

# Connect

**Sunday 19th December 2021 Advent 4 Love**

*Weekly News and worship*

*from St Leonard's Lasswade and St Mary's Dalkeith*



# COVID Guidance December 2021



## Test before you go

Everyone should take a Lateral Flow Test before attending a Service or Meeting of the Church.



## Basic Hygiene

Please remember to wear your mask and use the hand sanitiser when entering and leaving. Masks are to be worn in public buildings this includes churches.

## Social Distance 1m

Keep at least 1m away from other family groups



## Worship

Although singing is allowed mask are to be worn at all times. Those involved in leading of the service can be unmasked when speaking. Please take your service sheet home with you.



## Communion - Mask, Sanitise, Receive,

When receiving Communion Bread please come forward remove your mask, then sanitise your hands and then receive the bread, consume the bread and replacing your Mask as you return

## Wrap Up Warm

Although we warmly welcome you to church we have been asked to provide adequate ventilation during our gatherings. So please come with a good winter coat or additional blanket.

## Refreshments & Fellowship

In line with Scottish Episcopal Churches guidance we are sadly suspending the serving of refreshments at this time. We are also encouraging people to Fellowship outdoors at the close of the service.



## Vaccinations and Boosters

We encourage everyone to get vaccinated and to have their booster as soon as they can.



# Hope for Christmas ???

As we go to print there is a large amount of uncertainty about our Church Service as the Tsunami of Omicron COVID infections rises over Christmas and into the new year.

Although the Scottish Government has not yet asked Churches to close, we have all been advised to stay in and limit our mixing with other people. By getting vaccinated or boosted, cleaning our hands, staying social distant and wearing a mask are all ways we can minimise receiving or passing on the virus.

The Current plans are to hold the following services but we ask you to consider attending only one service over the Christmas Weekend. We also ask you to take a Lateral Flow Test before attending (*in theory this should be done about 1 hour before attending a service*). We will endeavour to update our Websites and post to Facebook if there are any changes. Please stay safe.

## Christmas Eve

**4pm Christingle Service St Mary's**  
AN OUTDOOR SERVICE

**8pm Carols at St Leonard's**  
AN OUTDOOR SERVICE

**11.30pm Midnight Christmas Mass**

## Christmas Day

**10.30am Service at St Leonard's**

**Sunday 26th Dec. 1st Sunday of Christmas**  
10.30am Service at St Mary's

**Sunday 2nd Jan 2nd Sunday of Christmas**  
ONLINE Join in with Zoom Worship 10.00am  
ZOOM Meeting ID: 656 157 5203


# From the Rector

Love never fails.

For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror;  
then we shall see face to face. Now these three remain:  
faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

*From 1 Corinthians 13*

Our Advent journey ends with the theme of Love as we gather around a stable scene and with awe we marvel at the greatest story of love we have ever known. A story that we too are called into. A tale, from our heritage and past but comes to us a fresh each year that God loves us, and comes to us in the Immanuel, in the Christ Child as Jesus our promised King



We look into the stable and come to the crib where Jesus, the human vulnerable baby and yet the divine God, reminds us again that he is here with us in our world. He is our Immanuel, not a distant God but God who is near us. Through the incarnation of God becoming man, we become known to God, our experiences have been experienced by the Lord. The joys and sorrows of life, the pain of rejection and loss, the joy of family and friendships, the highs and lows of life and ultimately even death.

In the midst of the Nativity scene it can sometimes be so easy to romanticise the story. We pause for a moment and enjoy the picture of a new born baby, loved by his parents, surrounded by wondering Shepherds and worshipping wisemen, while animals nibble on the straw of the manger, the bed of the new born King. But even there within this surreal setting where Hope, Peace, Joy and Love meet there is a glimpse of something more.

The story of old moves on, as we too will move on from the stable scene into the unknown, to face the darkness and whatever lies before us. Yet I pray that because we have taken time to stopped and reflected again and remembered this part of the great story of love we will journey onward with Hope in our steps, Peace in our lives, Joy in our hearts and forever be surrounded with Love. Our Hope, Peace, Joy and Love come from God, who is and was and is to come, Christ Jesus, our Immanuel.

*With love from Peter*

**Welcome:            Advent 4 LOVE**

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*We light the fourth candle of Advent  
reminding us that Love never fails*

Love is patient and kind,  
**never jealous, boastful, proud, or rude.**

Love isn't selfish or quick tempered.

