

The Connect

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



Sunday 21st March 2021
The Fifth Sunday of Lent

#LIVE LENT



God's Story
Our Story



Tell Your Story

Over the weeks in Lent we have been reflecting upon how God's wonderful story of love and rescue can be very much part of our own story as we learn that we are loved.

The story of Good News is a remarkable story of redemption, sacrifice and love with the power to transform and renew lives. As we prepare for the celebrations of Palm Sunday and Holy Week which leads us to the cross and the grave of Jesus we are to be reminded of this wonderful story. But it does not end on

Good Friday, the story continues, bringing us to Easter and the resurrection.

God could have chosen to make the news of Jesus resurrection a much more spectacular event with signs and wonders in the sky but God didn't! What God chose to do was to entrust the news firstly to the women at the tomb and then to the disciples before instructing them to go out into the world and tell their story. Even today God continues to use ordinary people like you and me to share the life changing news of the God who loves, and because he loves he gave his son who defeated sin and death for us.

Today the mandate remains the same, to go and tell His story through sharing your story of what God has done for you. What does Easter mean for you? What hope and understanding do you receive from trusting in this amazing resurrection story and how will you share that with others. Our context may be different from those first believers who passed on the story and just like them there is no guarantee that it will be easy.

Nevertheless there is great joy when someone turns to Christ in faith and a wonderful exchange takes place as we share our witness, our experiences and stories of faith with the new followers of Jesus and encourage them to continue to share their story. In this way the early church grew in number and today as we seek God's guidance by the Holy Spirit I pray we too will be encouraged and empowered to share the story and see the church grow.

Yours with love and faith, Peter



Returning to our Church Buildings?

We are all no doubt glad to hear that the COVID reports over the last few weeks have been more positive as more people are vaccinated while the death rate and infection rate are decreasing from where they once were.

Although there is still an air of caution and concern about another spike or new variants to contend with the Scottish Government has given the green light for Churches to begin reopening with restrictions.

Sadly it is not just a case of throwing open the doors. The Vestries and Clergy Team will need to agree on a way forward. At the same time the Site Management Team for each church will need to reconvene and ensure once more that our buildings are ready and that everything that is required to open the buildings safely is in place. I will update you on our plans and the provisional dates for opening soon. Please note that there will still be some restrictions in place and we may only be able to let a limited number of people in each week for worship. Do hold us in prayer as we deliberate.

EASTER OUTDOOR SERVICES

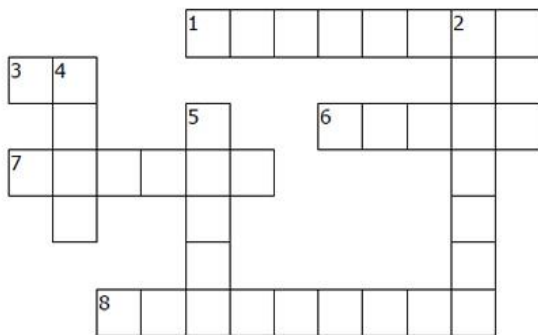
Some good news as we go to print this week's Connect News. After seeking clarification about the reopening of Churches the Scottish Government has confirmed that Churches will be allowed to conduct Outdoor Services.

These will only take place in the defined boundary of the church. With a maximum of 50 people who should be seated, socially distanced and wearing masks. A register of participants will be needed to be kept and although congregational singing is discouraged music can be played.

It is our plan therefore to offer some form of outdoor worship at both churches on Good Friday as well as on Easter Sunday. The Clergy Team will be looking at what we can feasibly offer so please keep a look out for details about these special outdoor services.

Remembering that people will need to be seated therefore you may want to look out your deck chairs or picnic rugs for these services.

Gospel Puzzle Time



ACROSS

1. Giving instructions to a group of students
3. The opposite of stop
6. The planet on which we live
7. The place where God lives
8. Followers of Jesus

DOWN

2. Groups of people living in a certain area; countries
4. To follow the commands, rules, or guidance
5. The Son of God

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

OBEY

JESUS

BAPTIZING

NATIONS

DISCIPLES

MOUNTAIN

HEAVEN

MAKE

EARTH

ALWAYS

COMMANDED

WORSHIPED

AUTHORITY

TEACHING

ELEVEN

GIVEN

Izzy's News

Hi Everyone it's Izzy here just in case you didn't recognise me. I have had a hair cut and just in time as the sun begins to warm up our lands bringing forth new growth while lifting our spirits to enjoy the day. I heard a rumour that you too may be going for a haircut soon so I do hope the Hairdressers will look after you once they reopen.

