

# Lent.

A SEASON OF RENEWAL



The time has come,  
The kingdom of God has come near.  
Repent and believe the good news.

**Sunday 26th February 2023**

**1st Sunday of Lent**



## A journey to and beyond the Cross

'The time has come,' said Jesus.  
'The kingdom of God has come near.  
Repent and believe the good news!'

Mark 1 v15

The season of Lent as a time of preparation for the great feast and celebration of Easter has been observed since the early days of the Christians faith. By carefully keeping these days of Lent, we are encouraged to take to heart the gospel's call to repentance and the assurance of our forgiveness, and to grow and develop our faith and devotion to our Lord.

The Christian Church throughout the world calls on her members, in the name of Jesus, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading, studying and meditating on God's holy word. In addition to this it is also encouraged that as well as self denial and the giving up of something for Lent that we could also take up active acts of love and kindness.

Lent begins by reminding us that we are all but dust and to dust we shall return. Yet even out of the dust, from the earth and dry bones of death Christ can bring forth new life, new hope. However, this new life comes through our own self examination of ourselves reminding ourselves that we are unworthy even to gather up the crumbs from under his table. Take time over these weeks to ask the Lord by the work of his Spirit in us to continue the work he has begun in us. To show us where we too need to repent and turn away from sin and turn to Christ once more.

Ultimately, if we are honest with ourselves we will get to a point where we will need to acknowledge that we like the Psalmist in Psalm 51 or the Tax Collector in the temple are sinners and that it is against God that we have trespassed and sinned. This confession helps us renew our relationship with God who although rightly condemns sin is also the one through Christ sacrificial work has mercy on us, forgives us our sins and sets us on the right path again to walk humbly with God into the future beyond the Cross.

*yours with love Peter*

## Welcome

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

**Hymn**      **FORTY DAYS AND FORTY NIGHTS** you were fasting in the wild  
forty days and forty nights tempted and yet undefiled.

Burning heat throughout the day, bitter cold when light had fled;  
prowling beasts around your way,  
stones your pillow, earth your bed.

Shall not we your trials share, learn your discipline of will;  
and with you by fast and prayer wrestle with the powers of hell?

So if Satan, pressing hard, soul and body would destroy:  
Christ who conquered, be our guard; give to us the victor's joy.

Saviour, may we hear your voice keep us constant at your side;  
and with you we shall rejoice at the eternal Eastertide.

## Prayer of Confession

Psalm 32

- 1 Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven,  
whose sins are covered.
- 2 Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them  
and in whose spirit is no deceit.
- 3 When I kept silent, my bones wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.
- 4 For day and night your hand was heavy on me;  
my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.[b]
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity.  
I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.'  
And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

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, whose Son fasted forty days in the wilderness, and  
was tempted as we are but did not sin, give us grace to discipline  
ourselves in submission to your Spirit, that as you know our  
weakness so we may know your power to save;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen**

## **Hymn      BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE**

I have a strong and perfect plea.  
A great high Priest whose Name is Love  
Who ever lives and pleads for me.  
My name is written on His hands,  
My name is hidden on His heart.  
I know that while in Heaven He stands  
No power can force me to depart.  
No power can force me to depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair  
And tells me of the guilt within,  
Upward I look and see Him there  
Who made an end of all my sin.  
Because the sinless Saviour died  
My sinful soul is counted free.  
For God the just is satisfied  
To look on Him and pardon me.  
To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there the risen Lamb,  
My perfect sinless righteousness,  
The great unchangeable I AM,  
The King of glory and of grace,  
One with Lord I cannot die.  
My soul is purchased by His blood,  
My life is safe with Christ on high,  
With Christ my Saviour and my God  
With Christ my Saviour and my God

## **Gospel Reading** Matthew 17.1-9

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

Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting for forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.'

Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the highest point of the temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

Jesus answered him, 'It is also written: "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'All this I will give you,' he said, 'if you will bow down and worship me.'

Jesus said to him, 'Away from me, Satan! For it is written: "Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only."

The devil left him, and angels came and attended him..'

