

The Connect

Sunday 7th March 2021
The Third Sunday of Lent

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



Telling Our Story — Sharing His Story

A Rectors Muse



Dear Friends,

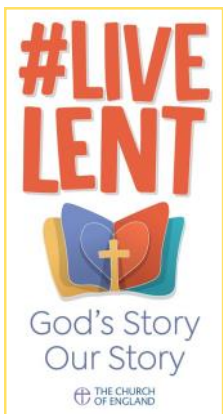
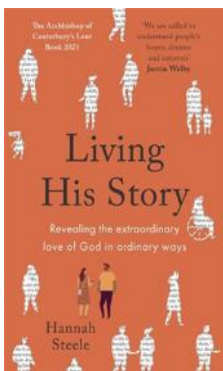
Do you love a good story? Maybe you cuddle up in bed with a good book or watch a film because the story line captures your imagination and intrigues you.

Over these past few weeks our Lent Study Groups and individuals in the church family has been engaging with this years Lent book "Living His Story" and our daily reflections guide "#Live Lent". *(We still have a few free copies of #Live Lent if you would like one).*

Through the studies we have been looking at how Jesus engaged with people through the telling of stories. These stories help us grasp what God and his Kingdom are like.

As people encountered Jesus their lives were challenged and transformed. In just a brief walk through the Gospels we find that; the lame walk, the blind see, the hungry are fed. Troubled and disturbed people are brought to a place of peace and rest.

In this weeks Gospel reading we see Jesus and his disciples encountering a man who was deeply troubled so much so that he would suffer seizures and rip off his clothes and go and live in the local grave yard amongst the tombs. However, meeting with Jesus changes this man life, he is transformed, set free, in a fairly dramatic and public way involving a heard of pigs running of a cliff top into the lake.



Nevertheless, the main point I want to make at this time is that the man through encountering Jesus is transformed by God's transforming love and mercy. But what happens next is a challenge to all of us. Clothed and in his right mind the man longs to go with Jesus and to journey with him but Jesus sends him out on a mission to go and share his story of what God has done for him. This too is the challenge and call that Jesus gives us! This man with only an encounter with Jesus, with no theological training was to go and tell people about Jesus and what he had done for him? Could we do that today?

Many of us often may have a feeling of fear or inadequacy when it comes to sharing our own faith story. Sadly, over time society has taught and enforced in us the misconception that faith is personal and should be kept that way. Surely our faith is not for sharing, sowing and growing? Jesus calls all of us to share his love, his message of hope and life. For some that maybe through public service as a Minister or Evangelist but for many it will be in the small daily acts of friendships with family, neighbours and the wider community that we will sow seeds of hope and good news.

Not many of us are called to be the next Billy Graham hosting big rallies and sharing our faith with thousands but we can all be Albert McMakin's. You have all heard of Billy Graham I hope, but if it wasn't for Albert McMakin's sharing his faith with his college friend Billy then many in the world may never have come to faith through Billy's ministry. Even Billy Graham acknowledged that it was often one individual's relationship with another that brought people to know Jesus. Andrew the disciple brought Peter to meet Jesus. Philip found Nathanael and called him to come, the woman at the well went back into the town and said come and see. The man in the tombs went out into the surrounding towns and shared the personal story of what God had done for him. Friendships and sharing personal stories, with our family and friends are at the very heart of life and those of us who know Jesus are called to begin where we are to share the story. Who knows someone you might share the story of Jesus with might indeed be the next Billy Graham bring hope and good news to many, many more people.

With love from Peter



Paschal Candle 2021

Paschal Candle Motif Competition for Easter 2021.

