunity to do light-themed crafts in church.
In the past, this has been an excellent opportunity to chat to families and invite them to our Christmas activities.
Please pray for the parents and children as well as the volunteers. Pray for good conversations and families to feel welcomed. Please pray especially that the little books about Jesus in their treat bags will be a starting point for some to finding out more about faith.

CREATION CARE GROUP

Churchyards offer an ideal location to increase biodiversity, which has sadly seen a great decline in Britain. Would you like to help restore this on Saturday 31st October from 10am? An area has been strimmed in preparation. We will then remove grass and moss using rakes to expose the soil to sew a wildflower and grass mix. Do email Hazel Petty on pettyhazel2@gmail.com if you intend to be there, so that if the weather is dubious, you can be contacted if it is postponed, or you can just turn up. Refreshments and hot drinks available!



NEWCOMERS TEA
Sunday 15th November at 3pm

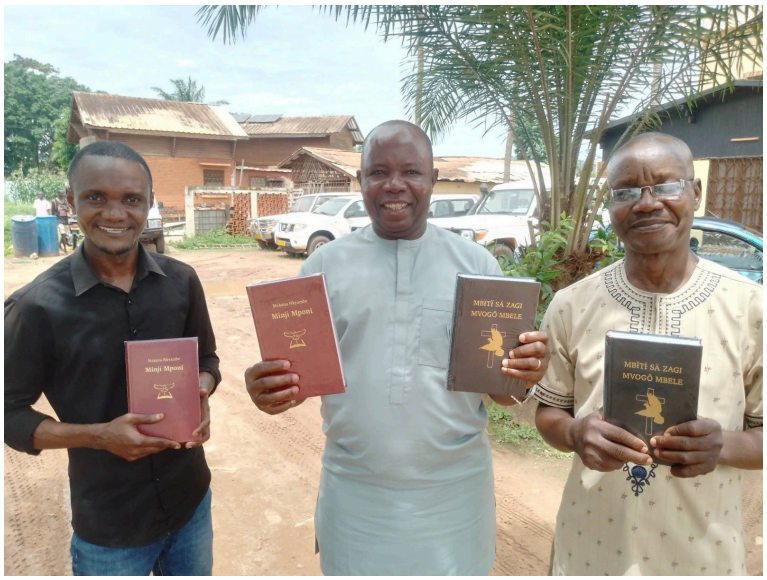
If you are new to St Leonard's, we would love you to join us for tea on Sunday 15th November at 3pm. Come along and meet some more people and find out more about life at St Leonard's. Sign up on this link and we will confirm the venue closer to the date.

The St Leonard's PCC's Building Team are keen to know of any local contractors that you have recently worked with and could recommend. We're looking for:-
Plumbers
Electricians
General Builders
An odd-job man

If there's someone you could recommend, please could you let Andy Greenwood know on 07901 337922 or by email at amg1954church@gmail.com. Thank you!



An exciting update from Paul and Jo Murrell:



Wycliffe Bible Translators

Some of you may know that when we first went to CAR we worked for several years with the Mpyemo people and were involved in translating the New Testament into their language. The translation work began in 2006.

Rejoice with us! The Mpyemo and Nzakara New Testaments were printed in the Czech Republic earlier this year and, after a long journey by container ship and truck, have now arrived in the capital Bangui! They arrived much more quickly and easily than any New Testaments in recent years. We don't yet know when and where the launch events will be, but we are excited that the Mpyemo people can now start planning for them! We hope we may be able to attend too.

In other news, Jo is now at Moorlands College teaching on the Healthy Community Engagement module for new Wycliffe members. She'll be there for three weeks over the next month. She's looking forward to meeting her new students and getting stuck into teaching again.

Please pray for:

* God to be at work preparing communities to receive the New Testament

* Jo to teach well and build good relationships with her students

* Paul to catch up on his backlog of work since his last trip

THANK YOU!"

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

Please pray for:

- Ray, who has a very rare form of cancer, for which all forms of treatment are unsuitable to him.
- Michael and family following his sister's recent death. Please pray especially for her husband, daughters and grandchildren.
- 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)