



The Link

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

February 2019

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



St Mary `s Church

The church in the park

Dalkeith Country Park High St, Dalkeith

Sunday 9.30am

www.stmarysdalkeith.org.uk

St Leonard's Church

Dobbies Rd Lasswade & Bonnyrigg

Sunday at 11.15am

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

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 **March** edition of The Link should be passed to the office by **Sunday 17th February** 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?

A Rector's Muse

In Paul's letter to the Colossians we read in chapter 3 verse 16 that we are to:

"Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts."



What is this message of Christ that is to dwell among us? As we journey through Luke's Gospel (as we are doing over this year) Christ's message is revealed to us as the one who comes as a new king, whom shepherds and wise men worship. He is also revealed at his Baptism as the son of God and then as we read of his first miracle, cajoled by his mother, we learn that he is the one who can transform the ordinary into the extraordinary.

Moving on from these opening chapters we come to chapter 4 which is a key chapter for laying out the hall marks of the message of Christ. In Luke chapter 4 verses 18 & 19 we read

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

These verses are themselves from the prophecy of Isaiah 61 and for me sum up the message of Christ that is to dwell among us. We are to hear and know that Jesus brings us good news! Good News that through Christ and the work of the Spirit in us we can be set free, firstly from our own sin and wrongdoing but also set free from the lies of the world and the enemy who wants to lead us astray. Jesus comes to declare to you that you are fearful and wonderfully made, that there is a purpose and reason that you exist and that it is to be enjoyed in a relationship with God. The world and our enemy may sow seeds of doubt that tell you that you are nothing and that there is no purpose or reason for you to exist but these are lies that Jesus wants to break you free from. He wants you to see clearly that you are loved, loved so much that it was worth giving up heaven to come to earth and to die for you. Loved so much that rather than leave us as orphans he gives us the right and power to become children of God and bless us with the gift of his Spirit.

We are loved so much that Jesus proclaims that it is a “year of the Lord’s favour”. This phrase is very significant too as it was during “a year of the Lord’s favour” in Jewish custom that all previous debts would be cancelled. It was like being given a fresh new start. And that is the message of Christ! You and I are being given a fresh new start, liberated, set free to become children of God, redeemed and forgiven.

So when self doubt and our feelings of low self esteem creep in we are to remember the message of Christ and allow it to dwell and remain in our hearts. Like a profound treasure that is given to us as a gift we are to enjoy it and learn more about it. We have to take hold of the Spirit of God and the message of good news and proclaim that Jesus has broken the chains that keep us captive to the old ways. He has broken the changes that entrap us in self doubt, he has broken the chains that drag us down telling us we are not worth it. He has broken the chains and sets us free.

Therefore, we are to proclaim that we are liberated people freed from sin to worship and glorify God. We are also to take up the mantle that Christ leaves us with for he also anoints us with the Spirit of the Lord and calls on us to proclaim good news, helping liberate and set people free, helping them see the beauty and joy of life, the purpose of life spent in a relationship with our loving liberating God.

*Yours in the freedom of Christ
Peter*



Recently while studying the Luke 4:18-19 passage about Jesus declaration of Good News based on Isaiah 61 I came across some beautiful and vibrant art work by Nancy Cupp. The illustration on the front cover of this months magazine comes from her collection and is adeptly named Isaiah 61.

You can find out more about Nancy Cupp and her artwork as well as her own back story to the Isaiah 61 picture by visiting. NancyCupp.net or www.redbubble.com/people/NanSees-Art/

She is also a musician (harp player) and singer and you can listen to some of her music, songs and reflective scripture reading at nancycupp.hearnow.com

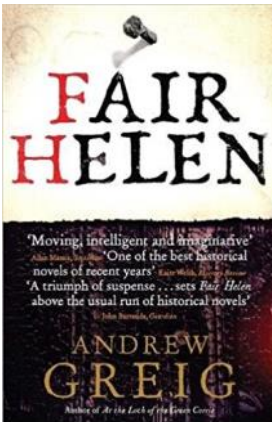
My thanks to Nancy for her emails and permission to use her work in this magazine, may God continue to bless her and us through her giftings.

