

Who is
Jesus?



He is the image
of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation
Colossians 1:15

Connect

Your Weekly News from St Leonard's & St Mary's
Sunday 17th July



Betty Tinley

Sadly we received the news that Betty unexpectedly but peacefully passed away on Tuesday morning.

She had a very good innings but was always young at heart, always enjoying hearing about the younger members of the church and becoming for some of them like a second Grandmother. When I spoke to Grace about Betty she said "it is so sad that Betty has died she was the life and soul of the church."

Many of us were touched by her gentle, kind and loving welcome. She loved to entertain and be at the heart of many of our social activities. Coffee at Betty's was a regular diary event not to be missed until she moved to her new flat. Even then she was adamant that we continue the tradition of bringing people together for a coffee and chat. This led to the birth of our monthly Coffee at Mary's which meets on the first Saturday of each month.

She was indeed a child of God and although we mourn her passing we also rejoice that in heaven Betty and Mike are reunited and no doubt organising the next get together for Jesus and the Angels. Please remember her daughters and their family in your prayers.

A Memorial Service of Thanksgiving for Betty's life will take place at St Mary's on Friday 29th July at 11am.

Followed by a Funeral Breakfast at Kings Acre



The Times they are a changing

**From Sunday 7th August
to Sunday 30th October
Sunday Morning worship will begin
at 10am in both Churches.**

This is for a trial period and we welcome your feedback. However we are aware that this change will also call for us to consider a different pattern of worship as it is unclear whether we can operate as we currently are. More details to follow.....

Welcome

The Lord be with you
And also with you

**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

STAND UP AND BLESS THE LORD;
God's people now rejoice;
stand up and bless the Lord your God
with heart and soul and voice.

Though high above all praise,
above all blessing high,
who would not fear God's holy name,
and praise and magnify?

Oh for the living flame
from God's own altar brought,
to touch our lips, our minds inspire,
and wing to heaven our thought.

God is our strength and song;
now is salvation ours.
God's love in Christ we now proclaim
with all our ransomed powers.

Stand up and bless the Lord;
the Lord your God adore;
stand up and bless God's glorious name
henceforth forevermore.

Confession and Absolution

God is love and we are his children.
There is no room for fear in love.
We love because he loved us first.

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.**

Collect **Almighty God, your Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your presence.
Give us pure hearts and constant wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.**

Reading **Colossians 1:15-29**

The Son is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn over all creation.
For in him all things were created:
things in heaven and on earth,
visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities;
all things have been created through him and for him.
He is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.
And he is the head of the body, the church;
he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead
so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,
and through him to reconcile to himself all things,
whether things on earth or things in heaven,
by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation – if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness – the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

Hymn **JESUS, NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES,**
Beautiful Saviour,
Glorious Lord;
Emmanuel,
God is with us,
Blessèd Redeemer,
Living Word.

Gospel Hear the Gospel of our Lord according to Luke 10.38-42
Glory to Christ our Saviour

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, 'Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!' 'Martha, Martha,' the Lord answered, 'you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed – or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.'

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

Sermon

Intercessions *Prayer is offered for the Church, the world and its people*

Peace The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you

We share a sign of peace

Hymn **BE STILL, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here;**

Come bow before Him now with reverence and fear.

In Him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground;

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;

He burns with holy fire, with splendour He is crowned.

How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light!

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place;

He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister His grace.

No work too hard for Him, in faith receive from Him;

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

Offering: Let us present our offerings to the Lord.
**Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory,
the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.
All things come from you, and of your own we give you. Amen**

Eucharistic Prayer

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 Father
in every place and at all times.

You made us, all the people of the world
and everything that is.

You give us the daylight. Your Word lights up our minds.
Jesus was born among us to be light in our darkness.

One day we will be with you in heaven,
but already we join with the saints and angels and sing their song:

**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.**

Father you never forget us or turn away from us
even when we fail you.

You sent your Son Jesus who gave his life for us.

**He healed those who were sick,
cared for those who were poor
and cried with those who were sad.
He forgave sinners and taught us to forgive.**

For all your love we give you thanks
in the way that Jesus showed us.

For on the night before he died,
while he was having supper with his friends,
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.'

**So, as we do what he told us,
we open our hearts to him;
we remember how he died
and rose again to live now in us.
Together with him we offer you these gifts:
in them we give you ourselves.**

Send your Holy Spirit on us
and on this bread and this wine;
that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ,
and that, sharing your life,
we may travel in your company to our journey's end.

