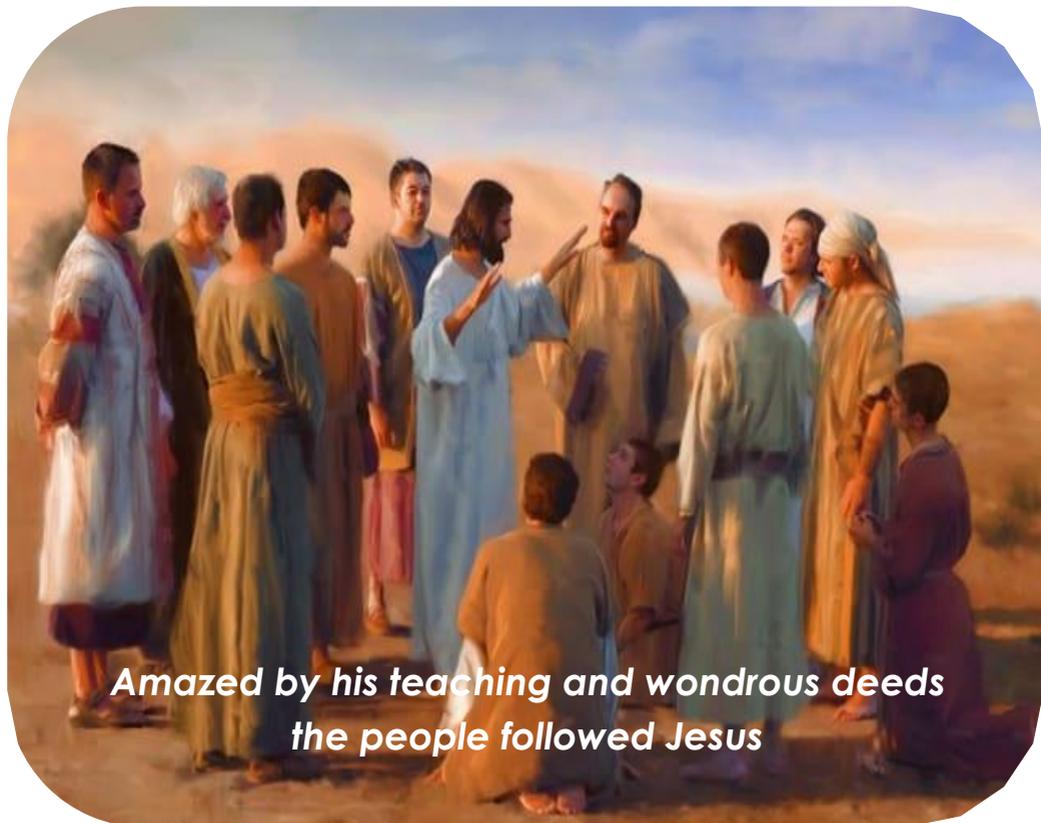


The Connect



*Amazed by his teaching and wondrous deeds
the people followed Jesus*

Sunday 31st Jan 2021
4th Sunday after Epiphany

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



St Leonard's AGM

Wednesday 10th February

at 7pm on ZOOM

Meeting ID 820 7369 0346

We invite all members of the congregations to join us for our On-line AGM. Please join by Zoom if you can or phone in by dialling (0131) 460 1196 and then typing in the meeting id when requested to do so.

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 8th February

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 9th February 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 Vicki 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

I was reflecting this week about the story of a man who helped rescue other passengers from a sinking Ferry Ship. He was just an ordinary passenger, not an officer or member of the crew but with a voice of authority he brought a voice of hope into chaos.

The ship was taking in water and had turned over on its side. The people were in a state of panic and chaos as what was once the floor had now become the wall and within the darkness it was difficult to see where to go. But into this chaos and darkness a man called out in a clear voice and began instructing people to come to him. As the people began to listen and follow his instructions a sense of relief and hope took over them as they were led to safety and eventually lifted off the sinking ship. It was recorded that the man would often reach out into the darkness and make a human bridge for people to hold onto and cross over in to safety.

