

Welcome

Warm greetings and a sincere welcome to the first edition of the new bi-monthly newsletter from Forest Edge Benefice! In this space, we will keep you updated on the latest church news from Leaffield, Finstock, Ramsden, and Wilcote. To add information to the next newsletter please email admin@forestedgebenefice.co.uk.

Christianity, Buddhism and Peace By Rev'd Paul Mansell



In the Bible, Jesus tells his disciples, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you" (John 14:27). He assures us that this peace is different from the 'peace' the world gives and encourages us not to be troubled or fearful. Jesus is often referred to as the "Prince of Peace." Central to Christian belief is the idea that through Jesus's life, death, and resurrection, we are offered a path to reconciliation with God and with one another. This reconciliation is seen as a source of profound peace.

For Christians, God is sovereign. God is "King of kings and Lord of lords". God is Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer. We establish communion with God through peace, who provides comfort and guidance. Prayer and worshipping together are essential practices within Christianity. The concept of grace, the unconditional love and mercy of God, plays a significant role in this. Knowing that we are loved and forgiven, Christians can find peace in their hearts, even amidst life's troubles and challenges.

Christianity emphasises love and forgiveness as key components of peaceful relationships. The teachings of Jesus encourage followers to love their neighbours as themselves and to forgive those who have wronged them. This approach to interpersonal relationships fosters mutual respect and harmony.

Beyond personal and interpersonal peace, Christianity also calls for social justice. The teachings of Jesus often challenge believers to care for the poor and to fight for fairness within society. This has inspired many Christians to work towards ending violence, poverty, and inequality.

Some Christians are called to live within a community known as a Monastery or Convent and are called Monks and Nuns. For many of these Christians, they acknowledge a connection between how they live their own lives and that of those who practice Buddhism. Both offer pathways to peace, albeit through different philosophies. In examining how each religion brings peace into the lives of its followers, we can appreciate both their unique contributions and their similarities.

Buddhism offers a profound approach to peace. Like much of Christianity, the first step in Buddhism towards peace is the recognition and understanding of suffering. Through practices such as meditation, mindfulness, and ethical living, Buddhists aim to cultivate inner peace. The concept of Nirvana, a state of liberation from suffering and the cycle of rebirth, represents the ultimate peace. For Christians, liberation comes through faith in Jesus Christ and his promise of eternal life. Within Christianity, salvation and peace are tightly intertwined. St Paul describes salvation as our perishable bodies putting on imperishability, and our mortal bodies putting on immortality. He says in his letter to the Corinthians, "Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting"

While Christianity and Buddhism differ in their theological foundations, both offer valuable insights into achieving peace. In essence, both religions teach that peace begins within and extends outward. They encourage their followers to cultivate inner peace through spiritual practices and, through their faith, to promote peace in their relationships and societies. By exploring and respecting these different paths to peace, we can learn how to integrate their wisdom into our own lives and contribute to a more peaceful world.



Project St Michael

St. Michael's Church, Leaffield

Project St. Michael was initiated nearly 20 years ago with the goal of raising funds to repair and safeguard our church, ensuring its sustainability into the 21st century and beyond. The aim was to create a welcoming space for the entire village, accommodating the school, concerts, meetings, and more.

Additionally, Project St. Michael was established to enhance worship comfort in a building reputed to be the coldest in the Oxford Diocese.

Throughout the years, we have made significant improvements, such as repairing and replacing parts of the roof to ensure waterproofing, fixing the drains for optimal functionality, and cushioning most of the church seating to enhance congregation comfort. We also successfully raised £2,500 for handrails for the porch and chancel steps.

Despite our efforts, it remains the coldest church in Oxfordshire, and Project St. Michael is now focusing on raising funds for a new heating system. In the past year, we have raised over £14,000 to pay for SSN to provide a three-phase electricity supply for the church, which has been completed. We anticipate installing new heaters throughout St. Michael's soon, as we have finally received a faculty for all the planned work.

We have also had great success with our grant applications this past year, which will aid us in our current goal of replacing the gas heating system with a more efficient and environmentally friendly alternative.

Project St. Michael remains committed to transforming St. Michael's Church into a functional space for the entire community year-round.

If you wish to make a one-time or recurring donation to Project St. Michael, please contact simonsalomebentley@me.com or use the bank details provided below:

Account name: Project St. Michael
Sort Code: 08-92-99
Account number: 65186684



For any additional information, feel free to reach out to me.

Simon Salomé-Bentley



Leaffield Light

Leaffield Light is a lay-led Christian service organised by a group of eight dedicated individuals. It is usually held at St. Michael's Church on the third Sunday of every month, now starting at the new time of 4 PM.

We take great pleasure in planning these services, which may feature a guest speaker or live music on a specific theme of God's Kingdom.

The services are very family-friendly and easy to follow. We warmly invite you and your families to discover God's message for us all. Everyone is welcome!



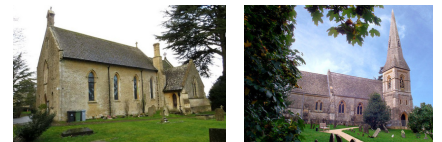
St. Michael
& All Angels
LEAFIELD

St. Peter's
WILCOTE

Church Services

FOR THE LATEST UPDATED SERVICES
PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

<https://www.forestedgebenefice.co.uk/>



Holy Trinity
FINSTOCK

St. James's
RAMSDEN



Congratulations Gail

On Sunday 13th October, the Bishop of Dorchester admitted Gail Ward into the Order of St Birinus in recognition of her outstanding contribution, over many years, to ministry within the Forest Edge Benefice and particularly for her work with both our primary schools over recent months



Dear Paul and all of your community,

Thank you so much for your donation this month of 56.2kg of food to our Foodbank. I am aware that this was a joint community donation and I have written to both Finstock Primary School and Leaffield Primary School separately.

We are most grateful and all of your donations will be put into our parcels for both individuals and families. The average weight of an individual parcel is 10kg, so you can see how many parcels your donations will have helped with.

Thank you for thinking of us here at the Foodbank during Harvest Festival time, it is much appreciated.

Regards,

Faye Carrick

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SPACE? PLEASE CONTACT:

admin@forestedgebenefice.co.uk

Leaffield Light Presents

The Coming of Advent

A CANDLE-LIT, PEACEFUL & CONTEMPLATIVE LAY-LED SERVICE



**ON: SUNDAY 24TH NOV
AT: 4PM
LEAFIELD CHURCH**

EVERYONE VERY WELCOME

LEAFFIELD Christmas Fayre

IN THE CHURCH

2024

Christmas Stalls *
GIFTS & CARDS * TOYS
SANTA * KIDS ACTIVITIES
RAFFLE * MULLED WINE
FOOD & PRODUCE * TOMBOLA
TEA & CAKES

RAISING FUNDS FOR ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH, LEAFIELD, OX29 2QJ. CHARITY NO. XS0481

SAT 30th NOVEMBER
11am - 2.30pm

CHRISTMAS LIGHT PRESENTS

Christmas CAROL SERVICE

EVERYONE WELCOME

UPLIFT YOUR CHRISTMAS SPIRIT WITH CAROLS AND READINGS

SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER
AT 6PM

LEAFIELD CHURCH

