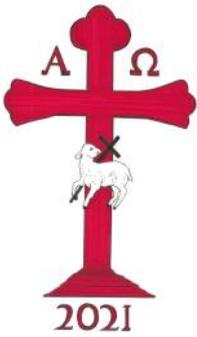


ST LEONARD'S & ST MARY'S CONNECT

The weekly news from your church community
Sunday 25th April— the Fourth Sunday of Easter



Easter Celebrations Continue...



2021 Paschal Motif
by Jean Mellon

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! - As the season of Easter continues so too does our Easter acclamation that Jesus has indeed risen from the grave. New life, new hope, burst from the tomb and nothing will ever be the same again.

I sometime wonder what it would have been like to meet the risen Jesus, in the upper room, or to eat fish with the other disciples on the shore line, as Jesus continued to appear to them and make himself known as the risen Lord.

I can understand Thomas's cry "Unless I see him, I will not believe!" The statement that Christ is risen seems to be beyond belief and for many unless we have our own personal experience it becomes more difficult for us to believe. Encouragingly Jesus blesses both those who have seen and also those who have not seen but by faith declare that He is risen indeed!

I believe that Shakespeare who was born on 23rd April 1564 existed and lived amongst us as a great playwright. Similarly we can say that the evidence that is presented to us is that Jesus was born and lived amongst us. That he was regarded as a good teacher and died at the hands of the Romans. The evidence also from different sources points to the fact that although laid to rest and sealed in a tomb, three days later he rose up from that tomb and appeared first of all to the grieving women, his disciples and then to over 500 people at one time. Our faith is not just based on an old, old story but has a foundation based upon evidence and eyewitness accounts.

St Paul, originally a sceptic and persecutor of this new Christian sect acknowledges that he encountered the risen Jesus on the road to Damascus. On the very road that he was travelling down to refute the claims of a risen saviour and to persecute those who would hold to such nonsense Saul met Jesus. With such a life changing event taking place Paul and the other disciples openly preached this new news that sin and death had been defeated by the one who was dead but now lived. Convinced of Jesus resurrection they faced persecution and death to make this truth known so that we today, who have not seen, may receive the good news.

I wonder where you encounter Jesus? What differences does his good news make in your life as we continue to celebrate and declare that Christ is Risen?

With love from Peter



Preparing to return to our buildings.

An Update!

Over the last couple of weeks the Site Teams for each church have met and looked at what is required for us to begin reopening the Church buildings.

Both churches have received initial approval by Bishop John to reopen. However a number of concerns and approaches to how we will actually conduct worship need to be ironed out and discussed with the Vestry, Clergy Team and possibly with Bishop John if there are any significant changes.

Please be patient with us, as it is not just a case of throwing open the doors. There are a list of guidelines and procedures that we have been asked to follow and to get our heads around. All these are in place with the aim of hopefully to keeping us all safe and minimise the risk of infection spread that is associated with meeting up again. With space limited at both churches and especially St Leonard's there is concern over how best to keep the 2m Social Distancing and how to minimise movement etc especially during communion. If these can't be resolved we may have to delay opening one or both churches at this time. Please be kind to one another and hold your Vestry and Ministry Team in your prayers for there is sadly no simple solution and what works well for one may not work for the other.

However at the present we are going to begin with reopening

St Mary's on Sunday 2nd of May at 10am.

This will be like a trial run for us to test and see the process in action. Please let us know by next Friday if you wish to attend. Our numbers are limited to 24 individual spaces although family groupings may allow us to increase our capacity to 30.

Church Worship will sadly at this time will be different from before as we will need people to be seated in allocated areas, keep socially distant, with no physical sharing of the Peace or singing and to only receive communion in one kind. Our hands will have to be washed or sanitised on entry and exit and also before and after receiving communion. A record of attendance will also have to be kept for 21 days. If needed this will be passed to NHS Track and Trace, if not it will be shredded. Although all this may be unfamiliar to us I pray that our welcome and love for each other and the Lord will outweigh the apprehension we may have about returning to worship in person.

