



St Leonard's & St Mary's

Connect

*Your weekly newsletter keeping us connected
as a church family and community*

Sunday 29th November - First Sunday of Advent



A Rector's Muse

Our cover Picture of this weeks Connect Newsletter is that of Holman Hunts depiction of Christ the Light of the World. Many of you may remember that one of the key symbolisms of this picture is that the door has no obvious handle and that it is surrounded by weeds. The Artist is trying to convey that Christ Jesus can often stand outside of our lives, outside of our hearts that are closed like a door rarely opened. The picture is often linked with the following passage of scripture from Revelations chapter 3 verse 10:

*“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock.
If anyone hears my voice and opens the door,
I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.”*

This week we enter the season of Advent as we prepare and come to celebrate once again the amazing story of God's promises coming to pass in the birth of Jesus, the babe of Bethlehem, our Emmanuel. Advent is a time of waiting and preparing for the promises of God to be revealed and to come true in our lives. It's a time of Hope, Love, Joy and Peace as we look back at the promises made by our faithful God and how those promises were kept in the sending of Jesus to be the Messiah, the Light of the World. It is also a time of looking forward with faith, believing that as God has been faithful in the past so shall he be in the future. For God has promised us that this same Jesus, born in Bethlehem and who died on a cross and rose again as the risen Christ, will one day return in all his glory and power. In the meantime we are to wait and to keep watch for the return of our King.

However, during this time of waiting we are not to close ourselves off from God or the world around us. In fact we are to embrace a great mystery that the King, whom we wait upon is also the one who has been promised to us as the Emmanuel, the God who is with us.

Like the picture on our front cover we can choose to keep Jesus on the outside of our hearts and lives, keeping ourselves closed off from God. After all it could be dangerous and demanding to allow Jesus in and for us to change how we live our lives. It is less demanding to celebrate Advent as a time of things past and remember the romanticised story of Mary and Joseph. However, Advent calls us to be awake and to be active in our waiting. Therefore, even today as we wait on the promised return of the King we can use this Advent as a fresh new start with our God who is faithful and to keep a watch out for Jesus.

Our Gospel for this first Sunday in Advent takes us to Mark 13 verse 33-34

Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It's like a man going away: he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

I wonder if sometimes I have become too busy or preoccupied that I forget to take time out to really keep a watch out for Jesus. I believe God is at work all around us but sometimes I wonder if we have closed our ears and eyes or the doors of our heart to what God is doing or calling us to do. Even someone who has been involved in the life of the church for many years can at times evict Jesus back out into the cold. Our faith may have been bruised, our hope diminished and our love grown cold as we allowed the weeds of apathy to grow over our doorway. We may even just get out of the habit of keeping up appearances look like we are alive in Christ while inwardly the light of his love slowly dies as another year ends and new one is about to begin.

Wake up! Be alert! Keep watch! Is the alarm clock's anthem to Advent. Open the door let Jesus return, let his love and light flood in as Advent comes to remind you that you are loved, you are special and God renews his promises to you that he will be with you if you keep watch and open your heart to him.

*Yours with Advent Hope
Peter*



Izzy's News

Dear Friends,

You can meet some right real characters when you are out and about in Dalkeith or Lasswade especially if you visit the churches? The Nativity Characters are coming along nicely though and my bark of thanks to all involved.

However, my Dad is a bit concerned about these new attendees at the church. Firstly around this time he is usually asked to fill in the annual return forms for the Diocese and Provincial pen pushers. So how does he classify this new family within our congregation? Expectant, vibrant, homeless, refugee? Hopefully he will find a stable home for them soon.

I believe Advent has something to do with waiting and most of the time I am quite happy to sit and stay especially if there is a treat to wait for. Although I can get quite excited waiting in hope. I wonder what are you waiting for this Advent time and I pray it will indeed come to pass. Hopefully I will get to see some of you in the days and weeks to come.

with licks and barks Izzy



Hi everyone,

I Hope you managed to watch the Eco Film this week, 'Catch the Sun', it is worth a watch if you would like to learn more about how the Green Economy can help solve inequality by creating jobs and training programmes. The film will give you some further insight into some positive solutions being used by the solar panel industry. You will find the film on YouTube if you search for "Catch the Sun". Our discussion group on Wednesday Night was interesting, and I plan to report back soon with our reflections on all the Eco films we have watched so far.

Now onto Christmas... How to have an Eco Christmas.

The theme for December is to have a low carbon or a plastic free Christmas.

