

*St Leonard's & St Mary's*  
*Connect*



*"Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him."*

*The Second Sunday of Advent*

*Your weekly newsletter keeping us connected  
as a church family and community*

*Sunday 6th December 2020*



**St Mary's  
Dalkeith**

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

**St Leonard's  
Lasswade**

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

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

*Do call or email if you need help*

## **Annual General Meeting of St Mary's Dalkeith Monday 14th December at 7pm**

Join us using Zoom Meeting ID: 861 4063 5693

Or phone in on ( 0131) 460 1196

There is a limited number of spaces at the church If you do not have Zoom and want to join us at the church on Monday 14th Dec. at 7pm

Please notify Peter if coming to the church to book a space.





## *Rectors Muse*

Are you prepared for Christmas yet? I can hear the groans from here and I appreciate that for many of us it will not be the Christmas we were hoping for. Maybe you had plans for a big family reunion? In the past I know we have often had a large number of the wider family who would come and celebrate but that this year it will be a scaled down occasion. It will however be nice to have Sam home for a few weeks and also to see Fiona's sister Moira who will come and bubble with us over the Christmas Covid window.

However, all of us are called to be prepared for the coming of our Lord. Not just to celebrate Christmas and his arrival as our Emmanuel but also look forward and be prepared for the return of the King of Kings.

In this second week of Advent we are reminded of John the Baptist. John like an Old Testament Prophet comes in from the wilderness with a message from God calling the people to wake up, to prepare for the coming of the Lord, by repenting of their sins. He comes to point us to Christ, so that we too may know that we are accepted and forgiven by and through the love and sacrifice of the Lamb of God, Jesus our Emmanuel.

There are therefore times when we too need to heed this cry of John's. We are to be awake to the fact that God has come close to us therefore we too need to repent to turn around and seek his forgiveness. God is love and longs to forgive us and be reunited with us by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. If we are willing we then call upon the Lord to rekindle in us the fire of his love that we would serve him and, like John, make him known.

*Yours with Advent love*

*Peter*

# Izzy's News



Dear Friends,

It's begging to look a lot like Christmas as I see lots of twinkly lights are shining bright in our street. Bonnyrigg has a lovely display too.

So far the only thing Dad has put up is a star in the front window and I am looking forward to seeing what will appear next. I think it may be some Shepherds or Wise men? I wonder do you have a star in your window? Do let me know.



The Local Youth Fellowship have also been busy decorating rocks to share the message of light and love of the Gospel in the local area. This idea came from Katie Nicolson and it has been exciting seeing all the different stones Grace has painted so far. With a variety of young people involved there are over a hundred stones going to be scattered for people to find.

Each one bears the tag @findthelightbonnyrigg

So well done to the Youth Fellowship for spreading the love this Christmas time. Maybe you too could come up with an imaginative way to spread the love of Christmas. Maybe its something you could do yourself, a letter or phone call; or maybe you might have an idea that we could try as a church family to share God's love to the wider community.

I am also looking forward to our Online Christmas Social on the 18th December. I do love Zooming but I can't promise I will be quiet all the time. I get so excited hearing all the chatter and just want to join in. Sorry Mum, I will try and do better especially when your Zooming!

with licks and barks Izzy



Hi everyone, Margaret here with this weeks update.

Are you like me and take a quick glance through a new calendar before the new year begins and enjoy the subject photos or artwork of your calendar choice?

I did that for Eco I am afraid, had a quick look to see what we are supposed to be doing for January. In January, the theme is weather, and the suggestion is to look out for one another during the winter months especially if it is snowy and icy on the pavements.

I had a conversation with Bill the other day as to how we used to do all these Eco ideas naturally. Milk was delivered in bottles, we walked to the local shops with our cloth bags to put our loose vegetables in, we put salt on our doorsteps and pavements outside our own houses and cleared the snow for others to walk. We cut up old clothes for rags to clean with... I could go on and on.



However, I am also part of the generation who loved plastic! The smell of my first plastic doll was like glue sniffing as I sniffed in the newness of it away back in the early 60's. Learning now to reprogramme my brain and think twice about every purchase I make, is challenging to say the least. At times I fail miserably and buy my grandsons more plastic toys for their Christmas in more cardboard boxes than is required. More for landfill one day.

Changing the habits of a lifetime are hard to do.

Pauline attended a Zoom meeting organised by Eco Congregation Scotland and reports back:

'The discussion on Monday was about Our Global Connections (The Theme for November). We talked about the impacts of climate change around the world, including floods and farming. This led into discussion about changes in UK farming based on new government policies, and the expectation that our diets will change in the coming years.