The logo for Christian Aid, featuring the words "christian" and "aid" in white lowercase letters on a red arrow-shaped background pointing to the right.

Christian Aid Week

10 - 16 May 2021

Are You ready to contribute
and make a change.

Look out for more details of this years Christian Aid Week campaign and get ready not just to make a financial contribution but consider how you and your community can make a change to help tackle global injustice.



Our prayers and blessings are with those who are celebrating a birthday or other significant event in their life. If you know of someone who has a special day coming up please let us know, or if we have missed someone we can try and remember for next year.

Birthdays - Pamela Nicolson

Wedding Anniversary - Neil and Helen Stewart



We may not yet be meeting in the church building for coffee mornings but you are welcome to brew a cuppa and join us on Saturday Mornings for Zoom Coffee

Online Coffee at Mary's
10:30 am Saturday Mornings

*This event is kindly hosted by Andrew Watt
To obtain your weekly Coffee invite please speak to Andrew or email
andrew@andrewwatt.org.uk*



Jzzy's News

I have had a lovely few weeks off visiting family and friends and done lots of walking.

Grace has done a sponsored walk doing over 30 miles in aid of HAFWAY. This is Youth Group that her Aunt Moira runs. You may remember that Sam has been out to South Africa with them and that they also run summer camps, well they did before COVID hit. So the fund raising goes towards helping to keep the project going. I accompanied Grace for most of those 30 miles, in fact with all my wandering here and there I must have done at least twice as much as she did. But well done to Grace as a total the walkers covered more than the Journey from Lands End to John O Groats.



I also managed to hook up with my friend Sashabelle and those who had signed up for the Kiltwalk. Sadly Sandiann had been unwell and was unable to promote the fundraiser in a way that she had initially hoped to do. So our apologies to all who could have been involved. Lets get ready for next year! So far they have raised about £250 this then receives a 50% bonus from the Tom Hunter Foundation.

With restrictions on travel being lifted we were then also able to go and visit Gran and Papa Harris over in Hurlford, near Kilmarnock. The last time we visited was sadly for a family funeral so it was lovely this time to meet in more happier circumstances. It was a leisurely visit as they don't walk far but it was nice to have cuddles and then go for a run in their local park which is right on their door step.

I hope as some normality begins to resume that I might get to visit some of you again soon or meet up for a walk in our parks.

With love, barks and licks from Izzy



An Eco Reflection

She finds herself watching films and documentaries on Climate Change and listening to peoples' points of view and how urgent it is to act and change the way our world is governed. That Profit driven companies need to be forced to make proper changes and not simply offer gestures that only scratch the surface of change, without a sustainable shift happening. Fracking, and mining, and using fossil fuels, and cutting emissions to limit the rise in global temperature to 1.5°C, are all measures that need to be addressed; and we all need to play our part in campaigning to make these changes happen.

Her enthusiasm fades at the enormity of the challenge.

But then she sees the joy in faces, as plants from the Easter gardens are replanted and little hands help to water and carry plants and talk of gardening groups restarting again, brings some promise of hope. Then words from a French activist, surface from film notes scrawled on a page speak to her heart.

'Whatever you do; 'do it with joy!', the young French activist interviewed in the film, 'Not Without Us', full of enthusiasm and compassion for the cause of climate change beamed with love and passion for the cause. She was part of the crowds, who spontaneously found a solution when they



were faced with a problematic situation: The French authorities had to cancel the planned demonstration due to ongoing security concerns after the November 13 terror attacks, and the laying down of shoes was a visual reminder of the amount of people who would have attended the march.

Her heart quietly awakening and inspired by others' actions begins to feel renewal and she finds the Eco Congregation topic for April:

New Growth and the Web of Life

We live our lives surrounded by a beautiful, ordered creation. There are links between the plants and animals in the world, an interdependence exists in maintaining their lives. An example of this can be seen when you study food chains, but the links are deeper than this. We depend on trees to decarbonise the air that we breathe, and to produce more oxygen- they are the lungs of the world.