Isn't it lovely to feel a sense of new hope and new life in the air. The lifting of this lockdown will hopefully mean that we will once again get to meet up with friends and family. I am looking forward to going to see my Gran and Papa and I also hear that my Aunty Moira is planning to come and stay as soon as she is allowed. That will be fun. I also look forward to sitting under the coffee table at Pentland Plants and saying hello to my doggy friends while waiting on crumbs to fall from the table. I wonder what are you looking forward to as lockdown eases?



I know my Dad is crazy but he can be fairly inventive or creative too. A couple of weeks ago as I lay on the garage floor I wondered what he was up to as he kept singing "The angel rolled the stone away" while playing with some polystyrene, chicken-wire and expanding foam. At one stage it looked like a enormous communion wafer!



Now that he is finished we can all see what he has been up to as the "stones" he created will be on display in front of our Easter garden tomb. On your walkies do take time to come by the church and have a look at what is taking place. You are also welcome to bring flowers over the Easter weekend too as we remember this season of openings and new beginnings.

With love and licks from Izzy





Help Raise Funds for St Leonard's

join the Kiltwalk from April 23rd to 25th



Team "Rise and Shine" wants YOU to join us in walking, having some fun, and raising a few pounds towards our building fund! Don some tartan and bring your furry friend(s) as we go as far as we can go (1 mile, 5K, 10K, or "infinity and beyond!" whatever works for you).

The team's designated charity is St. Leonard's, Lasswade, and the team "leader" is Sashabelle. The team will walk in the King George V Park in Bonnyrigg and wave at St. Leonard's as we loop past at the top of the hill!

Kiltwalk 2021 is an opportunity to raise funds for charity while walking with friends or by yourself (staying within whatever restrictions are in place at the time!). In years past this has been a large group event over a set course, but this year individuals and teams have the flexibility to set their own course and agenda. Individual walkers sign up online (note there is a registration fee) and set individual distance and fundraising goals. As a Kiltwalker you may designate any Scottish charity. Funds raised by Kiltwalking will be then matched at 50% by the Hunter Foundation, so if you get £100 sponsorship, your charity will receive £150. So it is a great opportunity for us.

Sashabelle sincerely hopes you will join team Rise and Shine, and sponsor our team, or let her know how to cheer you on as an individual Kiltwalker!

Would you like to join in or have questions?

Contact Sashabelle's spokesperson (Sandiann Devaney) at sandiann.devaney@yahoo.com or 0785 1903151.

The Kiltwalk website is thekiltwalk.co.uk which has lots of good information and a "Register Now" button. So go on walk and raise funds with friends.

Thank You



Preparing for CoP26 in November in Glasgow 2021

The word 'Fringe' conjures up for me, hot summer days in Edinburgh, with my girls, enjoying free entertainment on the streets of Edinburgh.

Today, I discovered the Climate Fringe CoP26 online <https://climatefringe.org/> and have signed up for their newsletter of events, where the arts meet science. It is really uplifting! I have been especially drawn to #100DaysOfGreenNevis, it is almost halfway through the challenge and ends on 11th May, but better late than never. This is just an extract from the daily diary on the website.

For my #100DaysOfGreenNevis challenge I decided to pull together 100 different pieces of music, art or text that in some way relate to the climate crises or our natural world, chosen by 100 different people. I've found it really fascinating to use the pieces picked as starting points to do my own little bits of research into the ideas behind the pieces or how they fit into the bigger context! One of these pieces in particular is so familiar to many it is often thought to be a piece of folk music, but it was fascinating to think about its composition and place of origin through the lens of climate change.

Through our Eco Congregation we have brought an number of different ideas for prayer, information on ecological and ethical discussions, Films on Climate change and a variety of other activities. So this weeks challenge is to tune into the arts and see our world through the eyes of the artist whether it be in art, music or drama.

Can you commit to a 100 days of a sustainable or creative green action of your choosing. This action can be as practical or as creative and wacky as you like, involving music or not as you choose! Here are some ideas to get you started...

