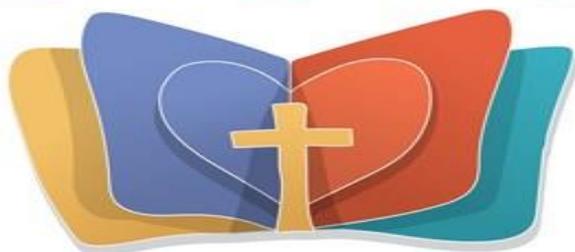


**#LIVE
LENT**



God's Story
Our Story

The Connect

Sunday 21st February 2021
The First Sunday of Lent

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



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

22nd Feb to 7th March

Please visit www.fairtrade.org.uk

To find out more about how you can be part of this years Fairtrade Fortnight and the various events that are taking place this year please visit their website.



Key dates for Lent and Easter 2021

Feb 21st **First Sunday of Lent**

The Way of the Cross — over the season of Lent we invite you to visit the church gardens and to follow The Way of the Cross, a guided meditation on Jesus passion and journey to the cross

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.

4th April **Easter Sunday**



Verity Ferry, Draiden McGuire,

Grace Harris, Murray Mckenzie

Rectors Muse



We all love to read, hear or watch a good story. Storytelling was one of Jesus's preferred forms of teaching. Every story or parable he shared invited people in to explore and learn more about God and his kingdom. I wonder if you have a favourite story of Jesus? Maybe one of his parables like the Wedding Banquet where we find out that the Master of the House after being rejected throws open the invitation so that all are invited to the Wedding feast. Or maybe the story of the lost sheep where we learn of God's reckless love. The Good Shepherd not content that 99% of his sheep were safely home goes out and searches for the lost and calls them home. Or similarly the story or parable of the Lost Coin and how God like a woman searching for her precious treasure does not rest until she finds it. Or the parable of the Lost Son, the Prodigal who goes off and although thought of as dead the Father looks out for him and rejoices when he returns home. Through these stories we discover that we are the ones who are invited to the feast, we are the lost ones whom God seeks and rejoices over. As we turn back to our Heavenly Father, God and all the angels in heaven rejoice and welcome us in with love.

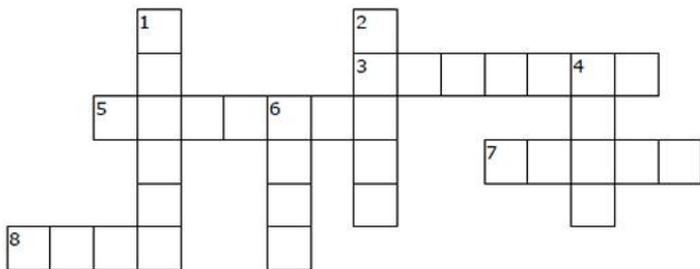
This Lenten season we are inviting you in to explore again the greatest story of all time an ancient story but also a living story alive and active today. You see God's story does not end with Jesus on a cross but leads on to the wonderful amazing story of resurrection and Easter Sunday. Easter however, is only like the middle or pivotal moment of the story as we then hear of how Jesus sends his Holy Spirit on the disciples and they begin new chapters of God's story. Through their witness, their sharing of God's story, they pass on the Good News to others, who then pass it on, each new follower of Jesus becoming part of the bigger story. We too are invited to be part of the story and also to be the story tellers of today, to tell our part of what it means for us to be a Christian, a follower of Jesus, a witness, a storyteller of Good News living His story today.

With love from Peter & Fiona

P U Z Z L E

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

| | | | | |
|----------|---------|--------|---------|----------|
| GROUND | SEED | GARDEN | LARGEST | PLANTED |
| JESUS | KINGDOM | SHADE | NEST | MUSTARD |
| SMALLEST | BIRDS | PLANTS | STORY | BRANCHES |



T i m e

ACROSS

- The time for gathering crops
- Stories told by Jesus to teach his followers
- A plant that crowds out the good plants
- A building used for storing grain and housing farm animals

DOWN

- The place where God is
- A grain that is ground into flour used in cooking
- A small pod placed in the ground to grow a plant
- To damage or destroy by fire

| | | | |
|--------|-------|------|---------|
| WEEDS | BURN | SEED | HARVEST |
| HEAVEN | WHEAT | BARN | PARABLE |

Izzy's News



Wow if it gets any warmer I'll be needing a hair cut!

