

# CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

## Christingle Service

Christmas Eve 4pm

A family friendly, Messy Church service  
at **St Mary's**  
with oranges, sweets, hot chocolate  
and Carols old and new.  
All Welcome



## Christmas Eve Services

**St Leonard's - 11.30pm**

Dobbies Road Bonnyrigg

**St Mary's - 11.30pm**

Dalkeith Country Park

## Christmas Morning

**St Leonard's - 10am**

Dobbies Road Bonnyrigg

## Carols at St Mary's

Friday 28th December at 4pm St Mary's

## 1st Sunday of Christmas

Sunday 30th December

Joint CAFÉ CHURCH service at St Mary's 10am

# The Link

The Magazine of the Scottish Episcopal Churches  
of St Leonard's Lasswade with St Mary's Dalkeith

December 18 & January 19

## WAITING FOR CHRIST



## CELEBRATING ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Your local Scottish Episcopal Church  
in Bonnyrigg & Dalkeith  
Invites and Welcomes You to join us



## St Leonard's Church

Dobbies Rd Lasswade & Bonnyrigg

**Sunday at 11.15am**

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

## More Information and Enquiries:

For more information why not visit the church Websites or

Find us on  @StLandM

You can also contact the Church Office on

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

Both Churches are registered with the Scottish Charity Register as

St Leonard's Episcopal Church: Lasswade SC014151

St Mary's Episcopal Church: Dalkeith SC001677

Items for inclusion in the **February** edition of The Link should be passed to the office by **Sunday 20th January** for consideration. Thank you..

### Editor's Note

*Opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the editor or the Churches. Please note anyone submitting an article for inclusion within this magazine should ensure that the content is suitable for a church publication?*

## St Mary 's Church

*The church in the park*

Dalkeith Country Park High St, Dalkeith

**Sunday 9.30am**

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



### St Leonard's 11:15am Sunday Rota January

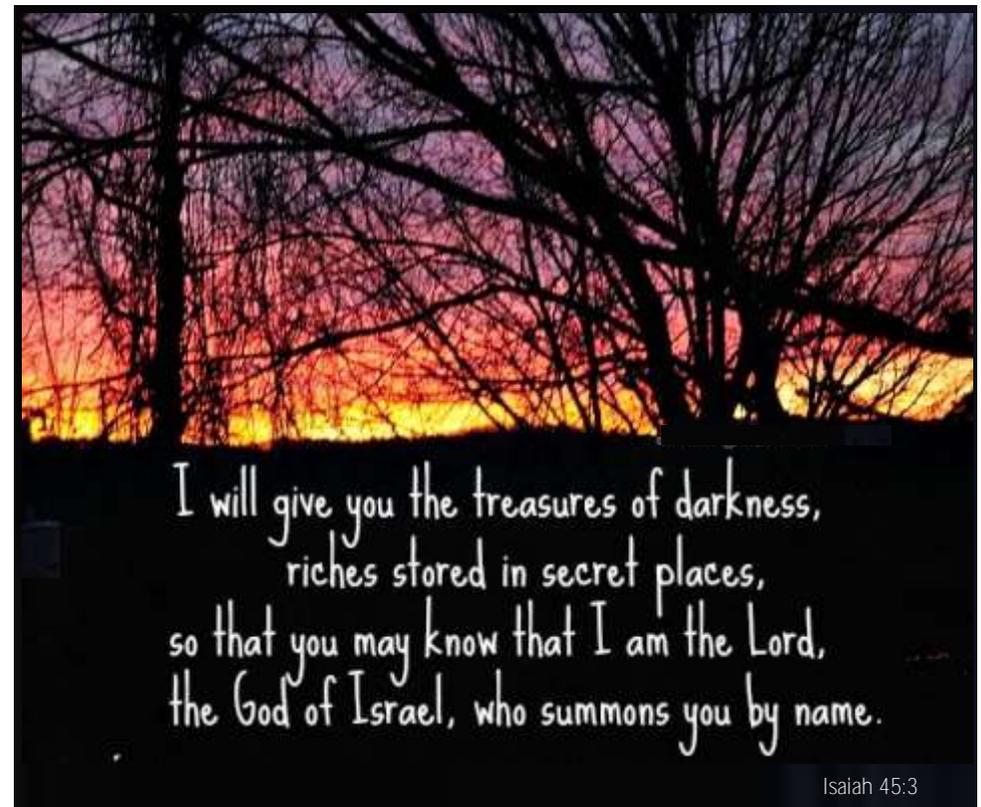
Sunday	Sidespersons	Coffee	Flowers	Cleaning
<b>6th January</b> O: V Clark C: T Mooney R: Mary J I: C Todd M: E Stewart	<b>J Shannon</b> <b>J Strong</b>	J Strong A Bolan A Miller	<b>Christmas</b>	A Bruce
<b>13th January</b> O: T Mooney C: N Stewart R: P Johnson I: N Stewart M: E Thomson	A & I Bolan	<b>N Whannell</b> <b>A Cunningham</b>	Christmas	<b>B Poulose</b>
<b>20th January</b> O: N Stewart C: A Bruce R: I Bolan I: P Harris M: E Stewart	<b>A Cunningham</b> <b>N Whannell</b>	C Todd A Bruce A Thomson	<b>R Simpson</b>	J&T Mooney
<b>27th January</b> O: P Harris C: A Bruce R: J Matthew I: V Clark M: Peter et-al	M Hall D Reid	<b>J Mellon</b> <b>D Reid</b> <b>M Hall</b>	R Simpson	<b>A</b> <b>McKenzie</b> <b>V Clark</b>
<b>3rd February</b> O: A Bruce C: T mooney R: M Johnson I: C Todd M: E Stewart	<b>J Forsyth</b> <b>N Fyffe</b>			J & J Mellon

