

St Leonard's & St Mary's
Connect



Rejoice!
The Lord is near



The Third Sunday of Advent

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

Sunday 6th December 2020

Annual General Meeting of St Mary's Dalkeith

Monday 14th December at 7pm

Join us using Zoom Meeting ID: 861 4063 5693

Or phone in on (0131) 460 1196

Please notify Peter if coming to the church to book a space.

If everyone is happy to Zoom or Phone in,
then there will be no need to set up in the church so do let me know!

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 December

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



Lyfe Group - a Small Group Study on Zoom

Tuesday 15th December 8pm

We invite you to join in with our On-line Home Group, a chance to fellowship, discuss and learn about our faith with others from the church family. Contact Vickie Clark or Fiona Harris for joining details..

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





Rectors Muse

Rejoice, the Lord is near! Is one of the underlying themes of Advent and especially this Sunday the Third Sunday of Advent. Traditionally we use purple to signify a time of penitence and preparation as we prepare for major festival like Easter which is preceded by Lent in purple and Advent leading us up to Christmas as the birth of our Saviour. However, on some Advent Wreaths we have a pink candle to remind us that it is not all doom and gloom in fact we are to be thankful and rejoice at the coming of the Lord! Rejoice in Latin is "gaudete" and back in the good old days when Mass was sung in Latin we would hear the phrase "Gaudete in Domino semper". Which simply means Rejoice, in the Lord always.

It has been a tough and very unusual year and therefore we can be forgiven for feeling that there is not much to rejoice about. We have sadly lost a number of loved ones and members of the church family over this past year. We have also been torn from our church buildings and banned from sharing the Peace or of fellowshiping together as we steered a way through all the various rules and guidelines governing how we live within a pandemic. So yes it may feel like there is not much to rejoice in.

However, we are called to rejoice! To rejoice that through the gift of our Saviour, who loves us, our loved ones who have died will stand before the Lord of heaven. For he is forever seeking the lost and weary and welcoming them home. To rejoice and give thanks for the new ways that we have been doing church. To be thankful and rejoice for how we have endeavoured and persevered through this time to stay connected and to share our love in new and wonderful ways. To rejoice that there is new vaccines and hope for the new year to come. So I say it again Rejoice! The Lord is near.

Yours with Advent love Peter

Zoom Into Christmas

Friday 18th December at 7pm

Join us for an evening of music, rhyme, reminiscence, interactive quiz, bingo, guess the weight of the cake, Christmas humour and a few surprises along the way all performed by our very own talented congregations of St Leonard's and St Mary's, hosted by our charming Rector, Peter and his lovely assistant Fiona.

Prizes to be won & fellowship to be had!

Be sure to have a pen and paper handy, your favourite Christmas tippie and wear your glad rags or Christmas Pjs or Jumpers!

Zoom Meeting ID: 874 8840 0731

Izzy's News



Dear Friends,

This week has been a fairly stable week as I helped some new members of our Church Family move in to their new homes on the outskirts of our two church buildings.

There are some remarkable similarities between the two families that we helped rehouse but as far as I am concerned its not a fit environment to raise a child in. These stables are very draughty places and not worthy of a one star B&B rating.

However, with a little help from Robin, Mike, Sharon and Mum and Dad we were able to give Mary and Joe a new home. We also managed to fit in a few Shepherds and some wise guys into the scene. Initially there was no room for the animals under the roof however, after a little adaptation here and there we managed to find a space for them.



My thanks again to everyone involved in our Nativity project.

A special thanks to Caroline Wineberg, one of our local artists who was responsible for painting the manger and baby Jesus. Some one

says that Baby Jesus looks so life like that they just wanted to pick him up and give him a cuddle. Do take time if you can to call by the churches and see the Nativity Scenes. From 4pm the lights come on to give a lovely warm glow in the stable. Although personally barking I think I would still prefer snuggling up on my cosy bed in a real home than spending a night in a stable. I wonder what God was planning when he sent his son to be born in a stable?

with licks and barks Izzy

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.



Thank You and Merry Christmas



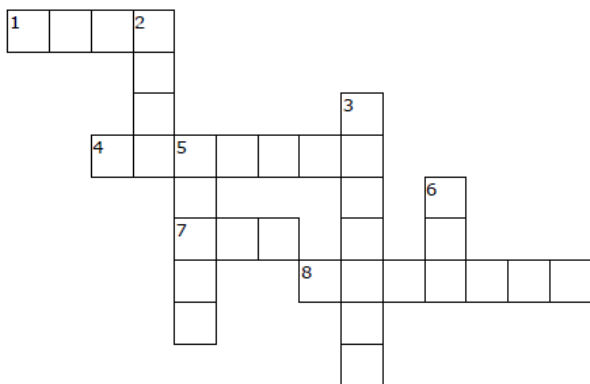
A big and grateful thank you to everyone who has supported the Storehouse Foodbank over this last year. Wednesday 16th at 10—10.30am is our last collection date of the year.

