

ST LEONARD'S & ST MARY'S

CONNECT



FOR WHERE

two or three

GATHER

IN MY NAME

I am with them

MATTHEW 18:20



*The weekly news keeping us connected as a church community
Sun 6th September 2020*

A Rectors Muse

As we tentatively move forward with hope that we may be on the verge of returning to worship within our buildings I am challenged once more by a familiar and recurring question. "What is Church?"



You would think that for someone who has been actively involved in the life of the church since he was kicking in his Mother's womb, as she led Sunday School, that I might have answered this question by now! I know its not about a physical building and that we are

all part of Christ's mystical body which is the Universal (catholic) Church here on earth as it is in heaven.

However, I am aware that for many of us the buildings that we use for regular worship, hold a special place in our hearts. These buildings which have often been set aside and consecrated for the purpose of worship are hallowed places and over the years become what our Celtic Father's would call "thin places". They can in some ways be places where we sense or feel that we can draw away from the everyday, and encounter God more closely than we can in the hullabaloo of life. Many of us I know are longing for the day we can return and be at peace in the house of prayer.

Yet as our Gospel reminds us this week from Matthew 18 v20 Jesus promises to be with us wherever we are and especially when two or three gather in his name. It is there that we are to acknowledge that Jesus is with us, in our midst, present yet unseen and for me that too is church. Whether in a building, a home, a field, on Zoom wherever we gather in Jesus name, He is there and we worship him together, that is church!

I acknowledge too that although we are the people who make up the one Holy, catholic (universal) church, we are sinners made holy by God's love and sacrifice for us. The church is indeed a Holy Body, nevertheless it is made up of members, like you and me, who although we have been forgiven are not yet perfect. Therefore, all of us can sadly stumble and fall. All of us can still sin and do the wrong thing. Sometimes even when our intentions are good we can end up making things worse.

The church needs to be a place where we as individuals and as a family can grow and learn. A place where we can be corrected in a healthy environment of loving care, seeking the best for each other in love. Yes sadly sometimes even discipline or correction needs to be addressed, after all we are disciples, trainees of Christ. We will make mistakes and need to discipline ourselves as well as being open to advice and guidance from others.

None of us likes to be told off or be corrected. However, if within the church family we can build up loving caring relationships with one another, where we humbly and truthfully seek to encourage and support one another in our faith, then it is there that we will see individuals living, learning and growing as Christ's disciples. Correction should not be a sign of despair and failure but of growth and wellbeing. Jesus made us, the church, to be a sign of hope a people of grace. We can be forgiven, we can be transformed and help others to know they too are forgiven and can also be transformed by grace and love.

We are the church and we have Good News to share that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord can be saved and that our churches are a place of welcome for anyone who wants to draw close to God, as we continue to gather in Jesus name and proclaim He is with us. That is church!

with love and prayer from Peter



Eco Congregation News

September - Harvest of the Land

So what's new with Eco this week? We enter a new month and Eco Congregation Scotland has created resources for us to use. They have suggested monthly themes to help encourage conversations and challenge everyone to undertake acts of kindness.

This month is all about food and harvests. I remember last year how so many folks brought surplus fruits from their gardens to share with members of the congregation; this is to be encouraged and celebrated and I am sure despite Covid constrictions sharing will hopefully still happen within our community, family and friends; the making of an apple pie for a neighbour and the art of jam making will still flourish.

So may we celebrate the joy of harvest but remain vigilant in trying to improve our effectiveness in improving food waste and packaging. Pauline is brilliant at finding films for us to watch and Zoom meetings for us to attend. Vicki too, drew our attention to the programme Plastic the fight goes on. If you haven't watched this documentary, I highly recommend it as worth viewing, you will now find it on BBC iPlayer After watching this I even found myself in Sainsbury's today having the confidence to complain about their new stock of eggs in plastic boxes! Knowing you can play a part of a growing movement is empowering.



The Community Garden

We managed to do a little more weeding and even lay a little of the bark. This is going to be our task next **Thursday 10th September, 10am -12noon.**

If you have your own wheel barrow and would like to offer to help with this challenge it will be lovely to see you next Thursday.

Can you remember?

Carey (the garden co coordinator) wasn't aware that the buildings at the far end of the garden once housed the St Mary's church toilet and the room was used by the choir. She is very interested in hearing more about what this space was once used for. We would just love it

if as many people as possible could write down any memories you have of this original building and once we have your recollections we can then document it in some way to share with visitors to the garden. The garden was beautiful in the sunshine today and attracted a number of visitors coming in for a look around, or to have a quiet place to pause. It is a very special place do pop in if you are in the area.