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

**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

## Sermon

### Prayers of Intercessions

#### The Peace

In the presence of the risen Lord, we meet in Christ name  
**Let us share his peace**

#### Hymn      **HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR US,**

How vast beyond all measure,  
That He should give His only Son  
To make a wretch His treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss –  
The Father turns His face away,  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One  
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,  
My sin upon His shoulders;  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished;  
His dying breath has brought me life –  
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,  
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,  
His death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer;  
But this I know with all my heart –  
His wounds have paid my ransom.

## Offering

Let us present our offerings to the Lord:

**Generous God, accept the offering of your people  
for the work of your Kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
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.**

Maker of light and darkness.

Your wisdom draws beauty from chaos,  
brings a harvest out of sorrow  
and leads the exiles home.

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 our sins had made.  
Through the dark struggle, death was swallowed up in victory  
that life and light might reign.

Before he was given up to suffering and death,  
recalling the night of Israel's release,  
the night in which the sons of Egypt died,  
your Chosen One, himself the Firstborn, freely offered up his life.

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.**

Let us pray together as our Lord taught us to 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.  
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**

*All are welcome  
to come and receive as we gather at our Lord's table*

## Prayer after communion

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

Faithful God,  
increase our faith, hope and love  
and guide us to daily confess you  
as our Lord and God. Amen

## Blessing

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,  
to deny yourselves, to take up your cross, and to follow him;  
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

### **The Dismissal**

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

***please do join us for refreshments  
served at the close of the service***



# World Day of Prayer

Friday 3rd March

St Leonard's Lasswade 7pm

or

St John's Kings Park 7pm

Come and support the Ecumenical work of the local Churches and hear how we can pray for the work of God's Kingdom in our own community and in Taiwan



# Fairtrade Fortnight

27 February – 12 March

This Fairtrade Fortnight, please join us in spreading a simple message: choose Fairtrade now and help save our favourite foods.

**Did you know cocoa, bananas and coffee could soon be much more difficult to find on our shelves?**

Climate change is making crops like these harder and harder to grow. Combined with deeply unfair trade, communities growing these crops are being pushed to the brink.

As a Fairtrade and Eco Congregation we are encouraged to consider Fairtrade purchasing when looking to buy groceries, clothes, and even flowers from the Fairtrade approved suppliers to help those in need. As a church we endeavour to use Fairtrade Tea, Coffee, sugar and even Fairtrade wine. So please help and do your share for Fairtrade.



# Scottish Episcopal Church

## a journey

### Towards NetZero

The Climate emergency has not gone away and although the issue is complex and there are no easy fixes for our planet the Scottish Episcopal Church is calling on all its Dioceses and churches to take steps to move towards a NetZero or Carbon free church by 2030. It may sound impossible but every step a Diocese, or Vestry can make to reduce their carbon footprint is a step in the right direction. Currently every SEC Church has been asked to submit an Energy footprint covering the carbon usage of each church building, hall and Rectory along with Diocesan and Provincial Offices. Alongside this consideration should also be taken by each church to take active action to reduce the use of fossil fuels and seek to engage in 100% Green Energy Tariffs for our energy supplies. As well as looking at our buildings we are also being asked to look at our work patterns, meetings and activities and how volunteers and employees such as the Rector can be equipped and encouraged to reduce their carbon footprint.

So what is happening locally with the churches of St Leonard's and St Mary's. In the last few years we have registered as Eco-congregations and organised a number of different events to raise the profile of the Climate Emergency.

We have had film and discussion evenings, litter picks and set up a monthly Swap Shop to encourage the reusing and recycling of a variety of goods rather than them going to land fill etc.

The challenge now for the Vestry and congregations is what more can be done? We now need to look at the future of our buildings and how to heat them as well as considering other aspects of the ministry of the church.



The Vestries acknowledge that we have an ethical, moral and scriptural obligation to seriously take on board changes that will be needed for each church to play its part. There will be a financial cost to bear but to do nothing is not an option and already the unseen cost from use of fossil fuels and the rise in pollutants is having an affect on our world today.