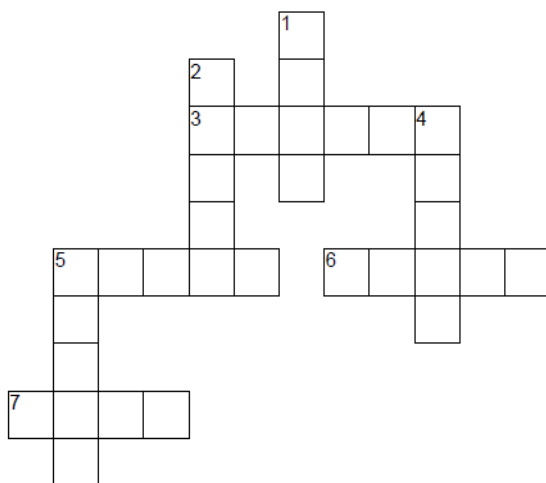
Our Paschal Candle has been lit throughout the last year to remind us of Christ's eternal presence with us. We invite you to design a motif for this years competition and ask that you submit your entries to the Church Office by Palm Sunday 28th March.

Thank You

Gospel Puzzle Time

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

HOUSE	CLOTHES	GUARD	TOMBS	SHOUTING
LAKE	DEMON	GALILEE	DROWNED	CHAINED
HERD	HOME	TELL	AFRAID	PIGS



ACROSS

- To be filled with fear
- To be freed from illness or injury
- To die from being submerged in water
- Farm animals with a fat body flat nose, short legs and tail

DOWN

- A group of cattle or other animals
- Something above average size
- A cruel and wicket spirit
- A series of connected metal links

Izzy's News



What has my Dad been up to now!!!

If your not on Facebook you probably didn't see some of his recent posts and you should be thankful for that! Nevertheless, I thought I would share a couple of his pictures.



The first two supposedly show Mum and Dad before and after getting their COVID Vaccinations! What a load of nonsense they had very little side effects from the jag, just a little soreness in the arm and a headache.

So don't fear when you are called up to be vaccinated after all the more of you that become vaccinated the quicker I hope we will all be able to get together for hugs and licks.



Dad also posted a picture of some work that he has been busy with, as he is getting ready for Easter. He was tasked to make a large stone for the Easter Garden Tomb. To be honest, at the moment it looks like a very large communion wafer to me? He and many of you I know want to celebrate Easter with Communion or at least some form of service, but I think when the time hopefully does come to open the churches for Communion you should stick to the normal wafers.

I hope some of you have managed to get out to see and taken the time to engage with "The Way of the Cross" which is at both churches? I am now looking forward to seeing the Easter Garden be created and rise up in the next few weeks as we too prepare for our Easter Celebrations.



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.*

Sunday 7th March The Third Sunday of Lent

Welcome *Peter*

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Hymn

Amazing Grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me;
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed!
Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come;
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.
The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.
Yes, when this heart and flesh shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil a life of joy and peace.
When we've been there a thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun.

Prayer of Confession - *Peter / Bill*

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, 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 Luke 8:26-39

- read by Alison

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

Jesus and his followers sailed across to the other side of Lake Galilee. When Jesus got out of the boat, a demon possessed man came to him. For a long time this man had worn no clothes and lived amongst the tombs. The man often suffered from seizures, and was often chained. But he would always break the chains.

When the man saw Jesus, he fell down before him, shouting loudly, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Please, don't punish me!" Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" The man answered, "Legion."

The demons begged Jesus to allow them to go into the pigs who were eating on the hill side. So Jesus commanded them to come out and go into the pigs. The herd of pigs then ran down the hill into the lake, and were drowned.

The men who were caring for the pigs ran away and told the story to the people of the town. They came out to meet Jesus and found the man sitting at the feet of Jesus. He was in his right mind again and clothed; the demons were gone.

