



The Connect

Sunday 14th February 2021
Transfiguration Sunday

The Weekly Newsletter for the congregation and friends
of St Leonard's Lasswade & St Mary's Dalkeith

Rectors Muse

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday which this year falls on Wednesday February 17th. From this date it is then 46 days to Easter but as Sunday's are not counted as Lenten days we usually say Lent is 40 days long.

Our normal practice would be to hold an Ash Wednesday Services and invite you to come and receive on your forehead the mark of the cross in ash. The act of ashing the penitent symbolises our desire to be forgiven, while acknowledging our fragility and mortality, along with our commitment to turn to Christ confessing our need to be redeemed by the mercy of God. Far from being a merely external act, the Church has retained the use of ashes to symbolize that attitude of internal and active penance to which you and all the baptised believers are called to observe during Lent. It can be viewed as an act of renewal and preparation as we seek the Lord and prepare to celebrate the amazing and wonderful events of Easter.

Although we are not permitted this year to mark you with Ash the church does call all of us to observe a Holy Lent. There will be an online service calling us to observe the season remembering its not necessarily about giving up something but more about how can we be changed to me more like the person God is calling you to be.

As well as joining in with our Lent Studies I hope you will also find time to visit your church garden over these next few weeks and take up the opportunity to use our outdoor Stations of the Cross. Through a short meditation at each station I pray you will be reminded and touched again by the great love of God that leads us onward to Easter.

With love from Peter & Fiona



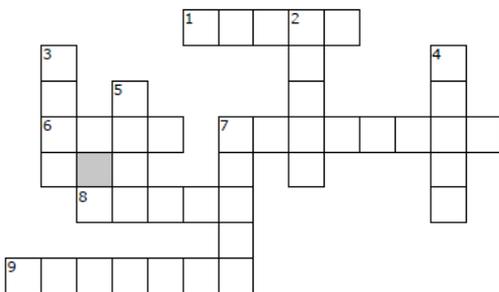
Pat Willis



Key dates for Lent and Easter 2021

- Feb 17th** **Ash Wednesday**
Marks the beginning of Lent 2021
Our Wednesday Morning Worship at 10am will mark the beginning of Lent as we hear again the call to turn away from sin and to turn to Christ.
- Feb 21st** **First Sunday of Lent**
Stations of the Cross — In the garden of each church we invite you to come and be guided on a meditation through the Stations of the Cross. Come and take time to be still, reflecting and ponder a new on the sacrifice and love of God for us.
- March 14th** **Mothering Sunday**
- March 28th** **Palm Sunday**
- Holy Week** We are planning with the other local churches to offer a number of Ecumenical Services during this week. Along with an Ecumenical Zoom Maundy Thursday there will be other videos and posts online as we mark this special week as we marvel again at the wonder of God's love and grace for us.
- 4th April** **Easter Sunday**
April is still a few weeks away and it is difficult to know what we can and cannot do at this stage. Our hope is that we might be able to organise an outdoor socially distanced service at one of our churches.

Bible Puzzles Time



ACROSS

1. The sound produced by the vocal organs; what we use to speak
6. Something that is pleasing, enjoyable, or of high quality
7. A raised part of the earth's surface, larger than a hill
8. The Son of God
9. Articles of apparel such as pants, shirts, dresses, etc.

DOWN

2. A white or gray mass of very small drops of water that floats in the sky
3. Having a great distance from top to bottom
4. The color of snow or milk
5. To have a strong feeling of affection for someone
7. Jewish leader who received the Ten Commandments

I P E T E R Z Z K E M T F F K
 B P S Q Q R A B B I L A Y P Z
 Q Q A H E L J E P J T I V H R
 G M G N W F G G K V K G J O L
 S I O G O Z N J O O J O M A X
 H L B S R I L O Z I P O O G H
 A B Y T L V K H C C C D O K Z
 M A L Z D A W N W E Q Z E L T
 D O Z E J M P B W H I T E X K
 S A U M A Q O P C L O T H E S
 D I Q N L C A S E M L V P O C
 S B X H T O H W E A Z R G Z V
 Q Z Y R G A V C Z S R O X R Z
 P Q V O Y W I E T H N E G S K
 K J A M E S Y N N O N C D C Z

DAYS
HIGH
PETER
ELIJAH

JOHN
RABBI
WHITE
WORLD

APPEARED
MOSES
LOVE
DAZZLING

CLOTHES
GOOD
SIX
MOUNTAIN

BLEACH
VOICE
ALONE
JAMES

Izzy's News

I know its Snowing Again!!!!