Bible Puzzles

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

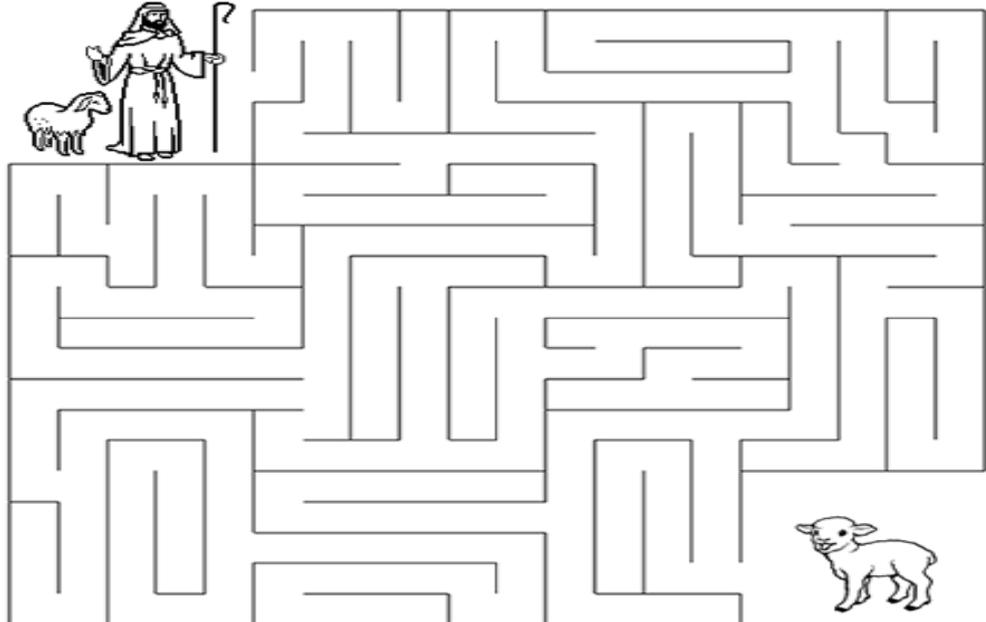
LISTEN
ATTACKS
SCATTERS

SHEEP
CARES
VOICE

LOVES
PEN
SHEPHERD

WOLF
GOOD
LIFE

FLOCK
RUNS
KNOW



Can you find your way to the lost sheep?

WORSHIP

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Join with us online for our worship this
Sunday 25th April at 10am



There are a selection of ways to join in
ZOOM using meeting ID: 656 157 5203
PHONE in dialling (0131) 460 1196
WATCH LIVE on our Facebook Group
find us at @StLandM

if you miss us and want to catch up again later you can do so by going to our YouTube Channel. Search for "St Leonard's & St Mary's Churches" on Youtube to find us and remember to hit the like button and subscribe.

I pray that you will be able to use this liturgy to guide you through the service or use for your own meditation at another time

A Prayer to use at this time of Pandemic

God of all hope we call on you today.

We pray for those who are living in fear:

Fear of illness, fear for loved ones, fear of other's reactions to them.

May your Spirit give us a sense of calmness and peace.

We pray for your church and nation in this time of uncertainty.

For those needing to make decisions in order to care for others.

For those who will feel disconnected and isolated.

For Key workers continuing to give of themselves to help us.

Bring peace to those who are dying and comfort to those that grieve.

Holy God, help us turn our eyes, hearts and minds to you.

The Lord who is with us always . Amen

Welcome & Easter Acclamation

Jacqui du Rocher

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Hymn CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY: Hallelujah!
Sons of men and angels say: Hallelujah!
Raise your joys and triumphs high: Hallelujah!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply: Hallelujah!

Lives again our glorious King: Hallelujah!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Hallelujah!
Dying once, our souls to save: Hallelujah!
Where thy victory, O grave? Hallelujah!

Love's redeeming work is done: Hallelujah!
Fought the fight, the battle won: Hallelujah!
Death in vain forbids His rise: Hallelujah!
Christ hath opened paradise : Hallelujah!