This rescue account reminds me of the work of our Lord. Seeing the world sinking in darkness and sin. Jesus stooped down into our world to become human and to reach out a saving hand and speak words of authority bringing peace into the chaos and darkness of our lives.

Although through believing in God we believe in supernatural powers at work we do not yet understand this other realm of angels and fallen angels. However, we can all acknowledge that good and evil exist. There are times of chaos, darkness and turmoil in our lives and in the world in which we live. We may even say sometimes that we face our own demons, and trials daily.

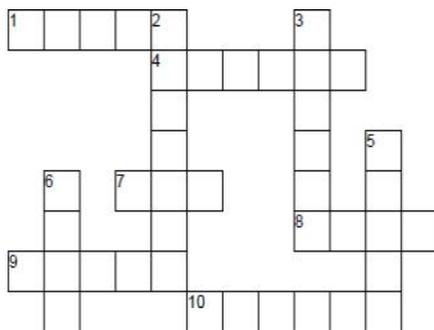
The question is to whom then should we turn?

There are many different voices calling for our attention, claiming we should live this way or that way. Believe this or that and for many people Jesus or Christianity is just another voice in the chaos of many voices. Some even say it doesn't matter what path you take or what you believe.

Imagine an other scenario, you are flying a plane full of passengers screaming and shouting to do this or that and you know you need instructions on how to land safely. Which voice will you listen too? Hopefully you will choose to listen to the voice from the Airport Tower. Likewise in life I hope you will seek out and listen to Jesus, who speaks with authority and with power to save us and bring us to a place of peace.

With love from Peter & Fiona

Bible Puzzles Time



HORIZONTAL

1. The Son of God
4. To be extremely surprised
7. An adult male human being
8. Immoral, bad, or wicked
9. To instruct or train someone
10. A supernatural being such as a demon

VERTICAL

2. The day of the week set aside by some religions as a day of rest and worship
3. Human beings; men, women and children
5. Making very little or no noise
6. To do what you are told or expected to do

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

OBEY	SHOOK	SABBATH	AUTHORITY	AMAZED
IMPURE	SPREAD	DESTROY	SPIRIT	PEOPLE
QUIET	COME	JESUS	TEACH	NEWS

~~Izzy's News~~

Crafting with Honey



I have had enough of that dog going on about the snow for the last few weeks!

So I have hi-jacked her page to remind you that there is more than one pet at the Rectory. To be honest that dog is just a play thing for the humans, I am the real master of the house! No one tells me what to do!

Now as you can see by my favourite picture of yours truly I am a crafty cat with my craft mat and ruler and a few other crafting items around me. I don't know why they call it a dining room as more crafting and stuff is done here than any dining that I have seen. Over this last year it has been a very busy table. Poppies for the church poppy displays were cut and painted here, Messy Church bits are often designed here, our Logo's for hi-viz vest were produced on this table and often it would be piled high with knitted hats, blankets and mittens for the new kittens at the Simpsons Maternity unit or goods for the Sick Kids Hospital. So the last thing it is, is a dining room.

I wonder then as I sit on my crafting dining table if you have a similar table or place? It can be so therapeutic to be crafty and creative so what will you make this month. Maybe try a new craft idea or stick to a familiar or favourite activity. What ever you do I would love to see your efforts and invite you to send me a picture of you being crafty and of what you have made.

Now I better jump off quickly before that dog comes back and starts her barking at me for sitting on the table again. She's just jealous that she can't jump this high anyway its time for another nap. Take care, stay safe, get crafting!

*Love from the Top Cat,
Honey*



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 17th January Second Sunday after Epiphany

Welcome *Peter*

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Praise the LORD!

**I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart
within the congregation of his people**

Praise the Lord!

**Great are the works of the LORD,
full of honour and majesty are his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.**

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.

His praise endures forever and ever

Based on Psalm 111

Hymn

MY JESUS, MY SAVIOUR,

Lord, there is none like You.

All of my days I want to praise

The wonders of Your mighty love.