Zoom Eco Meeting:

We are holding a meeting on Thursday 10th September at 7pm to discuss our progress so far and plan further film nights and other events and ideas. Hope you can join us. Meeting ID: 812 5453 7308 Passcode: Green

Margaret

Prayer- written by John Seenan trustee of Eco-Congregation Scotland

God the Almighty,

we humbly acknowledge you as the creator of the universe with all its diversity and wonders. In your wisdom you fashioned the Earth and its elements in abundance for the good of all mankind and every living creature. We are eternally grateful for your precious gifts of water, land, air, food and energy, to sustain and support us to live in peace and harmony, for without them our lives would be as of nothing.

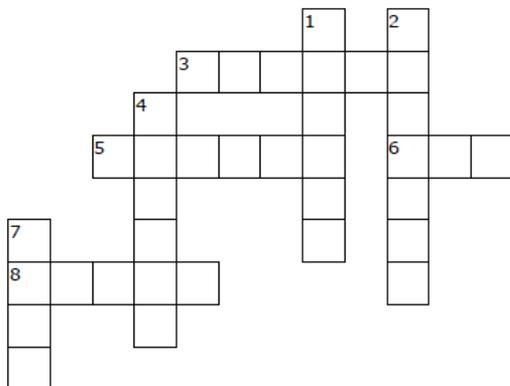
Teach us to ensure we manage these precious resources you have endowed to us with prudence and care, guiding us in our stewardship and understanding of them, that they may be preserved, enhanced, and enjoyed by all your children on Earth, in equal measure, for generations to come.

As we face the tasks of climate change, we pray that you will give guidance to those entrusted with responsibility of managing the many complex challenges which need to be resolved with wisdom, understanding and fairness. We pray, too, that the most vulnerable and poorest of your children, many of whose lives have already been blighted by this dilemma through drought and flood, will be afforded the justice they deserve. Amen

Bible Puzzle Time

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

REFUSE	FATHER	HEAVEN	FAULT	CHURCH
NAME	BIND	TWO	GATHER	EARTH
BROTHER	LOOSE	SISTER	AGREE	LISTEN



ACROSS

3. A male parent; a term used to address God
5. A female who has the same parents as another person
6. The number that follows one (1)
8. To have the same opinion as another person

DOWN

1. An organization that follows the teaching of Jesus
2. A male who has the same parents as another person
4. To give attention to a person who is speaking
7. What a person is known by and called

Congratulations!

Birthdays

Phil Blamire 4th September
Kathleen Donald 6th September

Anniversaries

Steve & Val Cameron

Celebrate their Wedding Anniversary on 12th September

Do let us know if there are any birthdays or other celebrations coming up that we can share in the Connect.

Online Coffee at Mary's

10:30 am Saturday Mornings
bring your own coffee, cake and chat



So If you would like to be part of this
Online Zoom Coffee Morning
and our fun social activities please email Andrew Watt
andrew@andrewwatt.org.uk

for details of how to join the Zoom Meeting.

Andrew hosts this event on behalf of our churches

£ End of the year! £

As a Charity the Church's financial year runs from October to September.

Our Treasurers during this unusual year have done a great deal of work in the background paying the on-going bills and expenses and keeping an eye on the day to day finances. As a thank you to them it would be wonderful if when they do our end of year calculations that they discover that we are in the black and not the red. Please consider making a donation to the work of the church or to review your monthly giving. This will help us cover the costs of this year as sadly we have been unable to hold our usual fundraising events and concerts. Thank You for all your support and if you would like to help please speak to the Treasurers or contact the Church Office.

Izzy's News



Dear Friends,

*I can't believe its September?
Where did the summer go?*

Anyway did you know that September originally represented the seventh month of the year? According to the old Roman Calendar there only used to be ten months before Julius Caesar introduced us to two new months and changed us to his own 12 month version known as the Julian Calendar. So there is no prize for guessing what number of month October, November and December originally represented. That's be 8,9 and 10.

My Dad says its crazy we teach that Sept, means seven, Oct, means eight etc but then expect our children to know that September etc are the 9th, 10th and so on months of the year. Although to be fair Dad its better you stick with September as you wouldn't be able to pronounce Hāligmōnað or Hærfestmōnað which are ye olde English name for this time of the year, which mean "harvest month" in modern English.

Speaking of the Harvest I notice that some of the leaves on the trees are starting to turn and our apples and plums are dropping off their branches. I have been told however that I am to leave them alone as they are not good for me. Nevertheless Mum and Dad better hurry up and pick them before the birds do. We also have some pears but not sure how good they might be as they are all gnarley. No doubt they will collect them soon and pass some on to the Chutney and Jam makers.