Links Book Group

Our last book was *The Sunday Lunch Club* by Juliet Ashton. This is an account of a very modern family yet remaining traditional enough to have a family gathering over a meal, hence the title. Anna is the main character and has to come to terms with an unplanned pregnancy. Anna at the same time is on good terms with her ex husband and his new partner. However there are all the issues of the present day which affect other members of the family Anna has a younger brother who is in a gay marriage (he and his partner have adopted a little girl, Paloma). She has another brother who eventually goes transgender and a younger sister who has a teenage son, but cannot maintain any stable relationships.



We all found this novel sometimes hilarious, sometimes poignant and we all enjoyed the story this time as it had a very joyful & happy ending.



Our next book is *Fair Helen* by Andrew Greig. Saltire Award-winning author Andrew Greig reimagines the Border Ballad Fair Helen of Kirkconnel Lea as a dark romance and stirring adventure. Often called the Scottish Romeo & Juliet, it is a complex drama well worth the read so we hope.

More details in March edition.

John A. Fleming

Pitcairn Monthly Bake Stall

We resume our monthly bake stall at the Pitcairn Centre on the High Street in Bonnyrigg on the first Thursday of each Month. If you would like to bake for the stall or to offer to help staff the stall (usually only 1 hour at a time) please do speak to Fiona Harris. Proceeds are going towards the new Community Hall fund



You are also invited to pop in for a Cuppa and a chat and to enjoy some cake or take some away too.



A Paws for thought.

Happy Birthday to me, Happy Birthday to me. In fact it was my birthday before Christmas but with all the business of Jesus celebrating his birthday I didn't want to detract from his big celebrations. But we did celebrate my home coming day. I remember when Mum and Dad brought me back to the Rectory and I first met Sam and Grace and had lots of hugs and kisses. Then the training began. So far though the Harris's are doing well, although the cats still seem to think that they should have the run of the house.

Christmas was very busy in the Rectory and everyday the doorbell went and I would bark and there was another delivery. Usually for number 12 or 10 or some other neighbour and occasionally for us at 11 too. I was under strict instructions not to chew anything! Which reminds me I need to apologies to William at St Leonard's because one of the GDPR letters somehow managed to get teeth marks on it??? If you haven't returned your St Leonard's GDPR forms yet please do so. I will give them my sniff of approval if you post them to the church office and endeavour not to eat any more. Or to be on the safe side just bring them back to Church on Sunday.

Over Christmas we went down south to see my old pal Joe. Joe like me is Cocker Spaniel but he is an old dog now (14 human years) and feeling a little frail. However, I think my visit helped lift his spirits as we went out for many a walk together and kept each other company as his owner Moira (Fiona's sister) and my pack went out for meals or shopping. We all stayed at Joe's house which was a bit of a squeeze for us all but it was fun moving around the house at night climbing in and out of all the different places where people were sleeping. There was also plenty of lovely smells on Christmas day as the meal was being made and many treats to enjoy in the days after too.

Coming back home we managed across to Kilmarnock to see the grandparents and to see how the wider family was doing. Gran and Papa's house is great, they have a big back garden and out their front there is large playing field which is great for running around. My Dad says that he often spent most of his childhood out in that park playing on the swings and even playing football for the Boy's Brigade. I just looked at him with those sad eyes of mine and thought that must have been some sight!!! Well we're all back home now and so I hope on my various visits to the churches and when I am out and about I will get to see you all and hear your news.

With licks and love from Izzy



St Leonard's and St Mary's Prayer Diary February



Pray for the world

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 the world we live in:



God of reconciliation and grace,
you promise us a world where all is new,
where love is born when hope is gone,
where broken relationships are restored to wholeness.

May we live as people who know your story of love,
and we have the vision to imagine what could be possible
if we dared to live this story.

God of abundant life, may we be witnesses of love, hope and peace,
and co-creators of your life in the world. Amen

Lord, give the people of the earth hope,
for peace and justice to prevail,
for there to be new beginnings for all people across the world,
for freedom to replace fear and for there to be a better tomorrow.
Lord, bless your people. Amen.