O = Officiant, C = Chalice, R = Reader, I = Intercessions & M = Music

St Leonard's 11:15 am Sunday Rota December

Sunday	Sidespersons	Coffee	Flowers	Cleaning
<b>2nd December</b> O: T Mooney C: A Bruce R: E Jones I: C Todd M: E Stewart	<b>A Cunningham</b> <b>N Whannell</b>	J Strong A Bolan A Miller	<b>Advent</b>	J & J Mellon
<b>9th December</b> O: A Bruce C: T Mooney R: T Mooney I: M Jones M: E Thomson	M Hall D Reid	<b>N Whannell</b> <b>A Cunningham</b>	Advent	<b>P&amp;M</b> <b>Johnson</b>
<b>16th December</b> O: V Clark C: N Stewart R: C Todd I: N Stewart M: E Stewart	<b>J Forsyth</b> <b>N Fyffe</b>	C Todd A Bruce A Thomson	<b>Advent</b>	J&T Mooney
<b>23rd December</b> O: P Harris C: V Clark R: F Harris I: J duRocher M: Peter et-al	J Shannon J Strong	<b>J Mellon</b> <b>D Reid</b> <b>M Hall</b>	Advent	<b>C Todd</b> <b>R Simpson</b>
<b>30th December</b> 10am	Café Church <b>Joint service at St Mary's</b> 10am			

O = Officiant, C = Chalice, R = Reader, I = Intercessions & M = Music



*AN ADVENT REFLECTION - from Jacqui du Rocher*

As we move deeper into the darkness of winter and the days grow shorter, the autumn leaves fall to reveal the stark bare branches of the trees. The temperatures also begin to drop and many of us feel the instinct to hibernate kick in, as we close our doors and settle down in the evenings. I am lucky enough to still have a coal fire and I really look forward to the dark winter evenings spent in front of it, although I do have to compete for space with three rather large dogs!

But despite the cold and darkness, this is such a wonderful season in the church. The celebration of Christ the King marks the end of the church's liturgical year as we move into the new with the beginning of Advent, and our Sunday Gospel readings move from following Mark to Luke. But why do we not begin our new year with a bang by going straight to celebrating the birth of Christ? When everyone around us seem to already be busy celebrating Christmas, why do we in the church hold back and wait for a few weeks before we truly celebrate?

We wait because that is what Advent is all about.

We can easily be swallowed up by our rushing around buying and wrapping presents, preparing our Christmas food, and enjoying the various events put on during the winter season, but the season of Advent calls us to stop, to reflect, to remember and wait; it helps us to stay focused on the true mystery, the sense of anticipation, and the excitement of the coming birth of Christ. The word 'Advent' means 'coming' and our Sunday readings and liturgy point us towards the first coming of Jesus as a baby in Bethlehem, and also towards his second coming at the end of time. So there is a lot to reflect on!