**It doesn't keep a record of wrongs.**

Love rejoices in the truth,

**but not in evil.**

Love is always supportive, loyal, hopeful, and trusting.

**Love never fails!"**

**HYMN:        LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS,**

Love all lovely, Love divine;

Love was born at Christmas,

Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,

Love Incarnate, Love divine;

Worship we our Jesus:

But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,

Love be yours and love be mine,

Love to God and all men,

Love for plea and gift and sign.

**Confession:**

We declare that God is love and we are his children.

There is no room for fear in love,

we love because God loved us first.

So let us confess our sins in 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**

**Heavenly Father, who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace and love,  
to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour:  
fill us with your grace and love, that we in all things may embrace  
your will for us and rejoice in your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.**

### **A Reading from the Book of Revelation 1 v 4-8**

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve God the Father, to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

'Look, he is coming with the clouds,' and 'every eye will see him, even those who pierced him'; and all peoples on earth 'will mourn because of him.' So shall it be! Amen.

8 'I am the Alpha and the Omega,' says the Lord God, 'who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.'

## The Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord according to John 15 v9-17

**Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

Jesus says 'As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: love each other as I have loved you.

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit. Fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: love each other.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel

**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

## Sermon

## Prayers of intercession

## The Peace

The Lord calls us to be at peace and to love each other.

we meet in Christ's name;

**Let us share His peace.**

**HYMN      HERE IS LOVE vast as the ocean,**  
Loving kindness as the flood,  
When the Prince of life, our ransom  
Shed for us His precious blood.  
Who His love will not remember?  
Who can cease to sing His praise?  
He can never be forgotten  
Throughout heaven's eternal days.

On the Mount of Crucifixion  
Fountains opened deep and wide;  
Through the floodgates of God's mercy  
Flowed a vast and gracious tide.  
Grace and love, like mighty rivers,  
Poured incessant from above,  
And heaven's peace and perfect justice  
Kissed a guilty world in love.

## **Eucharistic Prayer II**

*Anticipation (Suitable for Advent)*

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,  
God our maker.

Out of nothing, you called all worlds to be,  
and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment.

Dawn and evening celebrate your glory  
till time shall be no more.

In Christ your Son  
the life of heaven and earth were joined,  
sealing the promise of a new creation,  
given, yet still to come.

Taught by your Spirit,  
we who bear your threefold likeness  
look for the City of Peace  
in whose light we are transfigured  
and the earth transformed.

As children of your redeeming purpose  
who await the coming of your Son,  
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.**

Glory and thanksgiving be to you,  
most loving Father.

In Jesus you showed us yourself.

Our hope is built on him,  
the first, the last, the living one.

Obedient, even to accepting death,  
he opened the gate of glory  
and calls us now to share the life of heaven.

Before he was given up to suffering and death,  
alight with the vision of a feast  
that heralded a kingdom yet to come,  
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.**

### **Breaking of the Bread**

The living bread is broken for the life of the world  
**Lord, unite us in this sign.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

## Distribution of Communion

*Everyone is invited to come and receive the bread of communion  
or a blessing at this time Come forward take your mask off,  
sanitise your hands and receive, after receiving replace mask and return to pew*

## Prayer after Communion

Give thanks to the Lord for he is gracious  
**And his mercy endures forever.**

Merciful God, fill us with unending joy,  
and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,  
who is Lord for ever and ever.

**Amen**

## The Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you  
and scatter the darkness from before your path;  
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son  
and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen**

## **HYMN** LOVE DIVINE, all loves excelling,

Joy of heaven to earth come down!  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,  
All Thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,  
Pure unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit  
Into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in Thee inherit,  
Let us find Thy promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver,  
Let us all Thy grace receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Never more Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,  
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish then Thy new creation,  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in Thee!  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heaven we take our place;  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,  
Lost in wonder, love and praise.

## **The Dismissal**

Rooted and established in love,  
may we continue to know the power of love at work in us  
that together with all the Lord's people,  
We may grasp how wide,  
how long, how high and how deep  
the love of Christ is for us.

