



Connect

Your Weekly News from St Leonard's & St Mary's
Sunday 9th January - Celebrating Epiphany

2022 A time of Prayer and Visioning

**For I know the plans I have for you,
'declares the Lord,'
plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.**

**When you will call on me
and come and pray to me,
I will listen to you.**

**When you seek me with all your heart
You will find me.**

Jeremiah 29 v 11-13

A prayer as we seek God's vision and plan for St Leonard's & St Mary's

Father God,
we desire as a church to take hold of the vision and plan You have for us
and pray that You would lead and guide us
to take a step of faith in the direction that You would have us go.

Help us we pray, to grasp the church vision that You have for us,
and may we be sensitive to Your leading and guidance.

Help us not to make rash and quick decisions out of fear,
but to humble ourselves and truly seek Your plans and purposes.

Draw us closer to each other and to You,
as we seek to know You and make You known.

We pray that the church vision that emerges in our hearts,
will have been prompted by the gift of Holy Spirit at work in us,
for the glory and praise of your name.

This we ask in Jesus' name

Amen.



Celebrating the Epiphany

As we move from celebrating the birth and incarnation of Jesus we move into the season of Epiphany. A season that I pray will be for us a time of seeking the life and light of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord and King. Just as the wisemen came seeking and worshipping the new born King let us come with open hearts and minds to worship.

To be honest we are not given much information about these Wisemen, Magi or Kings that led by a star encountered Jesus. Only Matthew's Gospel gives an account of travellers from the East who came seeking the one born as King of the Jews. Although three gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh are mentioned we do not actually know how many travellers there were.

However we do know from Matthew's account that their arrival in Jerusalem caused a great stir at the very heart of the political and religious society of that day. The travellers came with noble and humble intentions to worship the new born King. In contrast to this, Herod, King of the Jews disturbed and threatened by the birth of an innocent child sought not to worship but kill.

An epiphany is a moment of revelation or realisation. It brings us into a new light and understanding about a situation or person. With that new revelation, realisation and understanding we all then need to make a decision about how we will react. The Wisemen came to the realisation from their learning and observation of the night sky that a new and special King had been born. Knowing the importance of this event they then chose to set aside their own agenda and travelled, to seek, to know and to worship Christ our King. However, Herod's epiphany came when he heard the prophecy of Micah and the realisation that a new Shepherd, a new leader, a Messiah would come out of Bethlehem. Sadly Herod faced with this revelation rejects the opportunity to seek, know and worship the Lord.

So what about you and I today. The light of Christ dawns upon us once more as we enter a new year. He has and is being revealed to us as the light and life of the world. Some as we heard from John's Gospel last week will reject him, however, to those that do accept him and welcome him he gifts us with life and draws us into being children of God Almighty, princes and princesses of the King of Kings. So we come to worship and honour the Lord the life and light of the world, yesterday, today and forever.

Opening Responses Peter

The Lord be with you

And also with you

We will light a light in the name of Jesus the light of life

Who lit the world and breathed the breath of life into us.

Hymn **THE FIRST NOWELL the angel did say**

Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
Born is the King of Israel!

They lookèd up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.

This star drew nigh to the north-west;
Over Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

Then entered in those wise men three
Full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there in His presence
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,
And with His blood mankind hath bought.

Prayer of Confession Peter & Jacqui

**Father we acknowledge that we have not loved
as you would have us love.**

**We turn to you again and ask for your mercy,
forgive us and renew us through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen**

The minister declares God's forgiveness

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.

Collect:

**Eternal God, who by a star led wise men to the worship of your Son,
guide by your light the nations 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**

Hymn LIGHT OF THE WORLD, You step down into darkness.

Opened my eyes let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore you
hope of a life spent with you.

Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that you're my God,
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above.
Humbly you came to the earth you created.
All for love's sake became poor.

*I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross.
I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross.*

Reading from Isaiah 60: 1-3

Read by Robin

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.
See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you.
Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Gospel Reading from Matthew 2.1-12

When it is announced we say:

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. He called together all the chief priests and teachers of the law, and asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

In Bethlehem in Judea, they replied, for it is written;

“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”

Herod then called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, ‘Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.’

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Then having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Reflection Peter

Prayers Kathleen

The Peace

Unto us a child is born;
and he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you

Hymn **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.

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 praise you, faithful God!

You answer sin with grace and mercy;

you guide our wayward steps toward our heavenly home.

You offer healing for the broken, safety for the poor,
belonging for the outcast, strength for the weak,
and pardon for the sinner.

