

# Connect

**Sunday 5th December 2021 Advent 2**

*Weekly News and worship*

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



Stepping Stones of Hope, Peace, Joy and love  
on the Advent journey

# From the Rector

***"In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.***

Our theme within the second week of Advent is peace. Peace not as the world gives, temporary and often fractious, but a peace from God. The peace of God is filled with reassurance that all will be well. That come what may, ultimately our souls are safe in Christ, the boat maybe rocked in the storms of life but one day we will reach heavens safe harbour.

Advent is a time to remember and give thanks for God's faithfulness throughout the generations and to remember our salvation story. Today in our reading from Luke's gospel we encounter the wonderful song of Zechariah's, which may be better known as the Benedictus. Zechariah is the father of John the Baptist. You may recall that after encountering an Angel of the Lord Zechariah had been struck dumb. The Angel had told him that Elizabeth, his wife, even though she was old and barren would become pregnant. However, due to Zechariah's disbelief that God would use an elderly man and his wife in this way the Angel stopped him from speaking until the day that they named the child John. On that day we read that Zechariah filled with the Holy Spirit spoke the words that we read in today's Gospel.

Zechariah's song is filled and brimming over with praise for God reminding us of what God has done and is doing for us. We are therefore encouraged to trust in the Lord who; sets us free, who raises up a saviour for us and calls us to walk in the ways of peace. Zechariah's son John will herald in the call for all of us to turn and repent of our sins and worship the Lord without fear.

A new day is dawning, the light of Christ shines upon us and calls us out of darkness and death into the ways of life and peace. Let us therefore respond and turn afresh to the Lord who blesses us and bless the Lord with our thanks and praise as we commit ourselves to walk in the way of peace.

*With love from Peter*

**Welcome:            Advent 2 PEACE**

Grace and peace to you from God  
our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

*We light the second candle of Advent  
reminding us to seek the ways of peace*

How lovely on the mountains are the feet of those  
who bring good news, who proclaim peace,

**We lift up our voices; together we sing for joy.  
for the Lord has comforted his people,  
and blessed us with His peace**

**HYMN:    HOW LOVELY ON THE MOUNTAINS** are the feet of Him  
Who brings good news, good news,  
Proclaiming peace, announcing news of happiness,  
Our God reigns, our God reigns.

Our God reigns, our God reigns,  
Our God reigns, our God reigns.

You watchmen lift your voices joyfully asone,  
Shout for your King, your King.  
See eye to eye the Lord restoring Zion:  
our God reigns, our God reigns!

Waste places of Jerusalem break forth with joy,  
We are redeemed, redeemed.  
The Lord has saved and comforted His people:  
our God reigns, our God reigns!

Ends of the earth, see the salvation of your God,  
Jesus is Lord, is Lord.  
Before the nations He has bared His holy arm:  
our God reigns, our God reigns!

## Confession:

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

There is no room for fear in love and we love because he 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

**Almighty God, who sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah, inspire us, the ministers and stewards of your truth, to turn our disobedient hearts to you, that when Christ shall come again to be our judge, we may stand with confidence before his glory; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.**

## A Reading from the book of Malachi 3.1-4

'I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,' says the Lord Almighty.

But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have a people who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years.

## The Gospel Reading

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord according to Luke 1 v68-79*

**Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,  
    who has come to his people and set them free.  
He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,  
    born of the house of his servant David.  
Through his holy prophets God promised of old  
    to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,  
To show mercy to our ancestors,  
    and to remember his holy covenant.  
This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:  
    to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
Free to worship him without fear,  
    holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.  
And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
    for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
To give his people knowledge of salvation  
    by the forgiveness of all their sins.  
In the tender compassion of our God  
    the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,  
    and to guide our feet into the way of peace.  
Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel  
**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

## Sermon

## Prayers of intercession

## The Peace

The Lord says "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you."  
we meet in Christ's name;  
**Let us share His peace.**

## HYMN

### MAKE ME A CHANNEL OF YOUR PEACE.

Where there is hatred let me bring Your love;  
Where there is injury, Your pardon, Lord;  
And where there's doubt, true faith in You.

Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console;  
To be understood as to understand;  
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of Your peace.  
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope;  
Where there is darkness, only light;  
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Make me a channel of Your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
In giving to all men that we receive,  
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

## 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.**

Faithful God, we thank you for feeding us with the bread of life  
Help us always to hear the prophet's call to turn our hearts to you;  
and to walk in the ways of justice and peace.