*Pray for places of need that you hear about in the news and this month
we ask for specific prayers for the people in the Yemen*

Giver of Life, Who hears the cries from Yemen;
of mothers choosing between medicine or food,
of parents grieving children lost to starvation,
of those who have given up everything in hunger.
Hear our cries for hope, for change, for peace

In your mercy, Break political deadlocks, Soften hardened hearts,
Change closed minds, Open unhearing ears.
Let people come before power, Let life be holy again
Let your justice and peace Shape the nation of Yemen
And the lives of all people Amen

Prayer for refugees and those who seek a safe haven

God of all, where are your children? Let us see God's children,
who are far from home, adrift in an open, overcrowded boat,
with no compass, no crew, no safety.

God of all, why is there crying? Let us hear the cries
of refugees and respond with love to those whose escape from danger
leads only to a journey into more danger.

God of all, who is praying?

Let us pray for the young lives being lost,

for the families who are broken apart.

God of all, who is answering? Let us see that You are present, alongside the members of your family in times of trouble.

May we, who bear your name, answer with compassion in your name.
Amen.

Pray for our Mission Partners David and Shelly

David and Shelly Stokes are based in Juárez, a small town in the remote north of Argentina, but a relatively central location for visiting the 150 or so small Anglican churches scattered across the area known as the Chaco. David's duties are to visit and encourage church leaders and to help develop sustainable patterns of training for new leaders. Shelley works mainly with Wichí women, encouraging them to love the Lord and their neighbours.



Prayers for our own government and those in positions of influence

God of reconciling hope, as you guided your people in the past guide us through the political turmoil of this present time and bring us to that place of flourishing where our unity can be restored, the common good served and all shall be made well. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Pray for the local churches and our Ecumenical witness.

We pray Lord for our brothers and sisters in our area who worship in different house and in different ways. We thank you for them and ask you bless and encourage them. We pray for the work that we commit to together and especially the work of the Storehouse. Bless those who use these food banks and may they through the love that is shown by your people draw them closer to you. We pray too for Bonnyrigg Parish as they looks for a new Minister. May we all know that we are one family, in and through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Pray for Scripture Union and our work with Young people

We pray Lord, for the work of SU in the schools and locally for those who lead groups in our local Primary and High Schools. We pray to for our Messy Church activities that through what we do in your name individuals and families will be drawn closer to You.



SU Scotland



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

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.



Bequeaths in memory of John Stuart and Rosemary Garrod.

We continue to remember and give thanks to our Lord for those from our Church family who have passed on. We cherish and remember their service to our churches. We acknowledge with gratitude at this time the bequeaths made by John and Rosemary to the ongoing work of the church through their wills and continue to pray for their families and friends that they be comforted in their time of grief.

We are often uncomfortable speaking about death. However, I know from my experience of working with families through a bereavement that it does help if there is a Will in place if the deceased has left any instructions for a service. Where possible we do try and honour these wishes. If you would be interested members of the Clergy Team are happy to meet with you and talk through your wishes for Funeral Service. We also want to encourage you that if it is your wish to leave a bequeath to the church that you do so through your Will.

Although we all may still face death and the reality of our earthly end we should not fear death but trust in the Easter promises of God. That promise is that Christ has defeated death and sin and as we trust in him, he like a Good Shepherd will guide us through death's dark valley into pastures new.

Midweek Prayer and Communion

Our Mid Week Communion takes place on a Wednesday at 10am and currently in the cold weather meets in the Kemps home until Ash Wednesday 6th March when we will resume services back in St Leonard's. If you would like to attend please do speak to Peter for more details



During Lent members of the Clergy Team are planning to commit ourselves to a regular weekly Prayer Morning on a Tuesday. We are all encouraged to pray as individuals but often having the discipline of meeting with another in prayer can help us encourage one another in prayer. So we warmly welcome anyone who would like to join with us for this time of prayer and to look out for more details about this as we finalise our thoughts and plans .

Looking ahead here are some key dates & events

Messy Church February Sat 23 St Mary's & Wed 27th at St Leonard's 4pm

March 2nd **Coffee at Mary's**, our monthly Coffee morning is an informal time of fellowship and refreshments open to all from 10.30am

March 6th Ash Wednesday—marks the beginning of Lent. We are planning to have a 10am Service at St Leonard's as usual and an additional 7pm Evening Service at St Mary's

Lent 2019 During Lent we try to organise some Lent Study Groups and this year we are planning to use a resource called "eat, pray, share" Each week consists of 5 readings looking at the Jewish Passover and putting the Lord's Supper as we know it today in the context of the traditions of Jesus time.



