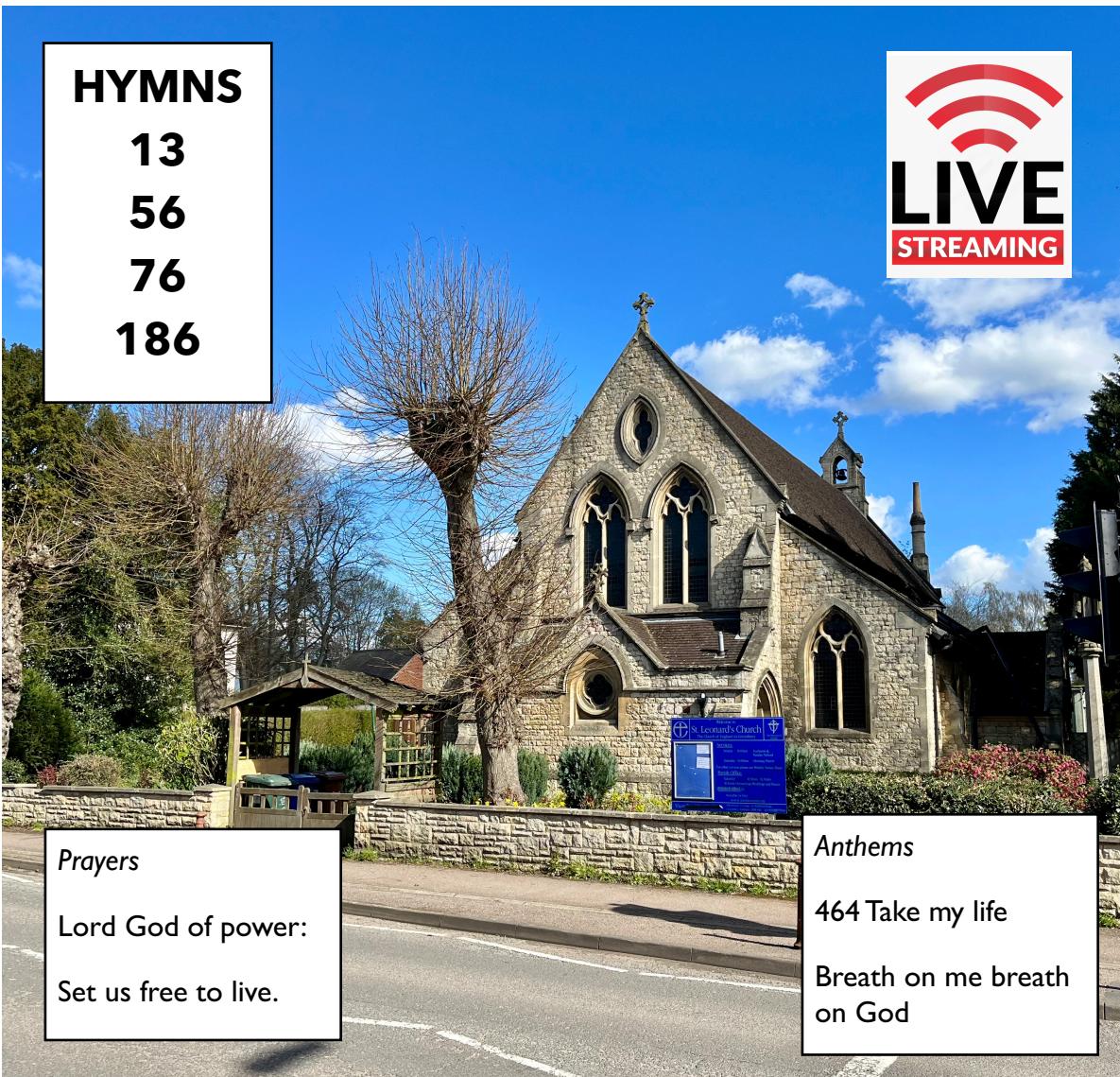


# ST LEONARD BANBURY



## Newsletter and Service Sheet

**Sunday 25th January 3rd Sunday of Epiphany**  
**BRING & SHARE LUNCH**      Revd. Kudzayi Last Service  
    Eucharist Service @ 10.00

### **Services for the coming week.**

Wednesday 28th January  
Saturday 31st January  
Sunday 1st February

Morning Prayers @ 10.00  
Morning Prayers @ 10.00  
Eucharist Service @ 10.00

[www.stleonardsbanbury.org](http://www.stleonardsbanbury.org)

<https://www.youtube.com/@stleonardbanbury>

Sunday 25th January 2026  
Epiphany 3 / Conversion of Paul

## Collect

Almighty God,  
who caused the light of the gospel  
to shine throughout the world  
through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul:  
grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion  
may follow him in bearing witness to your truth;  
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.

## Readings

Jeremiah 1.4–10

4 Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,  
5 Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before  
you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet  
to the nations.  
6 Then I said, Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak,  
for I am only a boy.  
7 But the Lord said to me, Do not say, I am only a boy; for  
you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak  
whatever I command you.  
8 Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you,  
says the Lord.

9 Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, Now I have put my words in your mouth.

10 See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Acts 9.1–22

9 Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest

2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

3 Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.

4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?

5 He asked, Who are you, Lord? The reply came, I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.

6 But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.

7 The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one.

8 Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.