How might you take some time during the season of Advent to stop and reflect? Some people like to say seasonal prayers during this time, perhaps alone, with friends, or as a family. Others like to do something special, perhaps something creative like journaling about it, or reading particular books or poems which guide our thoughts and reflections in this special season.

For me, well I like to light my own little advent candles Sunday by Sunday, to bring what we do in church into my daily life at home, and spend some quiet time in prayer in the candlelight. Also, ever since my daughter was little, I have set up a small nativity scene at the beginning of December (minus the baby Jesus who goes in on Christmas Eve) and the three Kings travel around the room across the bookshelf and mantelpiece during Advent, moving slowly closer to the stable with each day that passes, finally arriving at the appropriate time! My daughter has long since left home but I have continued the tradition and I find myself journeying spiritually with my three little kings as we draw closer to Christmas. Perhaps, in conversation, you might like to share ideas with others on what helps you to enter more deeply into the Advent season?

As we wait, we also remember those in our church family who have had a difficult year, those for whom Christmas may be a little painful this year. It would be so easy to forget if we were to allow ourselves to get carried away with all our exciting Christmas preparations. Let us also remember them in our prayers and quiet times this Advent.

"I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places" writes Isaiah. So let us enter into the dark winter season in a spirit of quiet reflection, that we may open ourselves to the promised 'treasure of darkness and the riches hidden in secret places'. Let us, in the midst of this busy time, set aside time to remember that it is God, the Lord, who calls us by name to worship and follow him.

*With love Jacqui*

St Mary's 9.30am Sunday Rota January				
Sunday	Sidespersons	Coffee	Flowers	Cleaning
<b>6th January</b> O: L McEwan C: J Fleming R: A Watt I: K Donald M: E Stewart	<b>A Mackay</b> <b>C Prior</b>	M McPhail P Willis	<b>Christmas</b>	
<b>13th January</b> O: A Mackay C: J Fleming R: P Willis I: R Donald M: Noreen/Derek	A Watt M McPhail	<b>R &amp; K Donald</b>		
<b>20th January</b> O: A Watt C: J Fleming R: L Maguire I: P Willis M: Derek/Noreen	<b>M &amp; E</b> <b>Thomson</b>	B Tinley M McMeekin		
<b>27th January</b> O: R Donald C: J Short R: R Bartlett I: J Fleming M: E Thomson	N & D Grieve	<b>B &amp; N</b> <b>Hallworth</b>		
<b>3rd February</b> O: C: R: I: M: E Stewart				
<b>O = Officiant, C = Chalice, R = Reader, I = Intercessions &amp; M = Music</b>				

## St Mary's 9.30am Sunday Rota December

Sunday	Sidespersons	Coffee	Flowers	Cleaning
<b>2nd December</b> O: L McEwan C: J Fleming R: A Mackay I: P Willis M: E Stewart	<b>R &amp; K Donald</b>	B Tinley M McMeekin	<b>ADVENT</b>	J Fleming
<b>9th December</b> O: A Mackay C: J Fleming R: B Tinley I: R Donald M: Noreen/Derek	C Prior A Watt	<b>B &amp; N Hallworth</b>	ADVENT	<b>J Fleming</b>
<b>16th December</b> O: A Watt C: J Fleming R: M McPhail I: L Maguire M: Derek/Noreen	<b>M McPhail M McMeekin</b>	N & D Grieve	<b>ADVENT</b>	J Fleming
<b>23rd December</b> O: R Donald C: J Short R: J Fleming I: A Mackay M: E Thomson	N & D Grieve	<b>P Elliot C Prior</b>	ADVENT	<b>J Fleming</b>
<b>30th December</b> 10am	Café Church Joint service 10am		<b>Christmas</b>	

O = Officiant, C = Chalice, R = Reader, I = Intercessions & M = Music

## Resurrection Choir of St Petersburg Concert

What an evening of fine music we were treated to by this Russian Choir on Friday 16th November. I think it was the best St Mary's has hosted for them up to now. I understand they study at the Conservatoire of Music for 7 years to get their qualification.