People discussed their personal efforts to make dietary changes, including reducing meat consumption and increasing use of local, seasonal produce. We also discussed change in energy sources and how we can use them.'

Change is the ongoing theme throughout, sometimes it is so easy to just ignore the warning signs of decline and carry on as normal.

However, after our most recent film, 'Catching the sun', that focused on solar power and how the green economy created jobs and could solve nations' problems of inequality;

for me as someone who questions how relevant is this to my life?

What can I do after watching this film that will make any difference?

Vicki supplied the answer, 'we are doing this for our children's futures'.

So, when I fail miserably and feel myself falling into old ways in my Eco warriorship, I need to look forwards, not backwards or stay in the present but do something that will take me out of my comfort zone and take action for the future, the future of the world and our children. I know that in 2021, by being part of the Eco Congregation Scotland's vision for our churches, where prayer, worship, education, and love and action all come together as one, I will be there with you. A vision set by the worldly, forward thinking vestries long before I arrived.

May a sustainable God leading light, shine the way for us all to Catch His Sun.

In God's name we trust,

love Margaret

*(As your Eco reporter, I will take a break over the Christmas period and update you all with Eco news sometime in the new year, meanwhile I will see you as myself round and about mainly on Zoom!)*



## **Online ZOOM Coffee at Mary's**

10:30 am Saturday Mornings

bring your own coffee, cake and chat.

For details of how to join the Zoom

Coffee Morning please contact

Andrew Watt

[andrew@andrewwatt.org.uk](mailto:andrew@andrewwatt.org.uk)



## Advent Window Nativity



We invite you to share the Good News of Christmas during Advent by building up a Window display of the Nativity Scene.

You can do your own thing or use our templates to create silhouettes or even colour in the Colour in pages and display these on a prominent window in your house. Join in with sharing the Hope, Love, Joy and Peace of the seasons.

*Email the Church Office and we will send you a copy of the Activity Pack.*

## Story time with Santa



Join us on our Facebook or our Youtube Channel to hear some festive stories from Santa. Each day from the 20th to 24th December we will release a short Story for you to enjoy with your family as Santa reminds us of the greatest story on earth. A story filled with love and hope for all.

### [CHRISTMAS EVE at the Nativity Scene](#)

If your passing St Leonard's and St Mary's look out for our new Nativity Scene that will be erected outside the church. Then join us for short outdoor Christmas Eve Service. St Leonard's at 4pm and St Mary's at 6pm.

## Scottish History Group

Our new group plans to meets using ZOOM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 2.30pm.

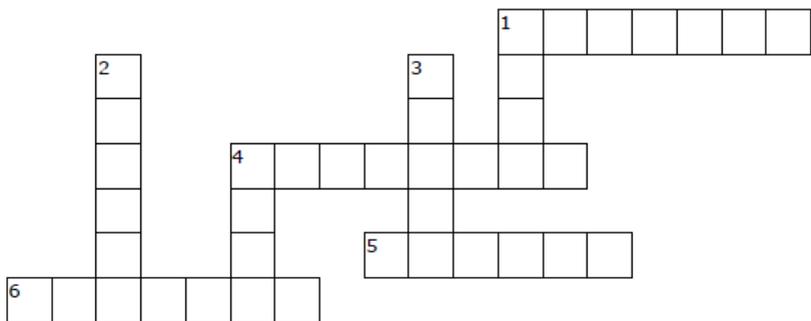
Our next meeting will be held on the

**Monday 14th December**

To join in please contact MITCH THOMSON on 01875 320067  
or by email on [mitchonline16@gmail.com](mailto:mitchonline16@gmail.com)



# Bible Puzzle Time



## ACROSS

- To make ready ahead of time
- Not having any curves or bends
- A dry, barren region with only a few plants
- To admit your sins to God

## DOWN

- A trail made for traveling on foot
- The river where John baptized people
- What people use for speaking
- Actions that break God's law

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

HONEY

PATHS

STRAIGHT

BAPTIZE

RIVER

WILD

SINS

VOICE

DESERT

LOCUSTS

WORTHY

PREPARE

JORDAN

CONFESS

SANDALS



## Weekly Worship Online

Sunday @ 10am with Eucharist Celebration

Wednesday @ 10am Informal Worship

*Join us on ZOOM for Worship and Fellowship*

*ZOOM Meeting ID: 656 157 5203 at 10am*

*Or watch our Facebook group at*

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

*Or phone in*



## Telephone Worship Service

join in with your church family by dialling into worship

**( 0131 ) 460 1196**

Aware that some people in our congregations do not have access to a smart phone or computer, or are not comfortable using Facebook or Zoom we have decided to try a Dial in Service. By dialling a **local rate number** you will be able to listen to the weekly worship services both on a Sunday and a Wednesday and be able to speak and contribute to a time of fellowship with other church members after the service. We invite you to give it a try:

**Step 1:** At 9.55am just before the Worship Starts dial **460 1196**

**Step 2:** You will be asked for a Meeting ID

type in **656 157 5203**

**Step 3:** then press the **#** key

**Step 4:** There is no additional Password

so press the **#** key again

you will then be connected to the Service

*Please note that depending on your Phone Contract  
you may be charged for using this service at a local rate call.*

## The Welcome *Peter*

We meet in the name of the Father,  
the son and the Spirit.

**Amen**

We light a light for Hope in our world  
We light a light for Love to prepare away,

**Lord God, help us to know your love  
and to prepare a place within our lives for your Spirit to dwell  
and kindle within us the fire of your love.**

## Hymn **ON JORDAN'S BANK THE BAPTIST'S CRY**

announces that the Lord is nigh:  
come then and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every Christian breast,,  
And furnished for so great a guest  
Ye let us each our hearts prepare  
For Christ to come and enter there.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward  
without thy grace our souls must fade  
and wither like a flower decayed

Stretch forth I hand to hear our sore,  
And make us rise to fall no more  
Once more upon thy people shine,  
And fill the world with love divine .

All praise, eternal Son to thee,  
whose advent sets thy people free;  
whom with the Father we adore  
and Spirit blest, for evermore!

## Confession Peter / Jacqui

God is love and we are his children.

There is no room for fear in love.

We love because he loved us first.

Therefore, let us confess our sins in penitence and with 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**

**Almighty God, who sent John the Baptist  
to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah,  
inspire us afresh this day  
to turn our disobedient hearts to you,  
that when Christ shall come again,  
we may be able to stand with confidence before his glory;  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.**

## **A Reading from Mark 1: 1-8** read by Neil Stewart

Hear the Gospel of our Lord according Mark

### **Glory to Christ our Saviour**

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah,  
the Son of God as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

'I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way'  
'a voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
"Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him."'

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness,  
preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.  
The people of Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him.  
Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the River Jordan.

John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt round his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message:

'After me comes one more powerful than I,  
the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.  
I baptise you with water,  
but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

### **Reflection** *Peter*

**Song**      **I'M ACCEPTED, I'm forgiven,**  
I am fathered by the true and living God.  
I'm accepted, no condemnation,  
I am loved by the true and living God.  
There's no guilt or fear as I draw near  
To the Saviour and Creator of the world.  
There is joy and peace  
As I release my worship to You, O Lord.

### **Intercessions for Today**      *led by Val Cameron*

#### **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, 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,

and 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 presiding Priest  
takes bread and wine on our behalf:

*God of hope, peace, love and joy  
We thank you that although we may not partake  
of your bread and wine this day  
We receive the blessings of your faithfulness and love  
As we await the coming of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen*

## Prayer after Communion

**Faithful God,  
Help us always to hear the prophet's call to turn our hearts to you;  
and to live with love in our hearts  
in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.**

## 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

**I HEAR THE SOUND OF RUSTLING** in the leaves of the trees,  
The Spirit of the Lord has come down on the earth.  
The church that seemed in slumber has now risen from its knees,  
And dry bones are responding with the fruits of new birth.  
Oh, this is now a time for declaration,  
The word will go to all men everywhere;  
The church is here for healing of the nations,  
Behold the day of Jesus drawing near.

My tongue will be the pen of a ready writer,  
And what the Father gives to me I'll sing;  
I only want to be His breath,  
I only want to glorify the King.

And all around the world the body waits expectantly,  
The promise of the Father is now ready to fall.  
The watchmen on the tower all exhort us to prepare,  
And the church responds—a people who will answer the call.  
And this is not a phase which is passing;  
It's the start of an age that is to come.  
And where is the wise man and the scoffer?  
Before the face of Jesus they are dumb.

A body now prepared by God and ready for war,  
The prompting of the Spirit is our word of command.  
We rise, a mighty army, at the bidding of the Lord,  
The devils see and fear, for their time is at hand.  
And children of the Lord hear our commission  
That we should love and serve our God as one.  
The Spirit won't be hindered by division  
In the perfect work that Jesus has begun.

## Dismissal Peter

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