

# Advent

*The Season of Hope and Expectation*



# Connect

Weekly News from St Leonard's and St Mary's  
1st Sunday of Advent - Hope



Dear Friends,

As Advent begins we light our first candle to symbolise hope. Hope in an ancient story of long ago passed down from generation to generation. Hope in the darkness of life, within the horrors of war, within the pain and the struggles of life.

Hope like a candle being touched by a flame needs to be rekindled in us by the presence of God around us. As we remember the promises of old and their fulfilment may we be encouraged to place our hope afresh in God. God promised and it came to pass. It took many years, many struggles and challenges along the way but the promised hope of a Messiah was sown among the people and in God's timing came to pass in the birth of Jesus, our Lord.

At times we may indeed wonder, where is God? It is then as we cry out from our brokenness within the brokenness of the world that we need to hold on to the promises of God. For one day what we are going through will pass away. Jesus himself faced the despair of the Garden of Gethsemane, the pain, the sorrow of the heavy burden placed upon him before the joy dawned again on Easter Sunday.

With Advent anticipation and hope we therefore call to mind the promises of our Lord. We remember that Jesus said that he goes to prepare a place for us. And because he goes and prepares a place for us, He will return for us, so that we too can be where he is. One day just as the promised hope of the Messiah to come came to pass with the birth of Jesus, so too will Christ return.

As we light our first candle of Advent we are being commissioned to be a people of hope. To be beacons of hope shining in the darkness, shedding the light of hope into others' lives through the words we use, the actions we do and the prayers we say. We are to be flames of hope, supporting and lighting up one another as we remember the fulfilment of the promises of old and declare that the Lord will return and one day take us to be with him.

*with love and anticipation, Peter*

# Welcome

## The Gathering

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you**

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the temple of our God  
**He will teach us his ways,  
so that we may walk in his paths.'**

He will judge between the nations  
and will settle disputes for many peoples.

**They will beat their swords into ploughshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks.**

Nation will not take up sword against nation,  
nor will they train for war any more.

**Come, O people of God  
let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

## *The first candle of Advent is lit for Hope*

Hymn      **HILLS OF THE NORTH, REJOICE**, river and mountain spring,  
Hark to the advent voice valley and lowland, sing  
Though absent long, your Lord is nigh  
He judgment brings and victory.

Isles of the southern seas, deep in your coral caves  
Pent be each warring breeze, lulled be your restless waves:  
He comes to reign with boundless sway,  
And makes your wastes His great highway.

Lands of the East, awake, soon shall your sons be free  
The sleep of ages break, and rise to liberty.  
On your far hills, long cold and gray,  
Has dawned the everlasting day.

Shores of the utmost West, ye that have waited long,  
Unvisited, unblest, break forth to swelling song  
High raise the note, that Jesus died,  
Yet lives and reigns, the Crucified.

Shout, while ye journey home, songs be in every mouth  
Lo, from the North we come,  
From East, and West, and South.  
City of God, the bond are free,  
we come to live and reign in thee!

### **A prayer of confession**

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

**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  
**Amen**

### **Reading of Scripture Isaiah 2.2-5**

In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established  
as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills,  
and all nations will stream to it.

Many peoples will come and say,  
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the temple of the God of Jacob.

He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.'

The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He will judge between the nation  
and will settle disputes for many peoples.

They will beat their swords into ploughshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will not take up sword against nation,  
nor will they train for war any more.

Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

## Hymn

### WHO CAN ASCEND HIS HOLY HILL

Who can approach His Holy Place  
Only the one with clean hands and a pure heart

Come let us go up, come let us go up  
To the mountain of the LORD  
(*Dai, dai, dai*)

Lift up your heads, O mighty gates  
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,  
So that the King of Glory may enter in

Nations will come to celebrate  
Adonai will teach us His ways  
And the God of Israel will send the rain

And the law will go out from Zion  
From Jerusalem His Word  
All creation will know your Name  
Forever Your praises proclaim

Who can ascend His holy hill  
Who can approach His Holy Place  
Only the ones who are washed by the Lamb

## The Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of the Lord according to Matthew 24.36-44  
**Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

About that final day or hour no one knows,  
not the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

'Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

*Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.*

**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

## Sermon

### Creed

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from  
Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.**

## **Prayers for Today**

### **The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**And also with you**

### **Hymn MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS**

Than Jesus' blood and righteousness  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame  
But wholly trust in Jesus' name

Christ alone; cornerstone  
Weak made strong;  
in the Saviour's love  
Through the storm,  
He is Lord  
Lord of all

When Darkness seems to hide His face  
I rest on His unchanging grace  
In every high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil  
My anchor holds within the veil

When He shall come with trumpet sound,  
Oh, may I then in Him be found;  
Dressed in His righteousness alone,  
Faultless stand before the throne.

**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 II    Anticipation**

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 Bread**

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

## **Lord's Prayer**

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **Distribution of Communion**

*All are welcome to come and receive communion or a blessing*

## **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

### **IN CHRIST ALONE MY HOPE IS FOUND**

He is my light, my strength, my song  
This Cornerstone, this solid ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love, what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease  
My Comforter, my All in All  
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone, who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless babe  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
'Till on that cross as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day  
Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost it's grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell, no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
'Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

## Dismissal

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

# Ukrainian Family - Answered Prayers

We were finding it difficult to find suitable accommodation for the Raichev family (Tetania (Mum), Hennadii (Dad), Mykhailo (son) and Alina (daughter)) and although initially it looked like there were a few available on enquiring with letting agents all had been allocated, some annoyingly had not been taken down from the various websites leading us to have false hope. However, after a week of prayer and searching we are glad to say that two suitable properties came on the market this week and one especially fitted the family more than could have been asked for.

We now need to co-ordinate with those who have offered items to help the family as they plan to move into their accommodation in early December. Please do speak to Vicki or Fiona if you have anything you may think is suitable. We will endeavour to make a list of what we have and of what we need and let you know in the coming weeks.

Thank You for your prayers and support



## St Leonard's Organ Fund.

Following the St Leonard's AGM on 30th October it was proposed to set up an organ fund to help preserve our unique organ. It is costly to keep, needing regular tuning as well as trying to find and pay a new organist.

To start this fund I would like to sell old complete china tea sets on Ebay.

At the moment that is a popular item. Please have a look in the back of your cupboards and maybe your friends cupboards as well. I photograph the china, sell it and pack and post all over the UK. I have been doing this for Gorebridge Parish Church for the last few years and it does make a bit of money. So please consider supporting our new Organ Fund

Thanks. Judy Strong

*As well as raising funds in this way donations to the Organ Fund can be placed in an envelope marked Organ Fund and left in the offering bowl*



Working with the local churches the Storehouses work touches many families and with an increase in demand due to the cost of living crisis asks you to consider supporting them with a donation as they prepare to help families with food parcels this year.

Pot noodles or similar easy to make meals  
UHT Milk (blue box), Diluting juice  
Tubs of hot chocolate — hot water mix  
Bags of multi pack crisps  
Cans of macaroni cheese, Cans of ravioli  
Cans of custard, Cans of rice pudding  
Multi pack Kit Kats, and other snacks bars  
Selection Boxes or Boxes of Chocolates

*Thank You for your generosity and love*



## Pet Food Bank

Tuesday 20th December

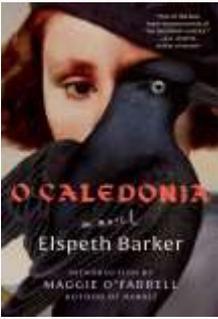
St Mary's 10-12 Noon



Please do let friends and neighbours who may be struggling with Pet Food bills know that they are welcome to come along and enjoy the warm space of St Mary's, have a cuppa and collect some free food for their pets.

