

ST LEONARD'S & ST MARY'S

CONNECT

The weekly news from your church community

Sunday 22nd March 2020

We are all in uncharted waters and acknowledge that there are many questions, concerns and maybe even a touch of fear if we are honest that surround us at this time. However, as people of faith we need to remember we are not alone. **It is our plan to support each other and remind ourselves that we are connected to each other and to God who is with us.**



Just to bring you up to speed or to remind you of what has been asked of us as a Church Community. As of Tuesday 17th March the College of Bishops ask us to:

Cease meeting for worship, fellowship, study and business until further notice in line with Government Advice as a measure to help protect the most vulnerable in the church and wider community.

We have been given permission to **open the church as a place for prayer** and contact. However we need to highlight the need for good hygiene and to keep at least 2 metres apart. We are not allowed to have organised acts of worship but people who are not self isolating are allowed to pop in for a short time for private prayer while respecting a social distance. So we will endeavour to have both churches open on Sundays at these times:

9.30-10.30am at St Mary's and 11-12 Noon at St Leonard's

We will try and provide hand sanitisers but ask you to bring your own where possible or to clean your hands before taking a pew.



Being Church - not a building!

So the question we are all asking is how can we be Church without gathering in our buildings?

Well the truth is the Church was never meant to be about the building. It is lovely to have a home, the building we use for our Church worship and activities but Church has always been about people, you and I, brothers and sisters loved by God, loving each other, united and connected through Jesus' our Lord sacrificial love and the promise of the Holy Spirit who is with us.

So how will we look out for each other and love one another in Jesus name? There are a number of different ways that we are beginning to adjust to these uncharted waters that we now find ourselves in, so please do be patient with us as there is no catch all answer or solution. However, there are a number of different approaches we are exploring.

Pastoral Telephone Groups

Firstly informally we can all try and stay connected. Phone your church friends, send a text or email if you can, or write a letter or post a card to say your thinking of them.

Secondly as your friend and Rector I am in the process of going through our contact lists and phoning or emailing our members and then I am asking our Pastoral Groups to divided up the contacts into small groups of 4 or 5 families and for one person from the Pastoral Group, Ministry Team or other helpers if needed to contact you once a week on behalf of the church. This will be a short call to see how you are and to highlight if there are any needs or concerns that we as a church can help with. Practical help like shopping etc can be directed to the Church Office number while pastoral concerns in the first instance would be past to our Pastoral Coordinators who are:

St Leonard's Joy Mooney 0131 663 0889 email: pastoral.stl@gmail.com

St Mary's Noreen Grieve 0131 663 4817 email: pastoral.stm@gmail.com



Being Connected with each other

As well as Telephoning or writing letters to each other those who can are asked to engage with the church family through the use of our Social Media pages or email.



Our FACEBOOK pages: We have two Facebook Pages.

St Leonard's and St Mary's use the tag @stLandM,

This is our public page open to all in the community to join in with and for us to reach out through. If your happy to post things here for the wider public audience to see then please post to this group.

Our other page for you to join on Facebook is called

St Mary's and St Leonard's church family

This is a Private Group page administered by Jacqui du Rocher. Being private it is for church members wanting to chat and engage or post words of encouragement that will not be going out to the wider community. This could be your day to day place to visit and catch up.

We also have a **Whats App Prayer Group** for those who want to engage in a number of different prayer requests that we receive. This group is for sharing Prayer news and to encourage us to pray specifically for people. We ask that general day to day news and chat should be kept to our Family Facebook Page. Please let Fiona know if you would like to join this group.



CONNECT - Newsletter

Aware that not everyone is online we are planning to produce this Weekly Newsletter to keep everyone up to date with news from the church. Yes we will post this online but will make hard copies to be delivered to those members who do not have email. We hope this will be a means whereby we can share stories from each other about how we are all coping. Maybe share recipes, stories or ideas to do as we try and keep busy while self distancing or in isolation. Do let us know your ideas.





Seeing one another

In this age of technology many of us can now also access video phone calls or videoing conferencing Applications (Apps). So we can not only listen to each other but also see who we are talking with. This is a great way for families or small groups to keep in touch and see how each other are getting on. You can use it for one to one calls or invite friends for a group chat

We are looking at using ZOOM which is video conferencing App that has been recommended to us . You can sign up for a free account and then access their basic package allowing individuals or a group of people to meet and discuss online for up to 40 minutes . You will need to use a good Wifi signal for your smart phone, tablet or computer to use the App successfully but most home wifi systems can cope.

Depending on how long we will be asked to Self Distance or Isolate ourselves for we may move to setting up ZOOM Prayer Groups, House Groups or even a short act of Sunday Worship for us to enjoy together.

visit — www.zoom.us

to sign up and download to your Computer
or search for the App on App Store or Google shop



***Let us encourage one another
to stay connected
and look out for each other.***

WORSHIP

How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?

