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

NEWSWIRE: 13th November 2026



- Services on Sunday
- Newcomers Tea - Sunday at 3pm
- Men's Curry Night - Thursday 19th
- Carol Singers at St Peter's

A message from Duncan

Winter is just around the corner. The leaves are littering the pavements, hats and scarves have come out of storage and the night creeps up on you before you're ready for it.

We're all affected adversely by the arrival of winter, some more or less than others. Life is just a little harder. When Jesus was prophesying the AD70 fall of Jerusalem to the Romans he says: *"Pray that it may not happen in winter."* (Mark 13.18*).* And when Paul is imprisoned in Rome he urges Timothy to come to him before winter and to bring his cloak (2 Timothy 4.13). He obviously needed company and warmth to get him through the winter months.

Modern conveniences have tempered much of winter's worst but there remains enough discomfort to question the goodness of God's creation of winter. But winter is definitely God's idea. In Genesis 8 he promises summer *and* winter as a sign of his promise to preserve us. And the Psalmist praises God: in Psalm 74: "*You have fixed all the boundaries of the earth; you have made summer and* ***winter****."*

Winter clearly has a purpose in the rhythm of creation, and as such it will reveal something of the wisdom and ways of God for our lives if we think hard enough. Perhaps it's about rest and slowing down as a necessary part of our annual rhythm, something that those modern conveniences mitigate against. Or is it the need for old glories and successes to be stripped away that we might be ready for something new that God wants to do in us; a something new that sometimes

remains out of sight for months on end. The cold night can be a challenge, but it plays a part in our becoming.

I offer, as a companion to your further ponderings, a prayer to pray for when the night seems cold, dark and long.

O God, use this numbing chill to turn our faces afresh
Toward the warming fires of your presence.
Use this passing darkness to kindle again
Our longing for your eternal light
Use this sad weight of melancholy
To train our hearts more perfectly
In the school of Christlikeness. Amen
(from Every Moment Holy Vol III)

Collect for the Second Sunday before Advent

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed
to destroy the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and great glory
we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;
where he 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: Deuteronomy 16: 9-15; Matthew 6:16-21

10.30am - Holy Communion at St Leonard's and livestreamed on this link
Readings: Isaiah 58:1-9a; Luke 5:27-39

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 16th November

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 17th November

Tinies and Toddlers meet in Cassington village Hall at 1.30pm - 3pm on Tuesdays in term time.

Wednesday 18th November

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

Thursday 19th November

Men's Curry Night (see below)

NEXT SUNDAY 22nd November

9am - Holy Communion at St Leonard's
10.30am-All age service at St Leonard's followed by church lunch (see below)
5pm - Evening Prayer at St Peter's

Looking further ahead

Advent Service of Light - Sunday 29th November at 6.30pm at St Leonard's

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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.

SHAPED BY THE WORD…is taking a break for November and December. If you have any topics, issues or bible books you would love to be given some time at Shaped by the Word sessions in 2027 do feed in your ideas to Duncan.





CHURCH LUNCH - We will be holding a simple shared church lunch after the all age service on Sunday 22 November

Everyone is welcome - just sign up. Lunch will be around noon.

Are you are able to help with the catering?

Please sign up here

* either bringing some hot soup in a slow cooker (or bring it hot at 12pm),
* or bread or rolls (shop bought or home made is fine but please slice in advance)
* or a cake or traybake for afterwards (again shop bought is absolutely fine)
* or fruit

Please bring a list of ingredients for those with allergies.

Any queries please contact Margaret Thornton



What has helped you to 'take the next step' in following Jesus? Perhaps a verse that keeps you going in your faith, or helped you turn a corner in your discipleship in the past. Perhaps there is a song or hymn that has helped you, or a piece of art work. God encourages us in so many different ways.