My comfort, my shelter,

Tower of refuge and strength,

Let every breath, all that I am,

Never cease to worship You.

Shout to the Lord all the earth, let us sing

Power and majesty, praise to the King.

Mountains bow down

And the seas will roar

At the sound of Your name.

I sing for joy at the work of Your hands.

Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand.

Nothing compares to the

Promise I have in You.

Prayer of Confession - Peter

As we lift up our eyes to you Lord
our maker and redeemer

Let us with penitence and faith confess our sins

**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

Living God, in Jesus you make all things new.

**Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen**

Gospel Reading Mark 1.21-28 - read by Anne McKay

Hear the Gospel of our Lord according to Mark

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law.

Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, you are the Holy One of God!'

'Be quiet!' said Jesus sternly. 'Come out of him!'

The spirit shook the man violently and came out with a shriek.

The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, 'What is this? A new teaching, and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him.' So the news about Jesus spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Sermon - *Val Cameron*

Hymn **BE STILL,**
for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here;
Come bow before Him now with reverence and fear.
In Him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground;
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire, with splendour He is crowned.
How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place;
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister His grace.
No work too hard for Him, in faith receive from Him;
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

Prayers for Today *Led by Jacqui*

The Peace - *Peter*

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

Eucharistic Prayer V

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.

Your Spirit lives in us so that we can look at the world with your eyes.

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

Your 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

**Lord God you transform us with your mercy and grace.
May we who have received your love continue to know that we are
your children and serve your family with love, joy and peace. 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

WE CANNOT MEASURE HOW YOU HEAL
or answer every sufferer's prayer,
yet we believe your grace responds
where faith and doubt unite to care.
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross,
survive to hold and heal and warn,
to carry all through death to life
and cradle children yet unborn.

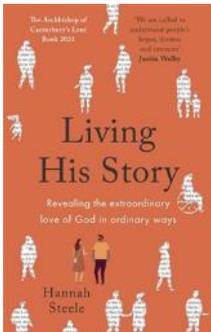
The pain that will not go away,
the guilt that clings from things long past,
the fear of what the future holds,
are present as if meant to last.
But present too is love which tends
the hurt we never hoped to find,
the private agonies inside,
the memories that haunt the mind.

So some have come who need your help,
and some have come to make amends,
as hands which shaped and saved the world
are present in the touch of friends.
Lord, let your Spirit meet us here
to mend the body, mind and soul,
to disentangle peace from pain
and make your broken people whole.

Dismissal *Peter*

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

Lent Study - Living His Story



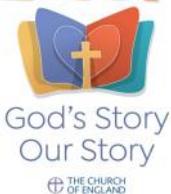
Our Lent Study book for this year is the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book "Living His Story". Set out in six sessions to take you through Lent the book can be used as a single study for individuals or why not consider joining in with one of the Study Groups as we journey together towards our Easter Celebrations for 2021.

If you would like your own copy please let us know

**#LIVE
LENT**

We are also planning to freely distribute a small booklet based on the Living His Story Book called

#LiveLent: God's Story, Our Story



This is a daily reflections booklet set out for each of the days in Lent. The booklet follows the weekly themes drawn from the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2021, Living His Story: Sharing the extraordinary love of God in ordinary ways by Hannah Steele. We pray you will enjoy using this over the Lenten Period for your own prayers and actions.

LENT - A Prayerful Journey

How will you journey through Lent this year? We pray you will use the "#Live Lent" booklet and if you want to study more about God's story and our Story will enjoy reading and using the book Living His Story and join in with one of the planned study groups.

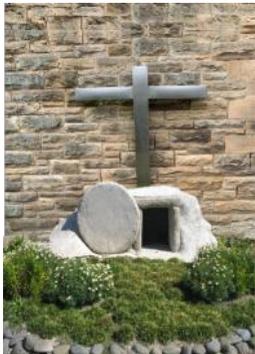
Alongside these Lent resources we are planning to use the Church grounds to offer us all a place for reflection and prayer.