You reveal your kindness in every sorrow,
your mercy even in death.

All your creatures see your works;
and sing your eternal song

Holy, holy, holy Lord

God of power and might

Heaven and earth are full of your glory

Hosanna in the highest

Blessed is the one who comes

In the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Lord Jesus we remember your birth at Bethlehem,
Your teaching and miraculous works,
and your call for us to receive the Holy Spirit

We recall your journey to the cross
and the night on which you were betrayed
While at supper with your friends
You took bread and gave thanks
You broke the bread
and gave it to them saying
"This is my body broken for you
Do this in remembrance of me"

Later at that same meal
you took wine and having given thanks
you shared it with those around you saying
"This cup is the new covenant sealed with my blood,
drink 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.
Amen**

Breaking of the Bread

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

The Lord's Prayer

As our saviour 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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Prayer after communion

God of all the nations of the earth, guide us with your light.
Help us to recognise Christ as he comes to us in our everyday.
May we welcome him with love, for he is Lord now and for ever.
Amen

The Blessing

Christ the Son of God gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.
Amen

Hymn **AS WITH GLADNESS men of old**

Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious God, may we
Evermore be led by Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped,
Saviour, to Thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before
Thee whom heaven and earth adore,
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy-seat.

As they offered gifts most rare
At Thy cradle rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure, and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.

Holy Jesus, every day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright
Need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,
Thou its sun, which goes not down.
There forever may we sing
Hallelujahs to our King.

The Dismissal

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

A Prayer for the Feast of the Epiphany

I wonder sometimes
If one of the stars that lit Abraham's night
Was the one that led the Magi to Jesus.
A dark canvas speckled by the most generous brush—
What an improbable promise to an old man.
But our God has never been daunted by the unlikely, the impossible.
What a sight for the Magi, too,
A baby resting on hay, his cries mingled with braying and bleating.
I like to think they heard in those everyday sounds a holy chorus,
Saw in that noisy tableau a Creator serenaded by His creation,
All of it embodied, enfleshed—
All of it good.
And when we've left our gifts for this implausible King,
May we, like the Magi, go home by another way—
Having encountered the holy,
May we protect it, guard it,
Trail its light behind us wherever we go.
A sacred arc transposed from heaven to earth,
May we ourselves become the star,
Leading the way to Emmanuel.
Amen.

— Cameron Bellm

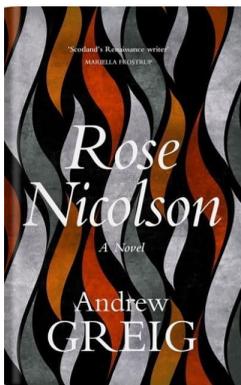
spirit &
verse



Proposed Rota for January Worship Online

	Lead	Preach	Preside	Reader	Intercessor
January 2 nd	Peter	Peter	Jacqui	Jennie	Peter
Jan 9 th Epiphany	Peter	Peter	Jacqui	Andrew Watt	Kathleen
Jan 16 th	Peter	Mike	Peter	Alison Bruce	Vicki Clark
Jan 23 rd Epiphany 3	Peter	Bill	Peter	Anne MacKay	John Fleming
Jan 30 th	Jacqui	Jacqui	Peter	Jennie	Jennie

LINK BOOK GROUP.

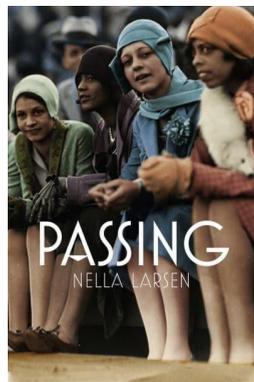


Our latest venture was an historical novel. Rose Nicolson by Andrew Greig.

Will Fowler was the narrator and also seemed to be the main character, despite the title. Rose, the title of the book, drifted in and out of the story. It was a story of unrequited love set against the drama and pathos of the Scottish Reformation when religious passions ran high. Altogether we found it a very interesting and enjoyable book.

Our next meeting Covid permitting will be on Friday 25th Feb. at 7.30pm venue tbd when we shall have read Passing by Nella Larsen.

John F.