Confession Jacqui / Peter

Christ died upon the cross that our sins would be forgiven
Let us therefore with faith confess our sins with penitence and 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

O God of peace, who brought again from the dead
our Lord Jesus Christ, that great shepherd of the sheep,
by the blood of the eternal covenant,
make us perfect in every good work to do your will,
and work in us that which is well-pleasing in your sight;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

The Gospel John 10.11-15 Sandiann Devaney

*When the Gospel is announced we say
Glory to Christ our Saviour*

Jesus said "I am the good shepherd.

The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep."

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me; just as the Father knows me and I know the Father, and I lay down my life for the sheep.

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

Reflection Peter

Intercessions Neil Stewart

The Peace Jacqui

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

Hymn **THE LORD'S MY SHEPHERD, I'll not want.**
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.

And I will trust in You alone.
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.

He guides my ways in righteousness,
And He anoints my head with oil,
And my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure delights.

And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know.

Eucharistic Prayer 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, Author of all being.

Your power sustains, your love restores, our broken world.

Christ, raised from the dead, proclaims the dawn of hope,

He lives in us that we may walk in light.

**Your Spirit is fire in us, your breath is power
to warm our hearts to love.**

As children of your redeeming purpose, freed by him who burst from
the tomb and opened the gate of life, 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.**

Praise and thanksgiving be to you, Lord of all,
for by the Cross eternal life is ours and death is swallowed up in victory.

In the first light of Easter glory broke from the tomb
and changed the women's sorrow into joy.

Making himself known in the breaking of the bread,
speaking peace to the fearful disciples,
welcoming weary fishers on the shore,

he renewed the promise of his presence, and of new birth in the Spirit

Before he was given up to suffering and death,
at supper with his disciples 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 bless our bread and wine, that we may 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 Priest takes bread and wine on our behalf:

*God of infinite mercy, we thank you for Jesus our Saviour,
who feeds his people and gives them eternal life.*

*Though we cannot consume the gifts of bread and wine this day,
we thank you that we do receive Christ's saving presence,
the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of his passion.*

Grant that we may continue for ever in the Risen Life of our Saviour. Amen

Prayer after Communion

**God of steadfast love, watch over the Church redeemed by the
blood of your Son. May we come safely to your eternal kingdom,
where there is one flock and one shepherd. We ask this in the
name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord. Amen**

Blessing

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Hymn

BEFORE I SPOKE A WORD, You were singing over me

You have been so, so good to me

Before I took a breath, You breathed Your life in me

You have been so, so kind to me

Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God

Oh, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found,

leaves the ninety-nine

I couldn't earn it, and I don't deserve it,

still, You give Yourself away

Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God,

When I was Your foe, still Your love fought for me

You have been so, so good to me

When I felt no worth, You paid it all for me

You have been so, so kind to me

There's no shadow You won't light up

Mountain You won't climb up coming after me

There's no wall You won't kick down

Lie You won't tear down, coming after me

Dismissal

Jacqui

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen!

Please remember to book in for next weeks Sunday Worship

St Leonard's & St Mary's

Next Sunday Worship at St Mary's 10am



As we prepare for worship to resumes within the church buildings we encourage those wishing to attend next Sunday's Worship to advise us of their intention to do so. Please **phone / email** the Church Office preferably by Friday. This will help us prepare the church for your arrival.

Thank You.

*Please look out for information about Sunday 9th May
in next weeks Connect News letter*



St Mary's

stmarysdalkeith.org.uk

St Leonard's

stleonardslasswade.org.uk

**Weekly Online Worship will be available on Sundays
and on a Wednesday Mornings at 10am**

Find us on  **@StLandM**

Church Office & Rectory

11 Peacock Parkway Bonnyrigg EH193RQ



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

Both Churches are registered with the Scottish Charity Register as
St Leonard's Episcopal Church: Lasswade SC014151
St Mary's Episcopal Church: Dalkeith SC001677

Do let us know if any need arises at this time
and we will try and help.