



## NEWSWIRE: 5th January 2024

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- Services on Sunday
  - Revive
  - Christians against poverty
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### ***A message from Duncan***

*“Jesus asked, “What are you looking for?” (John 1.38)*

It's a good question.

It's a really good question for us to consider as we embark upon a New Year.

At this time of year we often ask what we are looking for from ourselves: the feats of personal discipline and the accomplishments we imagine we might achieve. If you are anything like me, disappointment catches up with us well before February.

But what about Jesus? What are we looking for from him or in him this year? What are we looking for him to achieve in us or through us this year? Before the routine starts in earnest it is good to take a moment to think and pray and perhaps write a thing or two down. Are there a few simple words that might sum up your thoughts and prayers and serve as a reminder throughout the year? Something to return to as a reminder that we are called to be a people who are being *‘renewed day by day’* (2 Corinthians 4.16).

And Jesus will be interested in our response. That is why he asks the question. Originally the question was directed to two men who had just started to (literally) follow him. Perhaps Jesus wanted to check they were looking for things that could be found in him. He never calls people to follow him under false pretences. There are plenty of things that humanity looks for that cannot be found in Jesus. But the response from the brand new disciples is both unexpectedly unprofound and mundane and simultaneously lovely: *‘They said, “Rabbi, where are you staying?” He answered, “Come and see.”*

*So the two men went with Jesus and saw where he was staying and stayed there with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon.'*

You could summarise their response as - "We're looking to be where you are." And I can think of no other more significant response that we could offer during the coming year.

With New Year greetings and love,

Duncan

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### Collect for the first Sunday of Epiphany

Eternal Father,  
who at the baptism of Jesus  
revealed him to be your Son,  
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:  
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,  
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;  
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.

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### SERVICES ON SUNDAY

**9.30am Holy Communion at St Peter's**

*Readings: Romans 12:1-2; Mark 14:32-42*

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

*Readings: Romans 12:1-2; Mark 14:32-42*

**7pm - Revive at St Leonard's (see below)**



### NEXT WEEK

**Monday 8th January**

**Bump to One** meet on **Mondays** from **10.30am** to midday in **St Leonard's church**.

## **Tuesday 9th January**

**Tinies and Toddlers** meet at **Cassington Village Hall** on **Tuesday** from **1.30 - 3pm** (Term time)

## **Wednesday 10th January**

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

## **NEXT SUNDAY - 14th JANUARY**

9am - Holy Communion at St Leonard's

9.30am - Morning Worship at St Peter's

10.30am - Morning Worship at St Leonard's and live streamed

4pm - Families@4 at St Leonard's

## **Looking further ahead:**

**The funeral of the late Sheila Wooding** will be held at **St Leonard's** at **11.30am** on **Thursday 18th January 2024**.

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**MONTHLY SUNDAY SERVICES** - Click [here](#) to see a summary of the monthly Sunday services at St Leonard's and St Peter's

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**The St Leonard's Winter Term Services Card** is available on [this link](#). There are also some printed copies available in church.

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## **Revive - This Sunday at 7pm**

Prayer and worship is at the heart of everything we do. Our desire is outrageous - to be in the very presence of God. And yet, incredibly, that is the desire of our Father God too. Revive! is an informal gathering for prayer and worship on the first Sunday of each month in church from 7- 8pm.

Join us this Sunday. Come, sing, listen and pray. Reach for His presence and more of the Spirit in your life. Bring the needs of the world to Him. At the start of the year let's put God at the centre of all we do.

Everyone Welcome

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**Christian Aid collection:** as a result of the collection at the Carol Service at St Leonard's on 17th December a total of £300 was sent to Christian Aid. Many thanks to all those who contributed.

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**Please continue to pray for the work of CAP** who provide free professional debt help, job clubs, life skills groups and money education nationwide. All their services are delivered face-to-face through local churches, which means people receive both the practical and emotional support they need on your journey.



**Locally** - our church is one of 5 churches which supports the CAP Centre in Witney (now called CAP Windrush Valley to reflect its area better). CAP Windrush valley runs a debt centre to help those with unmanageable debt and also runs CAP LifeSkill courses to help those who struggle with life to cope with budgeting, relationships and general life skills.

- Thank God for several people who have come to faith through these groups.
- Pray for the team including Alastair Hobbs, the Debt Centre Manager, and Katie Gamble, the LifeSkills Manager.
- Pray for a new team member - they are looking to recruit a new Debt coach as Michael has just retired.
- Also, they need to raise more funds locally to cover their costs - can you help?

**Here at St Leonards** we have 4 trained CAP Money Management coaches and we are planning to run some courses this spring to help people be smarter about organising their own money. Most of us - whatever our income

level are feeling the cost of living squeeze and so any hints and tips to help balance income and expenditure are welcome! Pray these courses will help, reaching not only those in our church family but in the wider community as well.

For more information contact Alan Thornton, Jennifer Clarke, Mike Sinfield or Margaret Thornton

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### **The Filling Station, Witney**

Worship Encounter Evening on Tuesday 9th January with Chris Rimmer and Matt White at Witney Corn Exchange. Refreshments from 7.15pm. Meeting 7.30 - 9pm

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**The Lord's Prayer Event** - On January 12th at 12 noon, Premier Christian Radio is uniting with United Christian Broadcasters (UCB) to call the nation to prayer. We believe there is extraordinary power when God's people unite in prayer and together, we want to see something ignited that will transform lives across the nation.

On the morning of the 12th, both stations will broadcast reflections and worship culminating in a joint call to pray the Lord's Prayer together at 12 noon. Please join us and encourage those you know to join in too! For more information, please see [\*\*lordsprayer.co.uk\*\*](http://lordsprayer.co.uk)

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### **Please pray for:**

- Mike who is currently unwell.
- Leslie who is recovering after falling and breaking her hip.
- Ben and healing for his mental health.
- Scarlett's recovery from long Covid.
- 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](mailto: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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