

Redditch Foodbank

We are very grateful for your continued support for the Foodbank, and are very pleased to say that our Christmas donations were safely delivered on 18 December and gratefully received.

A very big thank you to all Church members for your contributions this year and especially during the Christmas season.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year, from Pat and Tony Howlett.

Pat Howlett and Jayne Gilder would also like to thank everyone who contributed to their Pocket Money stall at the Christmas Fayre.

St Leonard's Church Christmas Fayre

On behalf of the Fundraising Committee, I would like to thank all church members for their support in making the 2017 Christmas Fayre such a great success. The event raised a staggering £2,050 towards church funds and without your donations, the purchase of raffle tickets and the help and financial support on the day, this would not have been possible.

Thank you to everyone.

Paul Bridgewater.

Christmas Fayre - Tombola

I would just like to thank all of you who sent your generous contributions to the Tombola Stall - you never let me down! I'm most grateful. The stall looked great and those attending were generous in 'having a go' because of the lovely prizes. The stall helped to contribute to a happy and successful Christmas Fayre.

God bless you all. Valerie Boyle.

Items for inclusion in Pews News should be sent by 5:00pm on Tuesday to Rosalind Couchman: 60680 twyneham@hotmail.com

The new Holy Trinity Parish calendar is now published and available for people to buy from the Word Shop at St Stephen's or direct from Elaine Whitfield (07836 644445) at £5.99. Worth the money for the photos of all our clergy (and a few nice ones of Redditch too)!

There is also a fascinating 'Colour-In Redditch' book for those who remember the old town (£7.50).

Traidcraft

Traidcraft goods will be on sale in the Tapestry Room on **Christmas Eve, 24 December.** All your purchases are much appreciated.
Thank you. David Lloyd.

The Children's Society

Home collecting boxes are due for emptying again. Boxes can be left in church or taken to Isabel Dilley at 57 Lechlade Close - or phone 69098 for collection. If you would like to support the work of the Society, but don't have a box at present, Isabel would be pleased to hear from you.

Old £1 coins welcome!

Light Bulbs

We have a surplus of brand new, low-energy (CFL), bayonet fitting light bulbs (60W and 40W equivalent). Free to a good home!

Please see Ann or Chris if you are interested.

PASTORAL CARE AT ST LEONARD'S

Please let one of the following people know of any concerns which affect you or someone you know:

8:00am	Birgitta Blackburn	01527 69238
9:30am	Rosalind Prentice	01527 62429
11:00am	Chris Prevett	01527 402296
11:00am	Ann Simmons	01527 584399
5:30pm	Barbara Jackson	01527 69122

And let **NORMA WALTERS** know (01527 454492). Norma heads up the Pastoral Care Group and will be able to organise appropriate care.

Welcome to

**St Leonard's Church,
Beoley, Church Hill &
Abbey Park**

**Christmas Eve
24 December 2017**



Our Worship today:

**9:30am Informal Worship.
11:00am Sung Eucharist.
5:30pm Crib Service.
11:30pm Midnight Communion.**

Monday 25	Christmas Day. 10:30am Family Communion Service.
Tuesday 26	Boxing Day.
Wednesday 27	10:00am Holy Communion: St Andrew's.
Thursday 28	7:30pm Bellringing Practice.
Friday 29	
Saturday 30	2:30pm Wedding Renewal.
Sunday 31 December New Year's Eve	8:00am Holy Communion (BCP). 10:30am Team Eucharist at St Leonard's. 11:30pm Watchnight Service.
Team Vicar:	
Paul Irving	435683 revpaulirving@outlook.com
Churchwardens:	
Chris Prevett	402296 chris.prevett@blueyonder.co.uk
Ann Simmons	584399 anssimmons@gmail.com

If you are here for the first time, or a visitor to St Leonard's, please make yourself known to the people around you, who will be pleased to make you feel welcome.

www.stleonardsbeoley.org.uk

Our Collect and Bible Readings for Christmas Eve

Collect

Almighty God,
as we prepare with joy
to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child,
embrace the earth with your glory
and be for us a living hope
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Reading **2 Samuel 7:1-11,16**

Now when King David was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.'

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?'

Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies.

Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

★ **What do these Bible passages say to you? Take some time to reflect on them and consider how God might be speaking to you through them today.**

Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.