If you would like some Jam or Chutney do get in touch with Fiona ASAP as Janina is having a wee break soon so there is only a limited supply. Ok hope all is well with you.

with licks and barks Izzy



Your Local Weekly Worship Online

Sunday @ 10am with Eucharist Celebration

Wednesday @ 10am Informal Worship

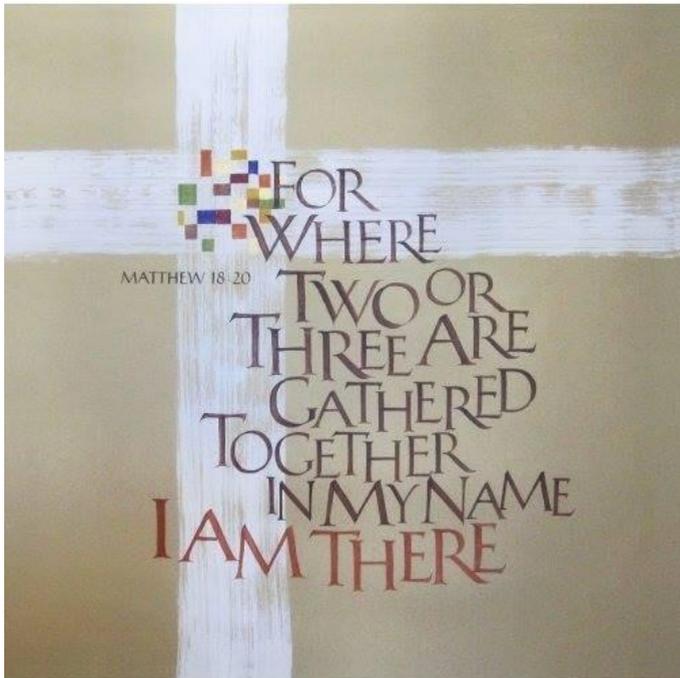
Find our Facebook group at

"St Mary's and St Leonard's Church Family"

or Zoom into worship by joining the meeting using

ZOOM Meeting ID: 656 157 5203 at 10am

If you have been unable to join with us online for our worship I pray that you will be able to use this liturgy to guide your own worship during this week.



The Provincial Website also offers a weekly service that goes live from 11am each Sunday. You can download the weekly Liturgy :

www.scotland.anglican.org/broadcast-sunday-worship

The Welcome Peter

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Hymn

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has power to save us.

Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light!

Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Christ, be our light!

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

Christ, be our light!

Many the gifts, many the people,

many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Christ, be our light!

Confession Jacqui / Elizabeth

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.***

The Collect

**Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people,
that richly bearing the fruit of good works,
we, may by you, be richly rewarded;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.**

A Reading from Matthew 18: 15-20 Martin

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

‘If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that “every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.” If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church;

If your brother or sister refuses to listen even to the church, then treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

'Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

'Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.'

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel

Praise to Christ our Lord

Reflection *Val Cameron*

Song **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.

Intercessions for Today *Vicki Clark*

The Peace

May the Peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Eucharistic Prayer *Jacqui*

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, in every place and at all times.

All power is yours. You created the heavens

and established the earth; you sustain in being all that is.

In Christ your Son our life and yours

are brought together in a wonderful exchange.

He made his home among us that we might for ever dwell in you.

Through your Holy Spirit you call us to new birth

in a creation restored by love.

As children of your redeeming purpose

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,
for the gift of your Son born in human flesh.

He is the Word existing beyond time,

both source and final purpose,

bringing to wholeness all that is made.

Obedient to your will he died upon the Cross.

By your power you raised him from the dead.

He broke the bonds of evil and set your people free

to be his Body in the world.

On the night when he was given up to death,
knowing that his hour had come,
having loved his own, he loved them to the end.

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 the Bread

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

Lord's Prayer

As Christ has taught us so we 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.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Distribution of Communion

You may say this prayer as the Priest takes bread and wine on our behalf:

*God of mercy, we thank you for Jesus our Saviour,
Though we cannot consume the gifts of bread and wine this day,
we thank you that we do receive your Holy Spirits presence,
the forgiveness of sins, and life eternal. Amen*

Prayer after Communion

**Father God, may we who have gathered in the name of your Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ know the presence of the Holy Spirit and bear
fruit to the honour and glory of your name. Amen**

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 Who am I that the highest King would welcome me?

I was lost but He brought me in
Oh His love for me! Oh His love for me!

Who the Son sets free oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God, Yes I am

Free at last, He has ransomed me O His grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin, Jesus died for me
Yes He died for me

Who the Son sets free Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God Yes I am
In my Father's house there's a place for me
I'm a child of God, Yes I am

bridge I am chosen, not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me, not against me
I am who You say I am

Dismissal *Peter*

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

**St Mary's
Dalkeith**



**St Leonard's
Lasswade**

stmarysdalkeith.org.uk

stleonardlasswade.org.uk

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Do call or email if you need help