Rather than strictly an Advent or Christmas theme, I would love our Advent Devotions this year to be an opportunity to hear from each other what has helped us to take the next step. It will be a great opportunity to get to know each other a little more, so please don't think that this doesn't include you. **If you've never done this before this is for you.**

150 words is a good guide for length. You could also include a bible verse and a prayer. If you don't usually do this sort of thing and would like some advice just let me know (vicarslp@gmail.com). **We would need to gather most of the reflections before Advent begins** - **by 22nd November** so we can place them in a helpful order for Advent. Speak to Margaret or Duncan for advice or send them directly to Margaret (margaret@2cp.uk).



POP-UP SINGERS

We are looking for an enthusiastic group of singers to be led by Revd Duncan Fraser, for the

Carols by Candlelight
St Peter's Church
Sunday 13 December at 5pm

No previous experience is necessary.
There will be practice sessions
Saturday mornings at 10am on
14, 21, 28 November & 5, 12 December.
If you would like to join the group and are able to attend a minimum of 4 practice sessions, please contact Jan Macdonald janmacdonald78@aol.com or WhatsApp message on 07941 419219

Church Cleaning help needed once every 4 weeks: One more person is needed to join one of the teams either now or from January. It's possible that two new people will be needed for this team in January. For more information or to offer help please contact Jenny Griffiths (co-ordinator): jennifer@grahamg77.plus.com or 07835 961830.

I have just come back from 2 weeks in **Eswatini** (formerly Swaziland) . I was there to see, and join in with, the work of **Challenge Ministries**. Challenge Ministries is a Christian based charity that began in 1997 at the height of the HIV/AIDS crisis in Eswatini. It has grown to focus on caring for orphans, vulnerable children and rehabilitating people with life controlling habits or those having escaped from domestic violence.

Whilst there I saw the amazing positive impact on individual lives in all of these areas, and heard several testimonies. As well as being inspired by this, I was humbled by the faith of all the members of the CM team. Their lives are deeply rooted in prayer and the total belief that God will provide, and he has. They face many challenges but they meet them all trusting in the Lord, and continue with their far-reaching vision of how to help those in need. I also witnessed the healing of one the team that I was with, it was a truly amazing two weeks! If anyone would like to know more, please do ask me, or have a look at their website, https://cmswazi.org. *Hazel Petty*



An Evening With Noël Tredinnick

Saturday 14th November at 7pm

Witney Methodist Church

All proceeds to Adventure Plus

Join Noel for an uplifting and inspiring celebration of music and faith. Hear much-loved orchestral classics. Raise your voice to sing some favourite hymns and songs.

Discover more about the youth outreach work of Adventure Plus and be encouraged by stories of God's faithfulness at work along the way.

With The Emmaus Ensemble and soprano soloist Kate Sharp. Interval refreshments will be available. Tickets on this link.



Some of you may know that I'll soon be trekking to the summit of Mount Toubkal (4,167m), the highest peak in North Africa, in Morocco's High Atlas Mountains. I'm one of 34 Access colleagues making the climb, covering around 26km over three days of rough mountain terrain.

I'm doing it for CALM (Campaign Against Living Miserably), a charity that works to prevent suicide. Many people have suicidal thoughts. CALM is there for those moments, through a helpline, webchat and WhatsApp staffed by trained professionals. It also equips all of us to notice the signs and reach out to the people around us. Answering one helpline contact costs £12.20. One caller told CALM: "talking with CALM's helpline service made me feel like I can and will get through tonight." Access aims to match all donations, so your gift can go further.

Please keep the team in your prayers as we prepare and climb. If you're able, please also support us with a donation. We're aiming to raise £4,400 each.
Donation link: https://accesscharityoftheyear.enthuse.com/pf/ginta-chukwu
Thank you for your prayers and support. Best wishes, Ginta

Please pray for:

- Gill who is being treated for blood cancer.
- 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.

Charity Christmas Cards



£4 for a pack of 10

All proceeds towards supporting Adventure *Plus*

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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)