St Mary's especially with her old gas boiler (and I am not talking about the Rector) will need to seriously consider alternate heating solutions over the next five years. Currently their HeatHack Group is revealing some interesting results from monitoring how the church is used and recording evidence of how long it takes to heat the church and to allow the church to cool down. This will help us identify ways to minimise some of the usage of the boiler.

St Leonard's only uses Electricity and so would be encouraged along with St Mary's in the coming years to move over to 100% Green Energy Tariff. But alongside this St Leonard's is also concerned about the viability of the current heating system in the church and hall. The Heating group is looking at the possibility of air source heat pumps that could possibly be run on solar power but these discussions are in their early stages of being reviewed.



At our recent joint Vestry meeting both churches continued the discussion about what action could be taken together to continue to further reduce our carbon footprint by looking at the issue of the carbon footprint and pollutants produced by the Rector as he carries out his duties on behalf of the church. We noted with thanks

the generous donation that was given and invested in Solar Panels for the Rectory. This has helped reduce the shared energy costs and carbon output of the Rectory. To further benefit from the installation of the solar panels the proposal has been put to both Vestries to jointly lease an Electric Car for use of the Rector and ministry team. This in effect would remove around 800Kg of CO2 production compared to a small petrol engine vehicle and reduce other harmful pollutants like Nitric Oxide to zero. With the car having the ability to be charged from the Solar panels the subsequent running costs of the vehicle would further be reduced. Although it was noted that there would be an initial large financial layout for the lease deposit it was agreed by both Vestries that this was indeed a positive step forward on our journey to become a NetZero church.



## St Leonard's Organ Fund

With thanks to Janina Short's donation of an unusual coffee set from Warsaw circa 1930 the organ fund continues to grow enabling us to keep the Organ tuned and playable. Katya our new Pianist at St Leonard's with the aid of Derek Law

from St Mary's is beginning to learn some of the basics of how to play the organ so we are looking forward to hearing the organ being played once more as part of our worship. If you have a tea or coffee set you would be happy to donate to the fund please do speak to Judy Strong. Thank You.



## Coffee at St Mary's

### with Swap Shop

Saturday 4th March will be our next Coffee Morning with Swap Shop running from 10.30 to 12Noon.

The Swap Shop is on the theme of Spring Clean. What are you clearing out that you no longer need. Is it in good order, if yes consider bringing it along and possibly swap for something else. Please note sadly we cannot accept electrical items at this time.



## Pet Food Bank

### Tuesday 7th March 10am at St Mary's

Do let friends and neighbours know that help with pet food is available to those in need as well as advice around animal care and wellbeing.

## Social Committee



Our thanks to everyone who filled in the questionnaire about social and fundraising activities in the life of the church. From the responses a new Social Committee has been set up with representatives from both churches and along with a number of other willing volunteers we will be looking to organise a social diary reflecting some of the ideas and events suggested from the questionnaire feedback.

# Bishop's Lent Appeal 2023



St Nicholas Seminary has been training clergy since 1975. It is the only active seminary in the Province of West Africa (which includes Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, the Gambia, and Cameroon). Alongside our own ordinands, we have also trained ministers and lay pastors for the Methodist and Pentecostal Churches in Ghana and Ivory Coast.

To assist them to continue this work they are seeking to install a water filtration plant at the College to give clean water not only to the seminary but also to other community buildings like the schools, university and the general public. Your donations this year will help them realise this dream and ambition.

Pick up a info leaflet at the welcome desk to find out more.



**St Mary's**  
[stmarysdalkeith.org.uk](http://stmarysdalkeith.org.uk)

**St Leonard's**  
[stleonardslasswade.org.uk](http://stleonardslasswade.org.uk)

Find us on  **@StLandM**

**Church Office & Rectory** 11 Peacock Parkway Bonnyrigg EH193RQ

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

Our Rector's Day off is usually a Monday

Both Churches are registered Charities

St Leonard's Episcopal Church: Lasswade SC014151

St Mary's Episcopal Church: Dalkeith SC001677