When Jesus returned to the boat the man he had healed begged to go with Jesus. But Jesus sent him away, saying, "Go back home and tell people what God has done for you." So the man went all over town telling what Jesus had done for him.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Sermon - Peter

Hymn **It only takes a spark to get a fire going**

And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing
That's how it is with God's love once you've experienced it
You spread His love to ev'ryone, you want to pass it on

What a wonder time is Spring, when all the trees are budding
The birds begin to sing the flowers start their blooming
That's how it is with God's love once you've experienced it
You want to sing, its fresh like Spring you want to pass it on

I wish for you my friend this happiness that I've found
You can depend on Him it matters not where you're bound
I'll shout it from the mountain top I want my world to know
The Lord of love has shown me Love, I want to pass it on

Prayers for Today *Led by Neil*

The Peace - Peter

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

Eucharistic Prayer III - 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, 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 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

COLOURS OF DAY dawn into the mind,
The sun has come up, the night is behind.
Go down in the city, into the street,
And let's give the message to the people we meet.

*So light up the fire and let the flame burn,
Open the door, let Jesus return.
Take seeds of His Spirit, let the fruit grow,
Tell the people of Jesus, let His love show.*

Go through the park, on into the town;
The sun still shines on, it never goes down.
The light of the world is risen again;
The people of darkness are needing a friend.

Open your eyes, look into the sky,
The darkness has come, the sun came to die.
The evening draws on, the sun disappears,
But Jesus is living, His Spirit is near.

Dismissal *Peter*

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

Bishop's Lent Appeal 2021



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. 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



Happy Birthday
to

Tessa Ward,

Ian Nicolson



Eco News - An Update

The Film Night on Wednesday showing 'The Green Lie' was advertised through Eventbrite and very quickly tickets for the viewing sold out!

After watching the film we had guests from Glasgow, Falkirk and Bristol joining us for the Zoom chat. It is a great moral booster when

something organised by a little congregation like ours can attract so many people. Thanks to Pauline for overseeing this on our behalf.

The Green Lie was a film like no other we have watched, not selling, or promoting another alternative product but bringing home truths to the way we lead our lives, to the damage being caused by the love of consumerism. The message from the film was for radical change to the way our world is run. Profit often comes before health and welfare not just of the workers but also of the Environment. Businesses often don't count the environmental cost of their products only how much can they make as quickly as they can. We look and dream of a world where powerful companies no longer just make profits for their investors but plough real revenue back into their employees lives and sustain their workforces to live comfortable decent lives in local communities all around the world. No longer "Green Washing" their products luring us into a false sense of hope by making token gestures of saying how 'green and sustainable' they are but actively demonstrating and leading the way caring for our earths and human resources . A good conversation was had by all involved.

Is that not the way we as church have always prayed for it to be? A world where we genuinely love and care for each other including the planet we live on, where prayer, study and action and the Lord's prayer become a reality.

May we as a church and as individuals continue to play our part in this 'Planet over Profit' campaign.

Your Eco Reporter — Margaret



Lent and Easter Activities

With the arrival of spring and looking forward to Easter we are inviting you to be part of our Lent and Easter Activities.

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

“The Way of the Cross” is now in place at both church gardens providing all of us with the space and opportunity to take time as we journey towards Easter to remember the astonishing passion and love of Jesus facing humiliation and death for us. Do find time to come along and contemplate anew how much God loves you. Please also feel free to invite and share this activity with friends and family.

EASTER GARDEN

As we move closer to the great celebration of Easter a Tomb and Easter Garden will be erected in the church grounds and we need your help.

Although to begin with the Tomb will look stark and lifeless we hope by Easter Sunday it will be decorated with flowers of thanksgiving and celebration.

Turning the grave into signs of hope and new life!

We invite you to donate spring flowers in pots to be placed around the tomb or to come along with bunches of flowers to lay at the garden.

We also invite you to write simple words of encouragement on stones, or for the more creative to decorate stones with words or symbols of Christian faith, dove, cross etc. These will then be placed around the garden to inspire and encourage those who come and see and ponder the wonder of Easter.

Do let us know if you can help—we want to encourage everyone to be involved in making Easter 2021 a great celebration.



stones



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 March

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



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