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

## **Sunday Services**

***Boxing Day 26th December  
1st Sunday of Christmas 10.30am St Mary's***

***Online worship from 2nd January 10am  
Our Zoom Worship Meeting ID is 656 157 5203***

# Gospel puzzles

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

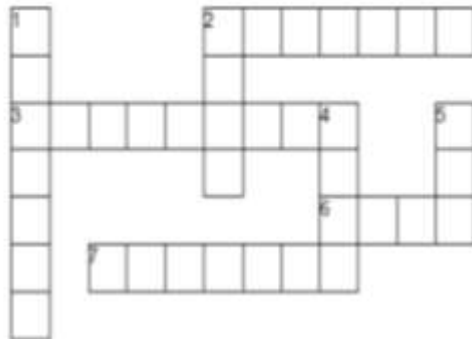
ELIZABETH  
 BLESSED  
 ZECHARIAH

FULFILL  
 CHILD  
 JOY

FILLED  
 PROMISE  
 BABY

GREETING  
 LEAPED  
 HOME

BELIEVE  
 JUDEA  
 MARY



## ACROSS

- To accept as true
- The mother of John the Baptist
- The mother of Jesus
- To agree to do something for someone in the future

## DOWN

- Highly favored by God
- An infant; a young child
- The place where a person lives
- The feeling of great happiness



# *Jzzy's News*

Hello Everyone,

I think they do it on purpose to get me to run around, back and forth, up and down I go. Sometimes they do it to me even when I am in the Church as I run up and down the aisle to see what Mum or Dad are up to now and why are they calling on me. It can get really confusing wonder who to listen to and who to follow and obey. However, I enjoy the exercises as Dad calls me I run to him and then Mum calls me back. One time when Mum was testing the microphones in the Vestry she turned it on and called "Izzy". I could hear her in the church but couldn't see her. Dad laughed as I went around the pews up following her voice but not finding her.

Sometimes in life we can get so confused when there are various voices calling for our attention. We can easily end up following the wrong voice. It is sometimes also hard to decide what is the best thing to do when there are a variety of views and opinions and no clear path seems to found.

Christmas can be busy with various competing thoughts and voices saying come here, go there, buy this or that but not that. So be kind to yourself this Christmas take time out and bring all the different thoughts and demands and come kneel at the Stable. Be still, look and see, and remember that you are loved so much by God. Receive the gift of Jesus and seek again to follow him

*With licks and love from Izzy*





# *Advent Stepping Stones*

***Helping us to reflect and prepare for Christmas***

Using the Advent themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love we invite you to participate in our new outdoor Advent Reflection. Each stone will mark a Sunday in Advent and to accompany the stones we will have a leaflet to help guide us to reflect, pray and think about each of these themes as the steps we take towards celebrating Christmas and the arrival of Jesus Christ who is our Hope, our Peace, our Joy, and the one who in love gives us the gift of being Loved.

## **Store House Parcels**



Firstly, I would like to thank you and your congregations for all the generosity you have shown this Christmas helping Storehouse support some of the neediest families in the community. Your support at this time and throughout the whole of 2021 has been very much appreciated.

The Storehouse running out of the Full Gospel church in Dalkeith will continue to be open on Wednesdays (10am to 10:30am) for you to drop off items for Storehouse up until Wednesday 22nd December.

After that, we will be closed on Wednesday 29th and Wednesday 5th January, reopening on Wednesday 12th January. Thank You.

Most Popular items that we need are:

Laundry liquid, Toilet roll, deodorant/ shower gel  
Cans of ravioli, cans of stew / can of mince  
multi pack crisps, rice puddings, tinned custard

# New Year Precautionary Measures

Due to the rise and uncertainty of the current pandemic I am making this precautionary decision regarding our worship at St Leonard's and St Mary's during the month of January.

From 2nd of January 2022 we will be returning to Worship Online as a joint congregation. Worship throughout January will take place at 10am and for those who wish to participate it will be on Zoom. We will also stream to Facebook and later update to YouTube as has been our previous and current practice. We will then review the situation during January.

Our Zoom Worship Meeting ID is 656 157 5203

Yours with love and precautions  
Peter Harris



Join in with Weekly Sunday Worship

**St Mary's**

**stmarysdalkeith.org.uk**

**St Leonard's**

**stleonardslasswade.org.uk**

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 Charities

St Leonard's Episcopal Church: Lasswade SC014151

St Mary's Episcopal Church: Dalkeith SC001677