I know its lovely to look at and sometimes fun to play in. However, after getting lost in the back garden I managed to get Dad to at least clear the Patio. This allows me to do what must be done without disappearing into the snow drift.

The snow was even deep enough for Grace to make a snow angel and she too was nearly completely covered in snow. It was lovely looking at all the little foot prints in the snow and trying to guess who left them there? The Robin, the crow, the magpie, or the fox, the cat and even Dad's big wellington boots!

I met a snow dog but he was not that friendly in fact I felt he gave me the cold shoulder. Ice to look at but not to play with sadly. Mum and Dad said that when they were out and about they saw someone in St Andrews Street who was out sunbathing.

Have you done any crazy things in the snow do send me some pictures as I would love to see them and to hear from you.

Anyway its time to go and bark at Dad to get him off the sofa. When he gets up to let me out I can then quickly jump up on the vacant cosy spot and curl up for a snooze.

With love and licks from Izzy





Weekly Worship Online

Sunday @ 10am with Eucharist Celebration

Wednesday @ 10am Informal Worship

Join us on ZOOM for Worship and Fellowship

ZOOM Meeting ID: 656 157 5203 at 10am

Or watch our Facebook group at

"St Mary's and St Leonard's Church Family" Or phone in



Telephone Worship Service

join in with your church family by dialling into worship

(0131) 460 1196

Aware that some people in our congregations do not have access to a smart phone or computer, or are not comfortable using Facebook or Zoom we have decided to try a Dial in Service. By dialling a **local rate number** you will be able to listen to the weekly worship services both on a Sunday and a Wednesday and be able to speak and contribute to a time of fellowship with other church members after the service. We invite you to give it a try:

Step 1: At 9.55am just before the Worship Starts dial **460 1196**

Step 2: You will be asked for a Meeting ID

type in 656 157 5203

Step 3: then press the # key

Step 4: There is no additional Password

so press the # key again

you will then be connected to the Service

*Please note that depending on your Phone Contract
you may be charged for using this service at a local rate call.*

SUNDAY 14th February The Transfiguration

Welcome *Peter*

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Hymn

LORD OF BEAUTY, THINE THE SPLENDOUR

Shown in earth and sky and sea

Burning sun and moonlight tender, hill and river, flower and tree

Lest we fail our praise to render, touch our eyes that they may see

Lord of wisdom, whom obeying, mighty waters ebb and flow

While unhasting, undelaying planets on their courses go

In thy laws thyself displaying teach our minds thyself to know

Lord of life, alone sustaining all below and all above

Lord of love, by whose ordaining Sun and stars sublimely move

In our earthly spirits reigning lift our hearts that we may love

Lord of beauty, bid us own thee Lord of truth, our footsteps guide

Till as Love our hearts enthrone thee and, with vision purified

Lord of all, when all have known thee Thou in all art glorified

Prayer of Confession - *Peter / Bill*

As we draw near to God and seek his mercy and grace

we confess our sins with penitence and with faith

**Father we acknowledge
that we have not loved
as you would have us love.**

**We turn to you again
and ask for your mercy,
forgive us and renew us
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

God, who is both power and love

Forgive us and free us from our sins

Heal and strengthen us by his Spirit

And raise us to new life in Christ our Lord **Amen**

Collect

We pray together

Almighty God, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross, give us faith to perceive his glory, that being strengthened by his grace we may be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Gospel Reading Mark 9:2-9

- read by Vicki

Hear the Gospel of our Lord according to Mark

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters – one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' (He did not know what to say, as they were so frightened.)

Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: 'This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!'

Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Sermon

- Bill

Hymn **FATHER, WE LOVE YOU,**
We worship and adore You,
Glorify Your name in all the earth.
Glorify Your name,
Glorify Your name,
Glorify Your name in all the earth.

Jesus, we love You ... (etc.)