The first half was 'Sacred Music' and the second 'Folk Songs'. There were 2 Sopranos, 2 Altos, 2 Tenors and 2 Bass. The Basso Profundo as always very popular with his *Down Deep in the Cellar* solo. The 8 choristers all had solos and *Ave Maria* and *Panis Angelicus* were among the hymns in the first section and in the second we had the *Song of the Volga Boatmen*, *These were the days* (Top of the Pops 1968 for Mary Hopkins) and *My Love is like a Red, Red Rose* (Robert Burns). All the music was a delight to listen to but for me the tenor Nikita Ryzlov was the 'star' singing *My Love is like a Red, Red Rose* and I am sure Robbie Burns must have turned in his grave with pleasure.

As always our Restoration Committee had everything perfectly arranged and in the interval there was wine, soft drinks and nibbles to enjoy. Last but not least we must not forget David, our M C, who turned a few female heads as he looked so handsome in his kilt. Thanks to everyone for a super evening.

*Betty Tinley*



## St Leonard's & St Mary's Christmas Meal

Wed 19th December, 7 for 7.30pm

Newbattle Golf Club

We are delighted and once again looking forward to our Christmas celebrations as a church. As part of those celebrations we invite you and your family and friends to join with us for a Christmas Meal.



Sign up sheets and Menu's are available at the back of church



# A Mucky Paws for thought.



My Grace is not very happy with her Dad! You see we were out for a walk and I was having great fun running back and forth through the trees as we headed to where the two rivers meet in Dalkeith Country Park. It's a nice walk and often we stop of at the Restoration Yard for some water and whatever you grown ups drink and snack on.

Now on the way we came across the pond in the "Old Wood" and Grace was shouting "Dad put Izzy on the lead". Now I love the water and Dad knows that full well but he decided to trust me and just called me back from the waters edge. Well you know where this is going don't you? I decided I knew best so ran towards the water but then as I did I began to sink. The ground under my paws was wet and muddy and I began to sink deeper and deeper into this squidgy bog at the shore of the pond.

I was starting to panic a bit and Grace got really scared and angry at her Dad as I sank further into the mud. Thankfully Dad kept his cool and continued to encourage me to come towards him as he reached in to rescue me. Needless to say I was covered in mud and my once proud and prominent white tail was indistinguishable from the rest of me. I was happy though to be out of that mess and back on firm ground maybe I might think twice before doing it again.

I was happy though as we turned around and headed back to the car but then Dad took us closer to the river bank and wanted me to go in for a swim. I don't know about you but swimming in November when your already cold and covered in mud is only for the brave or foolhardy. Anyway once I was in I realised that all he wanted to do was to try and clean me a little before heading home. Then at home I would have a nice cosy bath, and a shower and then another bath before cuddling up in a cosy towel with Grace delighted to once again see my white tail wagging as she blew me dry with a gentle hairdryer.

Sometimes I do wonder about life? There is so much to see and do but sometimes we seem to head off in the wrong direction and end up all of a mess. I guess it happens to humans too. But its great to have a Dad who watches over us, who reaches down and rescues us , washes us and cleans us, so that we can enjoy being the apple of his eye.

With licks and love from Izzy



## Readings for Sunday Services November - December

The list of Lectionary readings as well as being provided for those preparing to read during worship at Sunday services are also provided for all of us to read and to reflect upon as we prepare to meet together week by week. Take time during the week to pray for the Church family and the weekly services. Pray for all those involved and that as we gather we may know God's presence with us and deepen our bonds of fellowship. Occasionally the readings may change and we will endeavour to notify those on the reading rota for that week when they do.

### DECEMBER

2nd Dec Advent 1	Jeremiah 33:14-16	Luke 21:25-36
9th Dec Advent 2	Malachi 3:1-4	Luke 3:1-6
16th Dec Advent 3	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Luke 3:7-18
23th Dec Advent 4	Micah 5:2-5a	Luke 1:39-55
30th Dec 1st Sunday of Christmas	<b>Joint Café Church at St Mary's</b>	

### JANUARY

6th Jan Epiphany	Isaiah 60.1-6	Matthew 2.1-12
13th Jan 1st Sun Epiphany	Isaiah 43.1-7	Luke 3.15-17,
20th Jan 2nd Sun Epiphany	Isaiah 62.1-5	John 2.1-11
27th Jan 3rd Sun Epiphany	Nehemiah 8.1-10	Luke 4.14-21

### Can you help?

*As a church we believe that we are all members of the body, the family of God. All of us have a part to play and we thank you for what you already do in the life of the Church. On a Sunday there are a variety of ways that you too could help us in our worship. Do speak to one of the Clergy if you would like to help. We are happy to help prepare and guided you if you would like help with planning for intercessions or reading.*

## Prayers Answered

Give thanks for prayers answered and for all the good things that have happened for you, your family, friends and neighbours.

