



Lent 1

The Lord knows me!

Connect

Your Weekly News from St Leonard's & St Mary's
Sunday 6th march Lent 1



How to help the vulnerable caught in Ukraine crisis

The conflict unfolding in Ukraine following invasion by Russian forces has been a shocking sight to witness over the past week. Civilians are under attack and many thousands have had to flee Ukraine as refugees.

Many of us have rightly asked: how can we help? What can we do to support those who find themselves involved in a war they do not want? Local initiatives are taking place across the country to provide funds and supplies for the vulnerable and those whose lives are at risk, and international aid agencies are appealing for support.

Please consider giving a donation to
The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC)
Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal:

<https://donation.dec.org.uk/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>

Among the DEC partners are Christian Aid, the British Red Cross, and Tearfund. The UK Government has pledged to match fund donations from the public to the DEC fund, pound-for-pound, up to £20 million.

We will be organising a church collection for Ukraine at both churches and any donations received will be sent to the DEC Fund. Thank You

Praying for Ukraine

The Chief Rabbi of Ukraine has asked for Christians and people of faith to recite these verses of Psalm 31 as the towns and cities of Ukraine come under siege.

Psalm 31:21-24

21 Praise be to the Lord,
for he showed me the wonders of his love
when I was in a city under siege.

22 In my alarm I said,
"I am cut off from your sight!"
Yet you heard my cry for mercy
when I called to you for help.

23 Love the Lord, all his faithful people!
The Lord preserves those who are true to him,
but the proud he repays in full.

24 Be strong and take heart,
all you who hope in the Lord.



Let us Pray

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace.
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them and hear their hearts cry.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of peace.
Amen



Groundwork

Preparing and exploring the future of our churches

I warmly welcome you to this weeks Sunday Worship as we begin the season of Lent. Lent is often viewed as a season of preparation as we look forward to the great and marvellous celebration of Easter. Being a season of preparation we are going to use the next few weeks to do some groundwork as we begin the process of visioning, exploring our hopes and dreams for the future of St Leonard's and St Mary's.

Before we start making decisions about the future we want to revisit and ground ourselves in our faith and understanding of who and what we are called to be as individuals and collectively as a church family. Through prayer and understanding who, and whose we are, and what we have been called to do, will then help shape and focus our response.

Each Sunday we will explore briefly a different theme or aspect of the groundwork of our faith. Alongside this our Homegroups (Monday and Tuesday Evenings) will also use their time to pray and more fully engage with the topic. Groundwork booklets will also be available for anyone who wants to take their own copy home for personal study and reflection.

We want to hear your feedback and thoughts about each weeks topic. What words, thoughts or ideas came to mind as you engaged with the topic? What questions did it raise? You could either drop me an email, write a letter or pop a note in the Feedback box at Church. You can even take a small post it note and write a word or two to display on our Groundwork display. We hope that in time this will be a useful record of our journey and feed into the next part of the visioning process as we begin to explore our dreams and hopes for the future.

Lent is only the beginning of a process that we hope will lead us to thinking about new life at Easter and onward in to what is to come.

Peter

WORSHIP

Opening Responses

The Lord be with you

And also with you

This is the day that the Lord has made

let us rejoice and be glad in it

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen**

Hymn **IN HEAVENLY LOVE ABIDING**, no change my heart shall fear;
And safe is such confiding, for nothing changes here:
The storm may roar without me, my heart may low be laid;
But God is round about me, and can I be dismayed?

Wherever He may guide me, no want shall turn me back;
My Shepherd is beside me, and nothing can I lack:
His wisdom ever waketh, His sight is never dim;
He knows the way He taketh, and I will walk with Him.

Green pastures are before me, which yet I have not seen;
Bright skies will soon be o'er me,
where darkest clouds have been;
My hope I cannot measure, my path to life is free;
My Saviour has my treasure, and He will walk with me.

Prayer of Confession

Let us confess our sins in penitence and 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 Amen**

The minister declares God's forgiveness

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.

Prayers of Intercession for today

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 fulfil 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 power 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.

Reading of Scripture Psalm 139: 13– 18

You created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.

How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!

Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand
when I awake, I am still with you.

Group Discussions.

In a small group of 4/5 people take time to read the passages of scripture and consider some of the questions being asked.

Isaiah 49:15 –16

Can a mother forget the baby at her breast
and have no compassion on the child she has borne?
Though she may forget,
I will not forget you!
See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands;

Matthew 10:29-33

Jesus said "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care."

"And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."

- To what extent does the scriptures say that God knows us?
- How precious do you think we are to God?
- Does what we do, or don't do, affect God's love for us?
- God believes in me! What does this statement mean to you?
- Does knowing that God believes in you, and loves you, change how you should live your life? Why?

Psalm 139 reminds us that God formed us and knows all our days. That includes both the joys and sorrows of each day:

- What gives you joy?
- What trials or difficulties are you facing personally?
- What trials and difficulties are we facing as a church?
- What joys are there currently in the life of this church?