9 For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

10 Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, Ananias. He answered, Here I am, Lord.

11 The Lord said to him, Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying,

12 and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.

13 But Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem;

14 and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.

15 But the Lord said to him, Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel;

16 I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.

17 So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

18 And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized,

19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus,

20 and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, He is the Son of God.

21 All who heard him were amazed and said, Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?

22 Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 67

- 1 God be gracious to us and bless us •  
and make his face to shine upon us,
- 2 That your way may be known upon earth, •  
your saving power among all nations.
- 3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; •  
let all the peoples praise you.
- 4 O let the nations rejoice and be glad, •  
for you will judge the peoples righteously  
and govern the nations upon earth.
- 5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; •  
let all the peoples praise you.
- 6 Then shall the earth bring forth her increase, •  
and God, our own God, will bless us.
- 7 God will bless us, •  
and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

## Galatians 1.11–16a

- 11 For I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin;
- 12 for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

13 You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it.

14 I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors.

15 But when God, who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace, was pleased

16 to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with any human being,

This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Reading**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 19.27–end

27 Then Peter said in reply, Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?

28 Jesus said to them, Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my names sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life.

30 But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Post Communion**

Almighty God,  
who on the day of Pentecost  
sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles  
with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame,  
filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel:  
by the power of the same Spirit  
strengthen us to witness to your truth  
and to draw everyone to the fire of your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Lord God, the source of truth  
and love,  
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,  
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,  
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

A collection will be made during the Offertory Hymn.  
If you pay tax, please complete the yellow  
envelope, we are then able to claim tax  
relief on your donation.

**You can also pay by card (contactless)**



**YOU CAN NOW  
DONATE  
BY SCANNING HERE**



*Church  
Maintenance*

**THANK YOU**

**AND**

**CONTACT US.** We now have **FOUR** ways for you get in touch.

 **07766 299 099**

[admin@stleonardsbanbury.org](mailto:admin@stleonardsbanbury.org)

[www.stleonardsbanbury.org](http://www.stleonardsbanbury.org)

[achurchnearyou.com](http://achurchnearyou.com)

- *If you attend a service in person, you may appear in Church photographs, video or livestream; this may be used in the public domain, including social media. If you or your family do not wish to be viewed on the livestream video feed for a service at which you are present, please let us know before the service.*

*There are still a LOT of ongoing maintenance issues that need to be addressed so .....*

*Please Please Please continue to help.*

*If you are giving to the Church Repair Fund in the Church, PLEASE complete a yellow donation envelope as we can claim tax relief on the monies you are giving. Please mark the envelope REPAIRS.*

Thanks. If donating using the Church Bank Account , again please use the reference repairs.

HSBC, 17 Market Place, Banbury, OX16 5ED

Church Bank Account details:-

Acc. name :- St Leonards Church Grimsbury

S/c 40 09 02 Acc. no. 61047248



If you wish to have prayers said for anyone, please complete the sheet at the back of the Church.

Copiesd of the January Rota are now available at the back of the church.



We were saddened to learn that Pricilla Ormerod passed away last week. Please keep her family and loved ones in your prayers at this difficult time. Pricilla's funeral will take place on the 12th February 2026 at 1.15pm at St Leonard Church Banbury and afterwards at The Banbury

**St Leonards is looking for members of the congregation to come and help with the various weekly activities that are necessary for the running of the Church. If you are interested in assisting in any way, please talk to Roger, Jerry, Liz, Charles or John for more details.**



# INTERREGNUM

An interregnum is the period of time between one parish priest leaving and a new one being appointed. The word comes from Latin and simply means “between reigns”.

During an interregnum, the parish continues its life and worship, but without a permanent incumbent in post. Day-to-day responsibilities are usually overseen by the churchwardens, with support from the area dean and the diocese. Services continue, pastoral care is provided, and visiting clergy may help with leading worship and the sacraments.

This time can be one of waiting, but it is also an opportunity: a chance to reflect on who we are as a church, what God may be calling us to become, and what gifts we hope to see in our next priest. While change can feel uncertain, the interregnum is an important and prayerful part of the life of a parish as we prepare for the next chapter in our ministry.

## A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious and loving God,

we thank You for the gift of Reverend Kudzayi and for the faithful ministry he has shared among us.

Thank You for his leadership, his pastoral care, his preaching of Your Word,

and for the many ways he has helped us grow in faith, hope, and love.

As he now leaves us to continue his ministry in Watford, we commend him to Your care.

Go before him, Lord, and prepare the way. Grant him wisdom, strength, and joy as he serves a new congregation.

May he know Your presence in every step, and may his work there bear much fruit for Your kingdom.

Bless also our own church family in this time of change.

Give us thankful hearts for what has been, courage for what lies ahead,

and trust in Your constant guidance.

Bind us together in unity and love, and renew our commitment to serve You faithfully. Amen.

We entrust Reverend Kudzayi, his family, and our shared future to You,

knowing that You who call us are always faithful.

In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.



## **St Leonard's Church QUIZ and raffle**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb.**

**Venue: *Grimsbury Community  
Centre***

**Start: 6pm**

**Tickets: £10 each, U14's free**

**Proceeds: to repair the Church Guttering.**

**To purchase tickets and reserve your place  
contact: Sheila James on 07414 539623, and  
leave a message.**