This space is for you to write your own prayers and concerns

## St Leonard's and St Mary's Prayer Diary December & January



### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be your name,  
Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done  
On earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And 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 forever.  
**Amen**

*Please remember that you can add your prayer requests to  
the Prayer Diary at St Mary's or add them to the Prayer Tree at St Leonard's.  
Please also update us on answered prayer as we believe God is at work through us.*

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

*Ephesians 6 v18 (NIV)*

We hope you will find this prayer sheet a helpful addition to your own prayer life. You can pull it out from the Magazine if that would help.

Please also let us know how you use the Prayer Diary and if there is anything you would like us to add or change or prayers answered that you would like to share.

## Prayers for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany:

*Take time each week to pray.*

*Find a place to relax and begin with the prayer below as you seek God's presence, then think and pray for individuals and events that are on your heart before closing with the prayer for each specific week or time.*

### A prayer as we seek God's presence

Lord, thank you for your unending patience and unconditional love as I draw near to you with my prayers. Thank you for being by my side through all that comes my way in life. Please transform all my days with your life-giving spirit. I long to encounter you this day, and to know you better. Help me to see other people as you see them, created in your image. May I, by your grace, value them and myself and treat them with love. Thank you for those whom I love and who love me.

Lord I pray for: ...

### First week of Advent (2nd -6th December)

God of Abraham and Sarah and all the Patriarchs of old, you are our Father too. Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of God, and Son of David. Help us in celebrating Christ birth, to make our hearts ready through placing our hope in you. Help us today and every day to worship you, to hear your word, to do your will and declare our hope in you. We pray in the name of the one who is to come. Amen.

### Second Week of Advent (7th - 13th December)

Lord Jesus, Light of the World, the prophets said you would bring peace and save your people from trouble. Give peace to our hearts and lighten our way. We ask Holy Spirit that as we wait for Christ's return, that the you would remain present with us on the journey. Help us today, and everyday to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your peace with one another. We pray in the name of the one who is to come. Amen

### Third Week of Advent (14th - 20th December)

Lord God, Your witness John the Baptist grew up strong in spirit and called people to be prepared for the coming of the Lord. He loved your people and baptized them as they turned their lives to you. Help us to have that same love, that we would be your witnesses in our generation and spread the good news of your love. We pray in the name of the one who is to come. Amen

### Fourth week of Advent (21st - 24th December)

Thank you God for the joy you give us. We ask that as we wait for all your promises to come true, and for Christ to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today, and everyday to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your joy with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.

### Christmas Time (25th Dec - 5th Jan)

Lord, you became one with us, our God Emmanuel, born as a tiny fragile baby; born to be our Saviour, the Light of the World. Help us to celebrate and to remember your story and the gift of your sacrificial love. May we continue to follow in your footsteps and seek your return. Amen

### Epiphany (6th January to 5th March)

Eternal God, who by a star led wise men to the worship of your Son, guide by your eternal light the nations and peoples of the earth, that the whole world may know your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

### Please pray for:

As a church we ask you to pray for the work and ministry of St Leonard's and St Mary's . Praying for the Ministry Team of Elizabeth, Jennie, Jacqui, Bill, Mike and Peter as well as for Bishop John and all who work for Christ in this area. Pray to for your Vestry members and those who work on our Pastoral Teams.

Pray for David and Shelley Stokes our Mission Partners in Northern Argentina. Pray for the Wichi people and for strong leadership to guide and lead them forward as a Diocese.

Pray for the work of Scripture Union. Praying for our local schools and the groups and leaders that meet to encourage help children and young people to know the ways of God.

Pray for peace and concord among all nations and for all in positions of influence and power in the world. Pray to for the future of our Nation that whatever may come that we as a nation would take seriously our duty to care not only for ourselves but also for our neighbours.