Post it — Feedback Words

Using the post it notes write down any words or phrases that have come to mind as you engaged with today's topic?

Prayer for the Church

**Father God, we desire as a church
to take hold of the vision and plan You have for us
and pray that You would lead and guide us to take a step of faith
in the direction that You would have us go.**

Help us we pray, to grasp your vision for the church.

May we be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading and guidance.

**Help us not to make rash and quick decisions out of fear
or a sense of urgency, but to humble ourselves
and to trust that we are held by you
as we seek Your plans and purposes.**

**Draw us closer to each other and to You,
that as the church vision emerges in our hearts,
we will know the Holy Spirit at work in us,
for the glory and praise of your name. Amen.**

Hymn

WHO AM I THAT THE HIGHEST KING WOULD WELCOME ME?

I was lost but He brought me in
Oh His love for me
Oh His love for me

Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God, Yes I am

Free at last, He has ransomed me
O His grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin
Jesus died for me
Yes He died for me

Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes I am
In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God
Yes I am

I am chosen, not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me, not against me
I am who You say I am

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here

His spirit is with us

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.

In Christ your Son
enemies are reconciled, debts forgiven
and strangers made welcome.
Your spirit frees us to live
as sons and daughters 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 of our sins had made.
Through the dark struggle
death was swallowed up in victory
that life and light might reign.

Before your Son our Lord was given up to suffering and death,
we remember 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 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.**

*All are welcome to come forward
and receive the bread of communion
Or a blessing at this time*

(mask - sanitise - receive - consume - mask - return)

Prayer after communion

Give thanks to the Lord for he is gracious
And his mercy endures for ever

**Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
May we who are partakers of his table reflect his life in word and
deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save.
We ask this in his name. Amen**

The Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts
and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus
Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the
Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.
Amen

Hymn BE THOU MY VISION, O LORD OF MY HEART;

Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
Be Thou ever with me, and I with Thee, Lord;
Be Thou my great Father, and I Thy true child;
Be Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my Breastplate, my Sword for the fight;
Be Thou my whole Armor, be Thou my true Might;
Be Thou my soul's Shelter, be Thou my strong Tow'r,
O raise Thou me heav'nward, great Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;
Be Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Be Thou and Thou only the first in my heart,
O high King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, Thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys, after vict'ry is won;
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be Thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

The Dismissal

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



Groundwork

LENT STUDY GROUPS

We invite you to explore today's topic more fully
by joining in with one of our homegroups

Monday Night 7.30pm hosted by Andrew Watt
The Neuk 2 Bridge End Dalkeith

Tuesday Night 8pm at St Mary's Church
Dalkeith Country Park

Contact Church Office for more information 663 7000

Come and make a difference



OUR NEXT LITTER PICK

Saturday March 12th, 2pm - 4pm

Starting at St Mary's.

SPRING CLEAN

at St Leonard's

Friday 1st April 2pm - 4pm &

Sat 2nd April 10 am - 12 Noon



How do I get it to do that?

Now what have I done!

Does that sound like you? Well don't despair and get yourself along to the

Digital Connect Group at St Mary's

Organised by Una from Volunteer Midlothian.

Tue 8th March 2-3pm

Learn Digital Skills for free

Pop in with your Laptop or Tablet if you have a question

Open to all



Where's Izzy!!!

My thanks to all of you for not forgetting me unlike my Dad who hasn't included a word from me since before Christmas. A special thank you to those who especially told Dad that they were missing my page as often it was the first thing they looked for.

Since my last update I have had the pleasure of celebrating my Birthday and Welcome Home day. I was born in October 2017 and entered the Harris Home on 27th Dec 17. I do sometimes wonder what my brothers and sisters are all up to now that we are 4.



Thankfully, it looks as though life post pandemic is getting back to some sort of normality once more where we are. However, as I sit cuddled up to Mum and Dad on the Sofa I cant believe the images and stories that are coming out of Ukraine. My thoughts and barks are with them all and especially my friends Mitch and Elizabeth and their family from Ukraine. I know Dad prays for them and for their grandson who has stayed in Kyiv at this time. Please do also pray for them and all who are caught up in this mess which is much worse than any mess I can make.



One of my friends sent me this picture of his response to Putin. We dogs sure know how to make our mark! I know Dad says we are encouraged to seek peace and to love one another but sometimes we also need to call out sin and evil for what it is and pray for darkness to be halted and light to come.

Love from Izzy x.

He Knows my name

L	H	C	I	I	L	K	I	I	U	Q	C	A	J
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I	T	T	R	A	I	T	C	F	I	O	N	A	R



St Leonard's

stleonardslasswade.org.uk

St Mary's

stmarysdalkeith.org.uk

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Both Churches are registered Charities

St Leonard's Episcopal Church: Lasswade SC014151

St Mary's Episcopal Church: Dalkeith SC001677