We will reopen for donations again on Wednesday 6th January.

Bible Quiz Time

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

GOD MEN LIGHT	TRUE VOICE BELIEVE	PROPHET JOHN MESSIAH	WORLD WITNESS TESTIFY	SENT MAN NAME
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ACROSS

- The man sent from God to tell about Jesus (John 1:6)
- To have confidence that something is true (John 1:7)
- The creator of heaven and earth (John 1:6)
- A person who has personal knowledge of something (John 1:8)

DOWN

- What a person, place, or thing is called (John 1:6)
- To tell others about what you have seen or heard (John 1:7)
- Something such as the sun, a flashlight, or lamp that allows you to see (John 1:8)
- An adult male person (John 1:6)



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 Third Sunday of Advent 13th Dec 2020

The Welcome *Peter*

As we light our Advent candles let us

Rejoice in the Lord

for he brings hope to his people

Rejoice in the Lord

for his love offers us freedom from sin and death

Rejoice in the Lord

for he is the joy of our salvation

Let us Rejoice in the Lord

for the Lord is near

Hymn **HARK! A HERALD VOICE IS CALLING:**

'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;

'Cast away the dreams of darkness,

O ye children of the day!'

Startled at the solemn warning,

Let the earth-bound soul arise;

Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling,

Shines upon the morning skies.

Lo! the Lamb, so long expected,

Comes with pardon down from heaven;

Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,

One and all to be forgiven;

So when next he comes with glory,

Wrapping all the earth in fear,

May he then as our defender

Of the clouds of heaven appear.

Honour, glory, virtue, merit,

To the Father and the Son,

With the co-eternal Spirit,

While unending ages run.

Amen.

Confession

Peter / Bill

God is love and we are his children.
There is no room for fear in love.
We love because he loved us first.
Therefore, let us confess our sins
in penitence and with 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

**God of power and mercy,
you call us once again to celebrate
the advent of your Son.
Remove those things which hinder our love of you,
that when Christ comes
he may find us waiting in awe and wonder
for him who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.**

A Reading from Luke 1 v46-55 read by Martin Johnston

Hear the Gospel of our Lord according to Luke
Glory to Christ our Saviour

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;
for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant;
from this day all generations will call me blessed.

The Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is his name.

He has mercy on those who fear him, in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm;

he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Rejoice and give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Reflection *Bill*

Song **I GIVE YOU ALL THE HONOUR** And praise that's due Your name,
For You are the King of glory, the Creator of all things.

And I worship You, I give my life to You, I fall down on my knees.

Yes, I worship You, I give my life to You, I fall down on my knees.

As Your Spirit moves upon me now you meet my deepest need,
And I lift my hands up to Your throne, Your mercy I've received.

You have broken chains that bound me, You've set this captive free;
I will lift my voice to praise Your name for all eternity.

Intercessions for Today *led by Anne McKay*

The Peace

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

Eucharistic Prayer *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,

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

Prayer after Communion

**Merciful God,
may we know freedom from our sins,
fill us with unending joy, as we rejoice and prepare ourselves
to celebrate the birthday of our Saviour.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,
who is Lord for ever and ever.**

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 HAIL TO THE LORD'S ANOINTED, Great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,
To take away transgression, and rule in equity.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
Love, joy and hope, like flowers, spring in His path to birth;
Before Him, on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go;
And righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

Kings shall fall down before Him, and gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore Him, His praise all people sing;
To Him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend,
His kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.

O'er every foe victorious, He on His throne shall rest;
From age to age more glorious, all-blessing and all-blessed.
The tide of time shall never His covenant remove;
His name shall stand forever, that name to us is Love.

Dismissal Peter

Go in peace and rejoice
as we serve the Lord who is near
In the name of Christ. Amen

**St Mary's
Dalkeith**

stmarysdalkeith.org.uk



**St Leonard's
Lasswade**

stleonardlasswade.org.uk

Find us on  @StLandM

Church Office & Rectory 11 Peacock Parkway Bonnyrigg EH193RQ



0131 663 7000 or email



office.stlandm@gmail.com

Do call or email if you need help