Here are some of the Eco Congregation suggestions to do at home:

Make your own wrapping paper from brown paper. Consider using ribbons (which can be reused) to tie up parcels instead of miles of sticky tape. Make your own gift boxes or bags and fill them with little sweets or gifts. Use these instead of crackers for the Christmas table. You could add your own jokes too. Or make a recycled nativity scene to share with your local community.

The last challenge made me smile, 'Make a recycled nativity scene to share with your local community.' Well as a church we can tick this one. Anyone still wondering how to decorate their home window/front garden could consider a recycling project, I know I am going to be bringing out my decorations to see what I can use for the advent light and star scene. Reusing and making rather than buying anything new. Do take photos so we can see what we have created.

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has commented on this Eco news slot. It is so encouraging to hear how you have responded to our suggestions, themes, and activities and how we are being active at home as one Eco congregation to care for our world both locally and globally. Feeling blessed and full of hope to be part of this growing Eco church family.

Thank you to everyone for playing their unseen part. *Margaret*

A Prayer for us to use

Lord, we are called to prepare, celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ your Son.
Light of the world, guide us to be your light and love in our communities.

God of justice, give us strength, to strive for fairness, sharing the world's wealth and respecting its natural resources.

Lord, we are called to look forward to the coming of Jesus Christ your Son.

God of Advent promise, grant us hope, joy, peace and love as we trust in You.

Lord, we are called by you help us to shine for you.

Amen

Annual General Meeting of St Mary's Dalkeith

Monday 14th December at 7pm

We invite all members of St Mary's to join with us for our Annual General Meeting. This meeting will take place on ZOOM both by Video call and Telephone call. Papers for the meeting will be available soon. We are in the process of looking to appoint a new Vestry Secretary and also to appoint new members to the Vestry. So please consider how you can support the work of the church at this time and please do hold this meeting in your prayers as we prepare to meet.

Lyfe Group - a Small Group Study on Zoom

Tuesday 1st December at 8pm

We enjoyed our first meeting of a new study group and invite you to join in with the next meeting. These studies are Open to ALL who want to join with us on Zoom for some Fellowship, learning and fun.

Contact the Church Office or Vicki Clark for more details

Scottish History Group

Our new group plans to meet using ZOOM on the 2nd Monday of the month at 2.30pm.

Our next meeting will be held on the

Monday 14th November

To join in please contact MITCH THOMSON on 01875 320067
or by email on mitchonline16@gmail.com



Online ZOOM Coffee at Mary's

10:30 am Saturday Mornings
bring your own coffee, cake and chat.
For details of how to join the Zoom
Coffee Morning please contact
Andrew Watt
andrew@andrewwatt.org.uk



Advent Window Nativity



We invite you to share the Good News of Christmas during Advent by building up a Window display of the Nativity Scene.

You can do your own thing or use our templates to create silhouettes or even colour in the Colour in pages and display these on a prominent window in your house. Join in with sharing the Hope, Love, Joy and Peace of the seasons.

Email the Church Office and we will send you a copy of the Activity Pack.

Story time with Santa



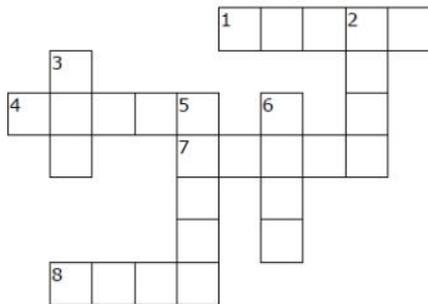
Join us on our Facebook or our Youtube Channel to hear some festive stories from Santa. Each day from the 20th to 24th December we will release a short Story for you to enjoy with your family as Santa reminds us of the greatest story on earth. A story filled with love and hope for all.

[CHRISTMAS EVE at the Nativity Scene](#)

If your passing St Leonard's and St Mary's look out for our new Nativity Scene that will be erected outside the church. Then join us for short outdoor Christmas Eve Service. St Leonard's at 4pm and St Mary's at 6pm.

Zoom Into Christmas
Fun, Fellowship & Festive Frivolities
Save the date: Friday 18th December 20, 7pm
Dress Code: Christmas Glam, Jumpers or PJ's or come as you are!
More information to follow...

Bible Puzzle Time



ACROSS

- The time of day when it is dark
- To keep an eye on; to guard
- The person who has something such as property
- A particular moment in the day, such as eight o'clock

DOWN

- A period of sixty minutes
- A period of 24 hours
- The place where a person or family lives
- To have information about something; to be aware of something

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

COME
 ROOSTER
 GUARD
 ALERT

CHARGE
 DAY
 WATCH
 CROWS

MIDNIGHT
 SLEEPING
 EVENING
 ANGELS

TIME
 HOUSE
 OWNER
 KNOW

SERVANTS
 DAWN
 HOUR
 HEAVEN



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.*

The Welcome *Peter*

We light our first candle of Advent signifying Hope,
we wait on the Lord with hope in his promise to come to us

Lord God, we open our ears to hear you.