Here's me moaning about the cold and the snow and only a few days later it all mysteriously disappears. But that does mean I can get out and enjoy my walks again. Although now rather than sliding on snow and ice I am sliding in the mud.

I am enjoying my new adventures with Grace and Dad although a little worried that they will get me lost one of these days going down paths I have never been down before. In a bid to do more exercise Grace and Dad have upped my walking regime! I am happy with that as I get to run and explore new places and sniff out the news of whose been where. However, this new extended regime at the moment is often accompanied by puffs and moans of how much further are we going and that's just from Dad never mind Grace. Grace is determined that she will out walk her Aunty Moira. As well as walking it also give Grace time to try out her new lenses for her camera.

I do hope that as they get fitter and more used to these longer walks that we might get to explore even further. You never know we might even get them running—now that would be a site! I of course will do my best to help them get fit and to enjoy the beauty of the many walks we have right here on our door step.

Do you have a favourite walk? Why is it a favourite walk?

If you do have a favourite or know of a short hours long walk then why not let me know about it, then I can drag Dad and Grace out on even more walks. Maybe in time we will try longer walks but for now an hour or so out and about is fine for me and the family.

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.*

The First Sunday of Lent 21st February 2021

Welcome *Elizabeth*

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Hymn **BLESSED ASSURANCE, Jesus is mine:**

O what a foretaste of glory divine!

Heir of salvation, purchase of God;

Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

This is my story, this is my song,

Praising my Saviour all the day long.

This is my story, this is my song,

Praising my Saviour all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,

Visions of rapture burst on my sight;

Angels descending bring from above

Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest,

I in my Saviour am happy and blessed;

Watching and waiting, looking above,

Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

Prayer of Confession - *Elizabeth / Jacqui*

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, you hate nothing that you have made,
and forgive the sins of all who are penitent:
create in us a clean and contrite heart;
that, in lamenting our sinfulness,
we may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
forgiveness and perfect peace;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. .**

Gospel Reading Matthew 13:31-35

- read by Sandiann

Hear the Gospel of our Lord according to Matthew
Glory to Christ our Saviour.

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.'

He told them still another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about thirty kilograms of flour until it worked all through the dough.'

Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet:

'I will open my mouth in parables,

I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Sermon

- Peter

Hymn

IN THE LORD I'll be ever thankful,

In the Lord I will rejoice!

Look to God, do not be afraid;

Lift up your voices, the Lord is near,

Lift up your voices, the Lord is near

The Peace - *Elizabeth*

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

Eucharistic Prayer III - *Jacqui*

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,
maker of light and darkness.

Your wisdom draws beauty from chaos,
brings a harvest out of sorrow
and leads the exiles home.

In Christ your Son enemies are reconciled,
debts forgiven and strangers made welcome.

Your spirit frees us to live as daughters and sons
in our Father's house.

We, who by Christ's power
follow the way of the Cross,
sharing the joy of his obedience,
now 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,
for Christ in whom the world is reconciled.
Lifted on the cross, his suffering and forgiveness
spanned the gulf of our sins had made.
Through the dark struggle death was swallowed up in victory
that life and light might reign.

Before he was given up to suffering and death,
recalling the night of Israel's release,
the night in which the sons of Egypt died,
your Chosen One, himself the Firstborn, freely offering his life.

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,
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.'

**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.**

**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

**Faithful God, increase our faith, hope and love. Lead us in the
path of Christ who is your Word of life. We ask in his name.
Amen**

Blessing

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son
and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Hymn

I WILL SING THE WONDROUS STORY

Of the Christ who died for me;
How He left His home in glory
For the cross on Calvary.
I was lost but Jesus found me,
Found the sheep that went astray;
Threw His loving arms around me,
Drew me back into His way.

I was bruised but Jesus healed me,
Faint was I from many a fall;
Sight was gone, and fears possessed me,
But He freed me from them all.
Days of darkness still come o'er me;
Sorrow's paths I often tread,
But the Saviour still is with me,
By His hand I'm safely led.

He will keep me till the river
Rolls its waters at my feet,
Then He'll bear me safely over,
All my joys in Him complete.
Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story
Of the Christ who died for me;
Sing it with the saints in glory,
Gathered by the crystal sea.