Spirit, we love You ... (etc.)

Prayers for Today *Led by Neil*

The Peace - *Peter*

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Eucharistic Prayer V - *Bill*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Worship and praise belong to you Father
in every place and at all times.

You made us, all the people of the world
and everything that is.

You give us the daylight.

Your Word lights up our minds.

Jesus was born among us to be light in our darkness.

One day we will be with you in heaven,
but already we laugh with the saints and angels
and sing their heavenly song:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Father you never forget us
or turn away from us even when we fail you.
You sent your Son Jesus who gave his life for us.
He healed those who were sick,
cared for those who were poor
and cried with those who were sad.
He forgave sinners and taught us to forgive.

For all your love we give you thanks
in the way that Jesus showed us.

For on the night before he died,
while he was having supper with his friends,
he took bread and offered you thanks.
He broke the bread,
and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat.
This is my Body: it is broken for you.'

After supper he took the cup, he offered you thanks,
and gave it to them saying:
'Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant;
it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

**So, as we do what he told us,
we open our hearts to him;
we remember how he died and rose again to live now in us.
Together with him we offer you these gifts:
in them we give you ourselves.**

Send your Holy Spirit on us
and on this bread and this wine;
that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ,
and that, sharing your life,
we may travel in your company to our journey's end.

With all your people we give you thanks and praise through the Son and in the Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

The living bread is broken for the life of the world
Lord, unite us in this sign.

Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour Christ has commanded and taught us, we are bold to say:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Communion

You are invited to say this prayer as the Priest takes communion on your behalf

*God of mercy, we thank you for Jesus our Saviour,
Though we cannot consume the gifts of bread and wine this day,
May we know the presence of Holy Spirits kindling in us the fire of love,
the forgiveness of sins, and life eternal. Amen*

Prayer after Communion

**Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
May we reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may
know his power to change and save. We ask this in his name.
Amen**

Blessing

Christ the Son of God
gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Hymn

LORD, THE LIGHT OF YOUR LOVE IS SHINING,

In the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,
Set us free by the truth You now bring us,
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth Your word, Lord, and let there be light.*

Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,
From the shadows into Your radiance;
By the blood I may enter Your brightness,
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness
So our faces display Your likeness.
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.

Dismissal *Peter*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ Amen

Bishop's Lent Appeal 2021

"Like so much else, our Lent Appeal this year must take account of the pandemic. Many congregations are responding generously to local need, such as food banks and support services for the lonely and the anxious and I hope this will continue into Lent and beyond. My concern is that this focus on the local and personal, on simply getting through the crisis, takes our attention away from pressing needs in other parts of the world, where there is no NHS, no benefits safety-net and where life is constrained by poverty. Hence this years Appeal will support a single, outward-looking cause.

Together in Unity Appeal

The appeal was set up by the Archbishop of Canterbury to support virus prevention and relief for vulnerable communities across the Anglican Communion. At a time when the UK government has, disappointingly cut international aid this appeal provides an opportunity for us to reach out in solidarity to our sisters and brothers, our neighbours in this small world, whom Jesus calls us to love as we love ourselves.



I know there is less money around this year but I would ask you to be generous. Perhaps we might see our giving as an expression of gratitude for the blessings that we so easily take for granted."

+John

The Anglican Communion Fund has already begun responding to COVID related needs, allocating over £180,000 across 21 provinces of the Communion. We are supporting the Church in its ministry, providing food relief to the vulnerable, communicating ways of staying safe from the virus, and providing handwashing facilities and PPE.



In the South Sudanese Diocese of Maridi, an ACF grant provided food items, soaps and seeds to over 200 pastors and lay-readers and provided bicycles and hand microphones for pastors to carry prevention messages into remote areas. Speaking of the support, Bishop Moses Zungo said, "You held our hand during our most trying moments."



Hi everyone,

Is this not the most beautiful photograph captured by a friend of Christine Todd who lives next to St Leonard's? Some have suggested that this image could be perhaps used for a Christmas card; what a lovely idea.