**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**     **GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS, O God my Father,**  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided,  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

### **The Dismissal**

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

Join us on zoom each Wednesday at 10 a.m.  
for a short time of  
reflection, prayer, and praise  
this Advent

ALL ARE WELCOME

Meeting ID: 656 157 5203  
or look for the link posted each wednesday  
morning on the facebook page



Join in with Weekly Sunday Worship

**St Mary's 9.30am**


**St Leonard's 11.15am**

**[stleonardslasswade.org.uk](http://stleonardslasswade.org.uk)**

Find us on  **@StLandM**

**Church Office & Rectory**

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Both Churches are registered Charities

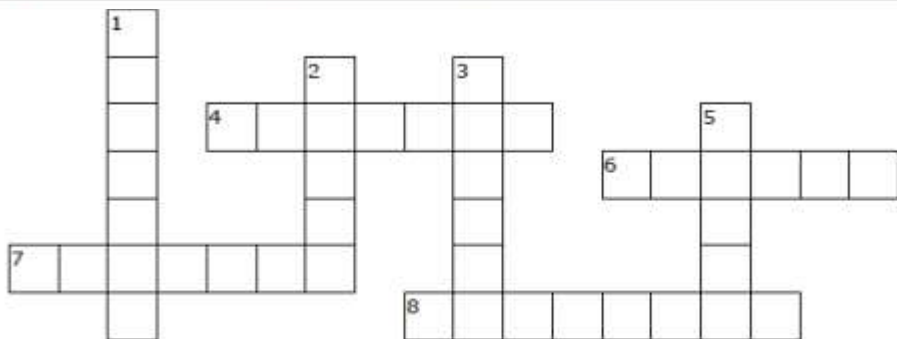
St Leonard's Episcopal Church: Lasswade SC014151

St Mary's Episcopal Church: Dalkeith SC001677

# Gospel puzzles

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

|         |         |         |           |          |
|---------|---------|---------|-----------|----------|
| VOICE   | ROUGH   | FORGIVE | PREACHING | STRAIGHT |
| JORDAN  | VALLEY  | DESERT  | REPENT    | SINS     |
| PREPARE | CROOKED | SMOOTH  | BAPTISM   | CALLING  |



## ACROSS

- Having bends, curves, or angles.
- Having a surface free from roughness
- To grant a pardon for sin.
- Having no bends or curves.

## DOWN

- To make things ore oneself ready.
- What we use to speak.
- To turn away from one's sins.
- Having an irregular, course, or shaggy surface

# Jzzy's News



Hello Everyone,

I can feel the anticipation and excitement rising up around me as the family begin to prepare for Christmas.

A mysterious sign appeared on the lounge door.

"Keep out - Santa's workshop!"

I managed to sneak in and found Grace on the floor wrapping up a number of presents. She didn't really appreciate my help for some reason so I just ended up watching her from the couch. She had put a lot of effort into thinking about what to buy as a present and hopes that each gift will be received and enjoyed. Dad did try to get me to tell him what Grace had bought but I am not barking mad so kept quiet.

I wonder if you have started or even finished your Christmas shopping yet? Some people are so organised while others are oh so last minute. I also wonder if you know what the first Christmas gift was and whether it was received with love and enjoyed?

Was it the Gold, or the Frankincense or the Myrrh that the Magi brought to the stable? Actually it was none of these, the first gift of Christmas is Jesus. The baby Jesus wrapped up in swaddling cloth is the first and best gift. Like Grace, God's gift of Jesus is given to us with love and hope that we will all receive Christ with joy and know that we are loved. Whatever you give or receive as a gift I hope it will bring love and joy.

*With licks and love from Izzy*



# Christmas Fair

**A BIG THANK YOU**

**to everyone who contributed and helped make our  
Christmas Fair a wonderful and enjoyable event.**

**You are Fab—U-LOUS**

## Urgent Help Required

We have a couple coming looking for accommodation in the coming weeks staying over the festive period. Can You Help?

Joseph and Mary would be happy to have a stable place to live as they hope to spend sometime with us over the next few weeks.

We need help to build some one star stable accommodation.



**Work Crew 1 Tuesday 7th Dec St Leonard's 10am**

**Work Crew 2 Wednesday 8th Dec St Mary's 1.30pm**

**Thank You**



# *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. As we enter the season Advent and our outdoor Nativity scene is once more built up we are going to place four large stones around the Nativity Scene bearing the words Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. 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.

## **Christmas Store House Parcels**



Philip and the Storehouse crew are gearing up to deliver this years Christmas Parcels to those in need in our area. If you would like to help please consider donating some of the following items which have been highlighted as those in most demand at this time.

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

Our Thanks to everyone who has donated goods to the work of the Storehouse over this past year many families and individuals have been touched by your love and support.



# Advent & Christmas

*Throughout Advent visit your church garden and reflect upon the Advent message of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love with our Advent Stepping Stones Reflection.*



## Christmas Eve

**4pm Christingle Service St Mary's**

*Come and build your own Christingle, then ...  
join us around the outdoor Nativity Scene for carols.*

**8pm Carols at St Leonard's**

*Join with us round the outdoor Nativity Scene at St Leonard's  
As we sing some familiar carols  
And hear again the amazing story at the heart of Christmas.*



**11.30pm Midnight Christmas Mass**

*Join us at St Mary's as we celebrate the birth of the King*

## Christmas Day

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

**Sunday 26th Dec. 1st Sunday of Christmas**

**10.30am Joint Service at St Mary's**

**Sunday 2nd Jan 2nd Sunday of Christmas**

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