Dismissal *Elizabeth*

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

How to donate to this years Bishop's Appeal

- ◆ **Ask for a Lent Box** - Lent boxes are available from the Church Office and can be used in a variety of ways to collect donations. Allowing you to collect donations over the next six weeks. Please call and we will drop one off to you.
- ◆ **Envelope** - You can also place a donation in an enveloped and address it "LENT APPEAL" then hand it in to the Church Office or post it to us, or we can collect it from you
- ◆ **Bank Transfer** - If you would like to make a bank transfer please contact your Treasurer and mark the Transfer Lent Appeal.

THANK YOU



Hello Everyone

You might remember from last week that there was an invitation to join a discussion on Church Heating and how to keep warm as well as reduce our carbon foot print. Well last Monday evening, around 115 people gathered on Zoom to listen to a presentation on Net Zero Carbon: Church Heating – Practical Considerations.

There were seven members in total from our own congregations so we were well represented in the discussions. Although there are many challenges in looking after our historic buildings I did come away from the meeting feeling that there is support out there to help all our churches tackle the enormity of heating our buildings more efficiently. So, in summing up these are the main points I took from the meeting:

- This is the time to get to know the products available. For surveys to be taken of the buildings and halls. To consider insulation and draught proofing at the same time so that any new heating installation runs efficiently. Seek surveys of what needs done for the whole property. Look at funding, grants and loans available. This is the time for fact finding missions!
- To wait until after the COP26 November 2021 in Glasgow for new initiatives and incentives from the conference. There are major new technical developments in heating systems being explored now and will possibly be launched at the COP conference so await to hear what these are before deciding on a new boiler now. Keep up to date with developments. One of the new renewable energy systems may prove to be the way forward from traditional heat sources.
- Manses /rectories and halls should also be included in the surveys and be considered when a church is serious about tackling our carbon foot print.

We will soon need a new boiler at St Mary's while St Leonard's struggles to stay warm additionally both churches are considering the possibility of new halls and then there is our Rectory. So now is indeed the time to start gathering the information needed for our Vestries to help us make good and wise decisions for the future.

I also invite you to join us in watching our next Film — The Green Lie.

Margaret



The Green Lie

We invite you to a special screening of this film documentary on the subject of the lies we are told about going green by those in business.

Environmentally-friendly electric cars, sustainably-produced food products, fair production processes... Can our purchasing power help save the world?

In this tongue-in-cheek two-hander, Austrian director Werner Boote and German author Kathrin Hartmann meticulously unpick some of the most prevalent 'green washing' myths at play today. They will take us on a round-the-globe tour of corporate hypocrisy, to the sites of catastrophic environmental disasters and shocking land rights violations – all of which are harming humans, animals and the planet despite the glowing promises of effective self-regulation and going green.

[This Film is free for you to view, but ticketed](#)

It is essential to sign up for a ticket to watch the film.

You will then receive the joining instructions by e-mail and are then asked to watch the film at your choosing between

19:30 on Monday 1st March and 17:45 on Wednesday 3rd March.

To sign up for a ticket follow the link in the Connect email.

The Green Lie Post Film Discussion

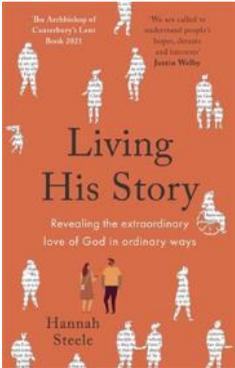
Wednesday 3rd March at 7.30pm

After watching the film join us for a lively post film discussion on Zoom bring your own refreshments and be willing to share and listen to the variety of viewpoints that the film might throw up for us.

The more of us the better the discussion.

Details of how to attend the discussion will be available soon...

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



COMING SOON

Look out for news about the Book Club
Do you enjoy a good read? Do you like to discuss what you've read, how it made you feel and drew you into the story or felt nothing at all?

Then we invite you to look out for news about our Online Book Club which we are planning to launch on Friday 26th March at 7.30pm.

So what are we reading? Wait and see.....

**St Mary's
Dalkeith**

stmarysdalkeith.org.uk



**St Leonard's
Lasswade**

stleonardslasswade.org.uk

Find us on  **@StLandM**

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Do call or email if you need help