The Psalmist asks the question in Psalm 137 "How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange Land?" This is another question I have been asking. How do we encourage and enable people to worship the Lord when we have been told to close the doors of our church buildings. This time of viral crisis in our time feels very much like we are living in a strange land.

Here are a few suggestions to consider:

RADIO and ONLINE Service, including prayers, hymns and a short sermon, will be broadcast online by the Church of England and broadcast on BBC Radio 4's Sunday Worship and 39 local BBC radio stations this Sunday as congregations across the country find new ways of sharing worship together after public church services were put on hold.

The Scottish Episcopal Church has also organised for a similar broadcast to be made available on its Web Site with the opportunity to down load the Liturgy for each week: This will air from 11am.

www.scotland.anglican.org/broadcast-sunday-worship

If you are looking for something a bit more contemporary our friends from Felixstowe where I served my Curacy are offering their service online too
www.christchurchfelixstowe.org.uk

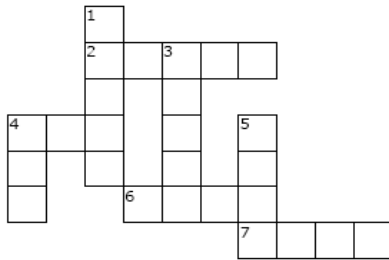
We also encourage you to consider a daily routine of prayer and bible readings alone or with a friend over ZOOM or the telephone. Resources are available if you would like me to point you in the right direction.

We are also exploring offering our own weekly Video to watch with Bible reading, reflection and a prayer as a possible way forward or even Live worship with Facebook Live. Its early days so bear with us.

Bible Quiz Time

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

BLIND	EYES	SPIT	POOL	WASH
WORLD	SINNED	SIGHT	NIGHT	BORN
HOME	MUD	LIFE	OPENED	LIGHT
SILOAM	PARENTS	RECEIVED	BIRTH	GROUND



ACROSS

- Brightness that comes from the sun, candles, or electrical devices that allows things to be seen
- An adult male human being
- The two organs in your face which are used to see
- To make someone well from a sickness or injury

DOWN

- Unable to see
- Great admiration, honour and praise, especially as given to God
- A sticky mixture of dirt and water
- To clean something using water

Our Bible Puzzle is based on the reading from John 9:1-41



Can You Help the Storehouse?

Dear Friends

Thank you once more for your amazing on going support to Storehouse. It wouldn't be possible without you all!

I have been in contact with social work and we will be delivering food parcels for Easter holidays on Wednesday 1st April at 7pm as originally planned.

As you can imagine, the need in our community is great at present - even this week we delivered to a pregnant lady with four children. Earlier this in the week we delivered a parcel to another mother of four. Such cases of need are sadly likely to increase as the children are off school as of Monday.

If you'd like to donate items to Storehouse this month, just bring them along to the Full Gospel Church on Dalkeith High St on one of the following days and times when we will be making up the parcels - you don't even need to stay and help pack just pop in and drop off.

Sunday 29th March at 6pm.

Monday 30th March at 10am.

Tuesday 31st March at 9:30am.

Here is what we are in most need of :

tubs of Pringles, cans of macaroni cheese, tomato ketchup,
cans of hot dogs, tins of chicken or mince and of course pot noodles.

I'm aware that these things aren't easy to buy at present.

Also, something else that would be a massive help is 50p/£1 bags from Morrison's or Tesco or Farmfoods. The parcels we deliver are heavy and therefore strong bags are needed to carry them

Please note, we aren't asking over 70's or people with health problems to help at present - please stay safe. Your health is most important at this time.

Thank you for all your support as we reach our community with practical support and kindness at this time.

Blessings and take care, Philip at the Store House



St Leonard's & St Mary's

We warmly invite and welcome you to stay connected with us as we face these days of uncertainty with faith and prayer.

We may not physically be together but can keep in contact with each other through Telephone calls, writing letters, reading and contributing to our "Connect" News Letter and by signing up to our Facebook Pages. I look forward to hearing from you over this unusual time.



St Mary's

stmarysdalkeith.org.uk

Open for Prayer

Sunday 9.30 to 10.30am

St Leonard's

stleonardslasswade.org.uk

Open for Prayer

Sunday 11 to 12noon

If visiting the church for prayer please do observe good hygiene procedures and clean your hands before taking a pew and after you leave. Please also respect each other and keep a good social distance of 2 metres apart at this time. Thank You

Find us on  **@StLandM**

Church Office & Rectory
11 Peacock Parkway
Bonnyrigg EH193RQ



0131 663 7000 or email  office.stlandm@gmail.com

Both Churches are registered with the Scottish Charity Register as
St Leonard's Episcopal Church: Lasswade SC014151
St Mary's Episcopal Church: Dalkeith SC001677

Do let us know if any need arises
and we will try and help.