**With all your people, we give you thanks and praise
through the Son and in the Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

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

Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour has commanded and taught us,
we are bold to say:

**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.
Do not bring us to the time of trial
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Distribution of Communion

THANKSGIVING AND SENDING OUT

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

**Almighty God, may our lives be a continual offering,
holy and acceptable in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

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

LORD OF ALL HOPEFULNESS, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like,
No cares could destroy;
Be there at our waking,
And give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord,
At the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled
At the plane and the lathe;
Be there at our labours,
And give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord,
At the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome,
Your arms to embrace;
Be there at our homing,
And give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord,
At the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment,
Whose presence is balm;
Be there at our sleeping,
And give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord,
At the end of the day.

Dismissal

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

do join with us for refreshments served at the close of the service

Swap Shop and Coffee

Swap not Shop

St Mary's Dalkeith in Country Park

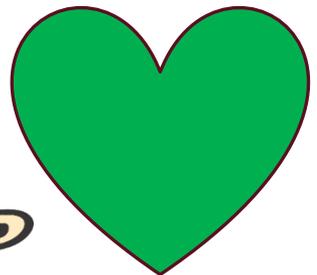
Saturday 6th August 10.30am -12noon



This month's theme: Hobbies and Crafts

Get involved and join us for coffee at our monthly Swap Shops. Bring along any craft materials you no longer want and wish to swap with other crafters.

Help prevent the waste of old items going to landfill and the unnecessary purchase of new ones.





Faith in our Future

Father God, we long to share in your vision for our churches.

Lead us as we step forward in faith.

Increase our sensitivity to the Holy Spirit.

Free us from the fear that propels us towards rash decisions.

Help us to humble ourselves and trust your plans for us.

Draw us closer You and each other.

And as your vision for our churches emerges in our hearts,

help us to rejoice that the Holy Spirit is at work in us,

for the glory and praise of your name. Amen.

The Visioning Questionnaire - a Summary

There was a good response rate to our recent Visioning Questionnaire that was issued as part of our Visioning exercise that we have been engaging in over the last few months. The full responses have been issued to the Clergy Team and Vestry members for them to ponder over. We are planning to issue a summary or coalition of the responses and make this available to the wider congregation in the coming weeks.

However, before then I thought I would give you a taste of some of the responses from the first 4 questions of the questionnaire for this week and offer a personal reflection or a response to what has been received.

Q1 Why do you come to church?

For Worship, Fellowship, the Eucharist, Spiritual nourishment, the Singing and Bible teaching

I say amen to all of these. We / I come to worship the Lord who loves us, to sing his praises, to read his word and grow in knowledge of his ways, while through the Eucharist we celebrate and giving thanks for his life, death and resurrection. Spiritually renewed we go out to love and serve the Lord.

Q2 What do you find helpful and unhelpful about your church?

Helpful: The beauty and quiet of the building, our style of services, that we are a welcoming church, the Minister is easy to talk to and has a good ministry support team. People care and look out for each other especially during the Pandemic.

Unhelpful: Times of the Sunday service, that the Rector is not able to stay longer at St. Marys . Music — some responses calling for more contemporary worship while others questioning the appropriateness of song choices or too many new ones. A call for a simpler liturgy and a response criticising the lack of leadership skills and professionalism of the Rector and Clergy Team.

There are clearly some interesting divergences raised by this question which we all will need to reflect on. Our style of worship is loved by some while others are calling for a more simpler approach. Last week I wrote about the Liturgy and some of the options available to us. So I refer you to last weeks Connect. Equally I am aware that music in church can sadly be divisive. However, we should first and foremost come to worship with an attitude and desire to worship God. God is more concerned about our hearts and attitude to worship than he is about the style. In fact, I would say God loves all styles of worship if it is offered out of love and thanksgiving to the Lord. At my heart is the belief that we are a welcoming family church and therefore the songs and hymns chosen are drawn from a variety of sources.

I am reminded of one time at Theological college when a visiting Bishop came and joined us for worship. He was grieved that on that occasion we did not sing some well known Hymns for him to join in with. He said he was not against new songs but that we should limit them and only introduce them one or two maximum per service. As he was preaching the following evening he said he would choose the hymns for that service. The next night we were then introduced to five great hymns of the faith. Sadly for most of us we quickly had to learn these five new hymns that we had never heard of, that were sung to a strange meter and used language of a bygone era. Maybe musical styles are like marmite some are loved and others are frowned upon. As a point of information our hymns are normally selected to reflect the theme of the day set by the bible readings and are not just a list of Peter's favourites. Those preaching or presiding are also given permission to make song and hymn suggestions as well as changes to the Liturgy to reflect the theme or focus of the day.