Lord God, we open our eyes to see you.

Lord God, we open our hearts to love you.

Restore us, O God;

let your face shine upon us,

that as we wait on you

we will renew our hope in your promise to come again

Hymn **Longing for light, we wait in darkness.**

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,

light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has power to save us.

Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others,

shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others,

walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people,

many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another,

making your kingdom come.

Confession Peter / Elizabeth

God is love and we are his children.

There is no room for fear in love. We love because he loved us first.

So let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

**God our Father, we confess to you
and to our fellow members in the Body of Christ
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,
and in what we have failed to do. We are truly sorry.
Forgive us our sins, and deliver us from the power of evil,
for the sake of your Son who died for us, 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.***

The Collect

**Stir up your power, Lord, and come:
that, with you as our protector, we may be rescued from our sins;
and with you as our deliverer, we may be set free;
for you live and reign with God the Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end, Amen**

A Reading from Mark 13: 24-37 Vicki Clark

Hear the Gospel of our Lord according Mark

Glory to Christ our Saviour

in those final days, following that distress,

“the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light;

the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.”

‘At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

‘Now learn this lesson from the fig-tree: as soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door.

Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. 'But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

Be on guard! Be alert You do not know when that time will come. It's like a man going away: he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door, keep watch. 'Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back – whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: "Watch!"'

Reflection *Peter*

Song **Wait for the Lord**
Whose day is near
Wait for the Lord
Keep watch, take heart

Intercessions for Today *Anne MacKay*

The Peace

May the Peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Eucharistic Prayer *Elizabeth*

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, God our maker.

Out of nothing, you called all worlds to be,

and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment.

Dawn and evening celebrate your glory

till time shall be no more.

In Christ your Son, the life of heaven and earth were joined,
sealing the promise of a new creation, given, yet still to come.

Taught by your Spirit, we who bear your threefold likeness
look for the City of Peace in whose light we are transfigured
and the earth transformed.

As children of your redeeming purpose
who await the coming of your Son,
we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels
and the whole company of heaven
singing the hymn of your unending glory:

**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.

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving Father.

In Jesus you showed us yourself.

Our hope is built on him, the first, the last, the living one.

Obedient, even to accepting death, he opened the gate of glory
and calls us now to share the life of heaven.

Before he was given up to suffering and death,
alight with the vision of a feast

that heralded a kingdom yet to come,

at supper with his disciples

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,

and 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.”

**We now obey your Son's command.
We recall his blessed passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension;
and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.
Made one with him, we offer you these gifts
and with them ourselves,
a single, holy, living sacrifice.**

Hear us, most merciful Father,
and send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon this bread and this wine,
that, overshadowed by his life-giving power,
they may be the Body and Blood of your Son,
and we may be kindled with the fire of your love
and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

**Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body
to live and work to your praise and glory;
may we grow together in unity and love
until at last, in your new creation,
we enter into our heritage
in the company of the Virgin Mary,
the apostles and prophets,
and of all our brothers and sisters
living and departed.**

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be to you,
Lord of all ages,
world without end.

Amen.

Breaking the Bread

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

Lord's Prayer

As Christ has taught us so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

Distribution of Communion

You may say this prayer as the presiding Priest
takes bread and wine on our behalf:

*God of hope, peace, love and joy
We thank you that although we may not partake
of your bread and wine this day
We receive the blessings of your faithfulness and love
As we await the coming of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen*

Prayer after Communion

**God for whom we wait, keep us ever watchful,
that we may be ready to serve your Kingdom
and come to stand before your Son our Lord.
We ask this in his name, Jesus Christ the Lord.**

Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness
shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son
and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.
Amen

Hymn **HARK THE GLAD SOUND!** The Saviour comes,
The Saviour promised long;
Let every heart prepare a throne,
And every voice a song.

He comes the prisoners to release,
In Satan's bondage held;
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace
To enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim;
And heaven's eternal arches ring
With Thy beloved name.

Dismissal **Peter**

Go in peace to love and serve the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
In the name of Christ. Amen



**St Mary's
Dalkeith**

stmarysdalkeith.org.uk

**St Leonard's
Lasswade**

stleonardslasswade.org.uk

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Do call or email if you need help