We plan to have 7 Stations marked around the grounds by small crosses leading us to a Large Cross and finally by the end of Lent to the Easter Garden. Each Station will offer us a place to pause and be remind of one of the Biblical account of Jesus journey from the garden of Gethsemane, to the Cross of Calvary, his death and burial and ultimately to Easter and the resurrection.



Each station will also be marked by a painted stone giving a pictorial representation of that part of the journey. If you would like to help by painting one of these stones then please do get in touch with Jacqui.

EASTER GARDEN



It is also planned that as we journey through Lent we will also build up an Easter Garden Scene. Our creative team are currently working out how to do this so that it will be thought provoking leading us from garbage tip of Golgotha to the beauty of new life and creation. As part of this work we invite you to donate your washed out plastic juice or milk bottles. Closer to Easter we would also love you to come and place a flower pot or flower trough, or bunches of flowers at the Tomb as a sign of our remembrance and thanksgiving for Easter.



Hello everyone,

Well, I was absolutely delighted to see the rain back today, then I click on my weather app and discover that the snow and ice are to return, and I so wanted to write something cheerful in this first Eco report in 2021.

Recently I have held deeper conversations with some of you and found going deeper can really uplift us, as we realize that everyone is feeling the same just now. We are all coping with different situations but as time goes by it feels like we are all in mourning for the lives we once led. So, as we approach February how do we shift the weariness of restrictions and winter weather?

We pray and find the words:

It scares me, Lord. I'm frightened by the sea, its depth and width,
Its unseen currents, changing moods, uncertainties.

It runs to storm, To waves and gale force winds.

And out of sight of land I feel so vulnerable and alone.

Yet that's not so. Amid the storm I sense your presence, power.

Your arm stretched out. Your voice above the wind.

The reassuring words 'Peace, be still'. And in the wind-drop quiet,

The storm within me is the storm you still.

The peace you bring not only to the wind, but to my restless spirit.

A transformation triggered by your love.

(An extract from Meditations and Prayers by Eddie Askew)

Refreshed and quietened by the poem, let us stay enfolded in the stillness of God's peace and pray for the world:

Dear Lord, we seem to have reached the tipping point for climate chaos, and as all the world looks to Glasgow in November let us follow your guidance to care for your earth. Help us ensure a just transition from a carbon economy to a carbon free one. Where the poor are supported and can continue to enjoy the beauty of your earth. Let us lovingly accept the changes we need to make to reduce our own carbon footprint. Encourage others to make changes to live sustainably and for those who spend too much of their money on fuel, help them take practical steps to live in comfort. God of Justice, you bring order and meaning when the time is right. Let us experience that time as we build up to COP 26. Amen

(Prayer by Mary Sweetland, Chair of Board, Eco-Congregation Scotland.)

Eco Monthly Film night. We are planning to hold our film night on the first Wednesday of every month. As Easter eggs are beginning to appear on the shop shelves, we thought that this would be a good film to watch together to help us decide on our chocolate purchases.



The film can be watched at any time to suit yourselves (it runs for 90 minutes) however it would be lovely to see a good turn out at the Zoom discussion meeting on

Wednesday 3rd February

7.30pm -8.30pm.

Meet Id 850 6315 2250

Find the film on Youtube: <https://youtu.be/zyR2vIBFhvE>

Three friends investigate unsafe, often unsavoury practices in the food sector. Shocked by lack of progress on workers' rights in cocoa plantations and public apathy towards this modern-day slavery, they embarked on a high-profile campaign to expose this reality. Their investigations uncovered serious failings, even among fairtrade producers, so they put their money where their sweet tooth was: they turned from journalists to entrepreneurs, setting out to make a "100% slave-free" chocolate bar.

Next week: I will give you an update of further news from our January Eco Meeting, but just to say, that the litter pick scheduled for Saturday 6th February has been cancelled, we have pencilled in another for Saturday 6th March, but this is still a provisional arrangement.

Margaret

**St Mary's
Dalkeith**

stmarysdalkeith.org.uk

**St Leonard's
Lasswade**

stleonardslasswade.org.uk

Find us on  **@StLandM**

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

Do call or email if you need help