One of the benefits of being part of a church family is that together we can achieve and offer much more than we can on our own. I acknowledge that none of us are perfect or get it right all the time. We come as broken vessels, imperfect and flawed responding to God's call on our lives. We seek to be his people, learning and growing as disciples of Christ. Personally, I believe in a collaborative leadership style. Not a Father knows best approach, but come seeking a dialogue that will move us forward together into the future. This requires that we listen to each other and encourage one another through respecting and valuing what we each can bring and offer.

Q3 What talents/gifts/skills can you offer?

Clearly from the responses to this question we have a wide range of people with gifts and skills set and many of these are being used. As we seek to work together I am once again grateful for all the time and commitment that is given by many individuals to the work of the church and pray that through these endeavours we all will be blessed. At the end of the day we are all aware, I hope, that the church is about the people, loving and serving one another in the name of Jesus.

Q4 What do you hope your church will be like in 5 years (dream BIG)?

Bigger congregation with more young people and families. A warmer church, new hall or money spent on renovating and improving the space within the church to be used. Songs or Praise type services, a choir, and outdoor worship

The question now is how do we begin to plant the seeds that will lead to a bigger congregation, with more young people and families. Messy Church is one activity. What other activities may we need to provide to help grow the church? Do we have a heart for the lost and the broken, the hungry and the poor? Are we open to offering family services with story and songs for children. Can the church be open as a place of sanctuary? Possibly open as a place for hot cup of soup and warmth during the winter months to help those facing unsurmountable increases in their cost of living? What is our focus and aim for the next 5 years and what steps will we need to take to move in that direction. These are just some of the questions that we all need to ask and especially the Vestry and Clergy Team.

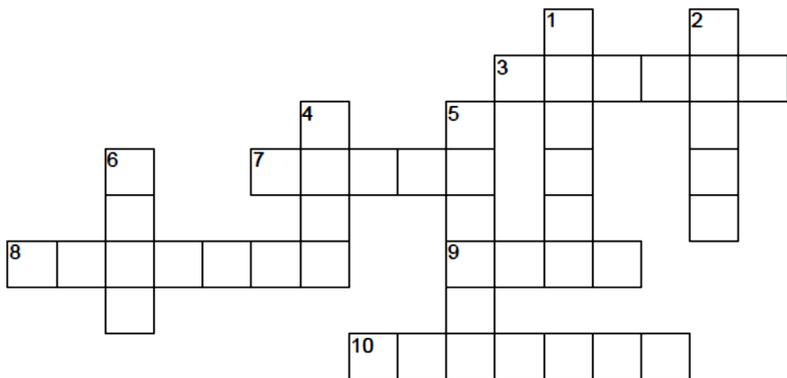
Next week we will look at the next four questions and some of the possibilities and suggestions for the future.

Peter

Gospel Puzzle

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

FEET CHOSEN THING	NEEDED MARTHA HELP	WOMAN SISTER BETTER	NEEDED JESUS WORRIED	MARY UPSET WORK
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ACROSS

- To pay attention to what someone says
- An adult female human
- A very small town
- Activity, such as a job, which a person performs; labor
- To be concerned about something; to be troubled

DOWN

- A female having the same parents as another person
- The son of God
- The place where a family lives
- A spoken or written reply to a question
- To give assistance to someone

Creation Season Creative Meditations

The Creation Season is a special time within our Church calendar running from September to early-October where the focus of our worship is on praising God for the wonder of the creation around us.

During this time we are offering you the opportunity to explore what we think and believe about God's creation and our roles and responsibilities. We invite you to be part of an interactive six-week creative meditation?

Sound interesting want to know more?

Then contact our group organiser Sandiann Devaney 259 6313

Based on initial interest, the first group will meet on Monday afternoons from 1-3pm, beginning on Monday August 29.

Interested but the day/time doesn't work for you? Then please talk to Sandiann, as a second evening session may be possible!



SEASON OF CREATION

St Mary's Sunday at ~~9.30am~~

stmarysdalkeith.org.uk



St Leonard's Sunday at ~~11.15am~~

stleonardslasswade.org.uk

 **@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

Please note that Monday is our Rector's day off

Sunday worship time changes to 10am from Sunday 7th August