Messy Church March Wed 27th at St Leonard's & Sat 30th at St Mary's 4pm

April 14th Palm Sunday - As we journey with Christ we mark the beginning of Holy Week with celebration knowing that by Good Friday brings sacrifice, darkness and death.

Holy Week During Holy week we are invited each evening to join ecumenically with the other churches and to ponder and reflect on the passion, sacrifice and challenges of following Jesus, living in the shadow of the cross.

Good Friday Walk of Witness join us at St Mary's at 10am where we begin our Good Friday Walk through the heart of Dalkeith. Through this simple act we hope and pray that we will highlight to those around us that this is a special day that is important for all people everywhere.

Easter Sunday The day begins with an Ecumenical open air service at 7.30am in the Kings Park with worship and proclamation that Christ is Risen! We then share breakfast together before heading off to our places of worship to continue the celebration that Christ is risen indeed!



Readings for Sunday Services February to March

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.

Please note that during Lent although the set Lectionary readings are mentioned below we will be reflecting on the Lent Study material within our Sunday worship so the readings will most likely be different to those set below. But it is also good to keep on reading through Lent

February

3rd Epiphany 4	I Corinthians 13.1-13	Luke 4.21-30
10th Epiphany 5	I Corinthians 15.1-11	Luke 5.1-11
17th Epiphany 6	I Corinthians 15.12-20	Luke 6.17-26
24th 2nd before Lent	I Corinthians 15.35-38,42-50	Luke 6.27-38

March

3rd Sun before Lent	2 Corinthians 3:124:2	Luke 9:28-36
6th Ash Wednesday	10am at St Leonard's 7pm at St Mary's	
10th 1st Sun Lent	Romans 10.8b-13	Luke 4.1-13
17th 2nd Sun Lent	Philippians 3.17-4.1	Luke 13.31-35
24th 3rd Sun Lent	I Corinthians 10.1-13	Luke 13.1-9
31st 4th Sun Lent	Mothering Sunday - Café Church	

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.

St Mary's 9.30 am Sunday Rota February

Sunday	Sidespersons	Coffee	Flowers	Cleaning
3rd February O: L McEwan C: J Fleming R: R Donald I: K Donald M: E Stewart	K & R Donald	P Elliot C Prior	N Grieve	N & D Grieve
10th February O: A Mackay C: J Fleming R: R Bartlett I: L Maguire M: N & D Grieve	C Prior M McMeekin	K&R Donald	N Grieve	N & D Grieve
17th February O: A Watt C: J Fleming R: A Mackay I: R Donald M: D Law	N & D Grieve	B Tinley M McMeekin	J Fleming	N & D Grieve
24th February O: R Donald C: J Short R: B Tinley I: P Willis M: E Thomson	A Mackey M McPhail	B & N Hallworth	J Fleming	N & D Grieve
3rd March O: L McEwan C: J Fleming R: M McPhail I: A Mackay M: E Stewart	A Watt C Prior	P Willis L Maguire	P Willis	J Fleming

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

St Leonard's 11:15am Sunday Rota February

Sunday	Sidespersons	Coffee	Flowers	Cleaning
3rd February O: A Bruce C: T Mooney R: M Johnson I: C Todd M: E Stewart	J Forsyth N Fyffe	R Simpson A McKenzie B Poulose		J & J Mellon
10th February O: T Mooney C: A Bruce R: Mary J I: Mike M: E Thomson	A & I Bolan	J Strong A Bolan A miller		P & M Johnson
17th February O: A Bruce C: N Stewart R: C Todd I: V Clark M: E Stewart	J Shannon J Strong	N Whannell A Cunninghamman		J&T Mooney
24th February O: P Harris C: V Clark R: F Harris I: V Clark M: Peter et-al	A Cunninghamham N Whannell	C Todd A Bruce A Thomson <i>Pat & Martin</i> <i>Johnson</i>		C Todd R Simpson
3rd March O: N Stewart C: A Bruce R: M Johnson I: V Clark M: E Stewart	J Forsyth N Fyffe	J Mellon D Reid M Hall		P & I Nicolson

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