Last week, I stated that I would update you on the Eco film evening and some more news from the Eco meeting. Isn't it wonderful when someone lifts your to do list and does it for you, especially when you are needing recharged? Peter, Fiona, and Izzy certainly created an Eco, God powerful Connect last week. I feel blessed for being part of such a supportive church family. Peter brought you news and information about solar panels and electric cars. At the moment, some members of the Eco group and Peter are carrying out a fact finding and costings mission for solar panels for the Rectory and will be taking their quotes and details to both vestries in due course. We now also have an electric charging point at St Mary's and encourage you if you are considering purchasing a new car to choose an EV.

Izzy was brilliant at filling you all in with a review on the film 'The Chocolate Case', (2016) shown during the February Eco film night. As highlighted by Izzy, we were concerned about the Cocoa farmers not receiving their Fairtrade bonuses so much so that Vicki has sent an email to Fairtrade for an update on this situation. However, please do not stop buying Fairtrade as the charity has a massive challenge to tackle the injustices of conventional trade and slavery. In March 2020, just at the beginning of lockdown, we were invited to repledge our alliance to Fairtrade and Pauline is going to do this during Fairtrade fortnight coming up from Monday 22nd February until Sunday 7th March.

Their campaign for 2021 is: 'Choose the World you want', so next week I will give you some ideas as to how we can reenergise our Fairtrade commitment.



If you want to consider buying Fairtrade flowers for your Valentine this weekend then the Co-op, Lidl, M&S, and Asda should all have them in stock.

Remember to look for the Fairtrade logo when out shopping.

Finally, the Eco Congregation Scotland's theme for February is 'Powering our Homes and Keeping Warm'. I moved here from South Lanarkshire leaving behind a traditional stone-built house with a history dating back to the 1700s. I adored my house; however, it had become in need of repair and attention as we began to ignore it and we chose to dwell happily in what was our home. The energy we had in our youth for DIY projects and the realisation that we really had to spend money and get tradespeople in just became a subject for discussion, but no action was ever taken. I am not by any means suggesting that everyone downsizes! However, as Peter and Jacqui preached last Sunday, sometimes our spiritual batteries just need recharged and sometimes a spark of God's love for us activates us into action. This action might be to ask for help from others. The Eco Congregation Scotland have a link to <https://homeenergyscotland.org> a Government website with headings which we could all consider:

**Make my home warmer / Reduce my energy bills /
Go green and save / Finding funding.**

Simply enter your Postcode and it will list grants that are available in your area. It honestly has offers for everyone from interest free, electric car loans, to grants for a new boiler. If you are reading this and cannot access the Internet, then please ask a family member or even a trusted friend in our church family to help you make your home warm and running efficiently.

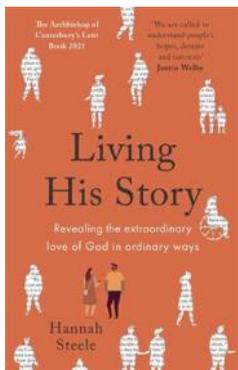
Now before I finish off, I have decided to attend a Zoom Meeting on Monday evening along with Pauline (there may be more of you, I am not sure), on **Net Zero Carbon: Church Heating – Practical Considerations**. I am way out of my comfort zone with this however, as our churches are little treasures to be cherished for the future, I am going to try to pay attention to what they have to say. It is not too late to join Pauline and I on a fact finding mission.



Hope some of you can join us on Monday 15th February at 7.30pm. You can join in by following the link below:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/194891192375278/>

Lent Study - Living His Story



During the Lent Season we invite you to join with us as we study together the wonderful story of Good News and explore how we can be part of the Story and share the Story in our everyday lives.

For details of how to join a ZOOM Study group please contact the ZOOM Host for your preferred day.

Monday — Andrew Watt andrew@andrewwatt.org.uk
Tuesday— Fiona Harris office.stlandm@gmail.com

Bonnyrigg & Lasswade Local History Society,

You are invited to join in with our next Zoom meeting takes place on

Wednesday 17th February at 7.30pm

and our speaker will be **Professor Jim Murray** giving an illustrated talk on "**Prominent Lasswade Parochial Schoolmasters**".

If any of the congregation members of St Leonard's and St Mary's would be interested in joining us on Zoom,

Then please contact Neil Stewart for more details

neil.k.stewart@btinternet.com

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Do call or email if you need help