- ◆ Commit to recycling, donating or selling 100 things you don't need.
- ◆ Share an environmental volunteering opportunity everyday.
- ◆ Improvise a short piece music inspired by an endangered species
- ◆ Go vegetarian or even vegan for 100 days.
- ◆ Only buy products that can be recycled.
- ◆ Make a Spotify playlist of environmentally/climate change related music by adding a new piece everyday for 100 days

Also don't forget to share what you are doing with family and friends and on your Social Media sites to encourage a wider involvement in the green revolution.

Margaret





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 21st March The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Welcome *Val Cameron*

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Hymn **SPEAK, O LORD, as we come to You**

To receive the food of Your Holy Word.

Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;

Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,

That the light of Christ might be seen today

In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.

Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us

All Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience,

Holy reverence, true humility;

Test our thoughts and our attitudes

In the radiance of Your purity.

Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see

Your majestic love and authority.

Words of pow'r that can never fail—

Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;

Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us—

Truths unchanged from the dawn of time

That will echo down through eternity.

And by grace we'll stand on Your promises,

And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.

Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built

And the earth is filled with Your glory.

Prayer of Confession - *Val/Peter*

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

**Most merciful God, by the death and resurrection of your Son
Jesus Christ you created humanity anew.**

**May the power of his victorious cross transform those who in
faith turn to him who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.**

Gospel Reading Matthew 28 v16-20 - read by Anne

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

The disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.
Praise to Christ our Lord.

Sermon - Peter

Hymn

GOD FORGAVE MY SIN in Jesus' name,
I've been born again in Jesus' name;
And in Jesus' name I come to you
To share His love as He told me to.

He said: 'Freely, freely, you have received,
Freely, freely give;
Go in My name, and because you believe
Others will know that I live.'

All power is given in Jesus' name,
In earth and heaven in Jesus' name;
And in Jesus' name I come to you
To share His power as He told me to.

Prayers for Today *Led by Alison*

The Peace - Val

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

Eucharistic Prayer III - Peter

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 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

You 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 crucified draw you to himself, to find in him a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Hymn

THE SUN COMES UP, it's a new day dawning

It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul
Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name*

You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger
Your name is great, and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Dismissal *Val*

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



The Story continues watch this space

Our Easter Tomb and Garden are beginning to take shape reminding us of the story of Easter. Some passers by may wonder what we are up to? For even today in our own communities

there are individuals and families who have not heard the Good News of Jesus love, his death brining the forgiveness and mercy we need and his resurrection offering all of us new life, new hope and new beginnings.

Get involved

We invite you to be part of our Easter garden activity. You could paint stones with positive words of life like, hope, love, joy, rejoice etc. These can be placed around the tomb as stones of encouragement.



Another way to help transform the life of the Easter garden is to come along and place flowers around the tomb. Spring bulbs or cut flowers are welcome and the plan is that over the Easter Weekend we would build up a beautiful scene of colourful flowers for everyone to enjoy. You could bring some flowers and remember a loved one who has passed away trusting



in the great mystery of Easter that through Jesus death and resurrection we too can face death not as a final end but as a gateway into eternal life through the love of God.



The Way of the Cross

The Church Gardens are open and we invite you to come and spend time in the garden as a place of rest and meditation. The Way of the Cross and Easter Tomb will be in place until the end of April. After that we are exploring the idea of setting up Labyrinth with guided meditation. So look out for more information about that in the days to come.

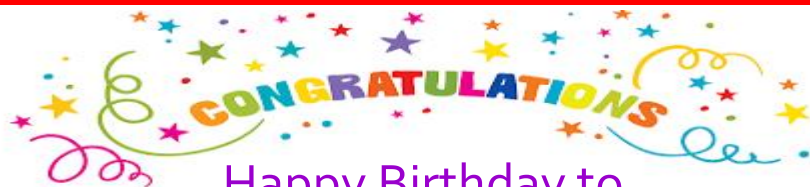


Paschal Candle 2021

Paschal Candle Motif Competition for Easter 2021.

Our Paschal Candle has been lit throughout the last year to remind us of Christ's eternal presence with us. We invite you to design a motif for this years competition and ask that you submit your entries to the Church Office by Palm Sunday 28th March.

Thank You



Happy Birthday to
Mary (Steve) Scola, Karen Baxter
and Heather Buchan

1st Peter 1 verse 3

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
In his great mercy he has given us new birth
into a **living hope** through Jesus Christ.*

**St Mary's
Dalkeith**



**St Leonard's
Lasswade**

stmarysdalkeith.org.uk

stleonardslasswade.org.uk

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Do call or email if you need help