## THE LINK BOOK CLUB

### O CALEDONIA

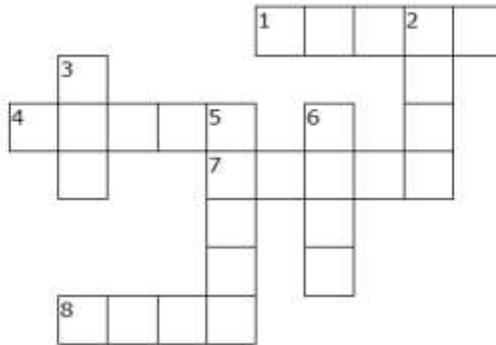


This book by Elspeth Barker has been described as the “best least-known novel of the twentieth century”. It is a dark and sometimes disturbing book about Janet who lives with her dysfunctional family in a cold dank stately home,

Auchnasaugh, somewhere in Aberdeenshire. Janet is eccentric, unpopular and sometimes wicked, not a likeable character, and we follow her short life as she is murdered on the first page at 16! There are moments of black hilarity and also sadness as Janet is isolated, finding solace in animals and her books. Elspeth Barker wrote the most wonderful prose but sadly did not write any other novels, concentrating on writing reviews and poetry.

Our next book is “The call of the Cormorant” by Donald Murray and we meet again at St. Mary’s on January 27<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome to join us.

**VICKI CLARK**



#### ACROSS

1. The time of day when it is dark
4. To keep an eye on; to guard
7. The person who has something such as property
8. A particular moment in the day, such as eight o'clock

#### DOWN

2. A period of sixty minutes
3. A period of 24 hours
5. The place where a person or family lives
6. To have information about something; to be aware of something

# Vestry Update

The Vestry of each church is appointed to assist and co-operate with the Rector and Clergy Team in matters relating to the spirituality of the congregation as well as the temporal state of the finance and management of the buildings in our care.

Vestry members are regarded as Trustees of the Charity. We give thanks to everyone who has served on previous Vestries and ask you now to pray for our new Vestries as they begin to meet discuss and make decisions regarding the future life and function of the churches.

The Rector and Clergy Team along with the following people now act on your behalf as the Vestry of 2022-23.

	<b>St Leonard's</b>	<b>St Mary's</b>
Lay Representative	Vicki Clark	Anne MacKay
People's Warden	Alison Bruce	David Grieve
Rector's Warden	Martin Johnson	Robin Donald
Vestry Secretary	Vicki Clark	Pauline Jones
Treasurer	William Ferris	Anne MacKay
Ordinary Members		
	Ruth Simpson	Cheryl Prior
	Benna Polouse	Kathleen Donald
	Murray McKenzie	Vikki Adams
	Ben Devaney	Rebecca Brouwers Harries
	Jan Brooks	Rebecca Adams
Safeguarding	Alison Bruce	Stephen Somerfield
Property	Ben Devaney	Robin Donald



## Christmas Activities

### Celebrating Christmas together as a Church Family

Christmas Dinner Party on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December from 6.30pm with meal at 7pm in the new Broomieknowe Golf Club on Golf Course Road, Bonnyrigg. The meal is free to everyone, however if you are able to give a donation please place this in an enveloped marked Christmas Dinner and put it in the weekly offering plate or hand to Peter or Fiona. Thank You

We are also planning the following joint Christmas Services:

**Christmas Eve 4pm Messy Christingle at St Mary's**

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

**11.30 Christmas Eve Watchnight at St Mary's**

**Christmas Day 10am Christmas Morning Together at St Mary's**

**New Years Day 10am Morning Worship Together at St Leonard's**



**St Leonard's 10am**

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

**St Mary's 10am**

[stmarysdalkeith.org.uk](http://stmarysdalkeith.org.uk)

Find us on  @StLandM

**Wednesday Morning On-line Worship**

10am on Zoom & Facebook Live

**Church Office & Rectory**

11 Peacock Parkway Bonnyrigg EH193RQ



0131 663 7000 or email  [office.stlandm@gmail.com](mailto:office.stlandm@gmail.com)



Both Churches are registered Charities

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.