NEXT WEEK

Wednesday Morning Worship 10am - Zoom Worship

Sunday 16th January

The Second Sunday of Epiphany

10am ONLINE WORSHIP

Join on Zoom using meeting ID

656 157 5203

Or watch along on Facebook Live
or watch later in the day on our YouTube Channel



St Mary's
stmarysdalkeith.org.uk

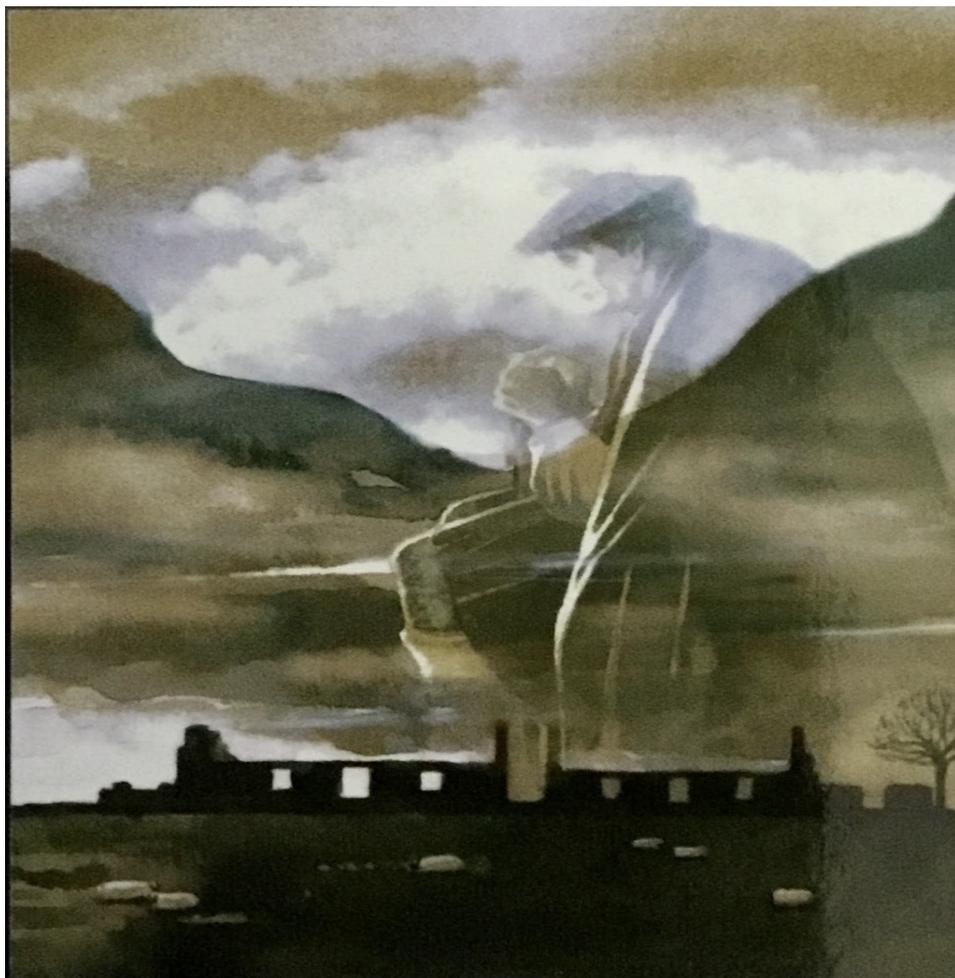
St Leonard's
stleonardslasswade.org.uk

Find us on  **@StLandM**

Church Office & Rectory 11 Peacock Parkway Bonnyrigg EH193RQ

 0131 663 7000 or email  office.stlandm@gmail.com

Both Churches are registered Charities
St Leonard's Episcopal Church: Lasswade SC014151
St Mary's Episcopal Church: Dalkeith SC001677



St Mary's and St Leonard's
Scottish History Group Online

Meets on the second Monday of each month
at 2.30pm via Zoom

If interested, or want to find out more please
phone Mitch Thomson.
01875 320067



On behalf of the local Churches Philip Meldrum heads the work of the Storehouse. The Storehouse is one of the local Foodbanks working in the area to bring parcels of relief and aid to those in a time of need.

A special thank you for all who contributed to our Christmas Collections for the Food parcels your recent donations and gifts to our work continues to help us reach out in love to those in need. Sadly as we enter the new year there is an increasing demand from those seeking help especially with the rising costs of fuel bills and food. If you are able to contribute please consider the following items as your first choice. Thank You.

Hot Chocolate Powder for mixing with water

Tomato Ketchup/ Brown Sauces / Mayonnaise

Tins of Macaroni Cheese, and other ready meals

Soups, Pot Noodles, Fray Bentos Pies

Breakfast Cereal — Rice Krispies, Frosties, etc

Non Food Items

Washing up Liquid, Laundry Liquid, Toilet Paper, Kitchen rolls

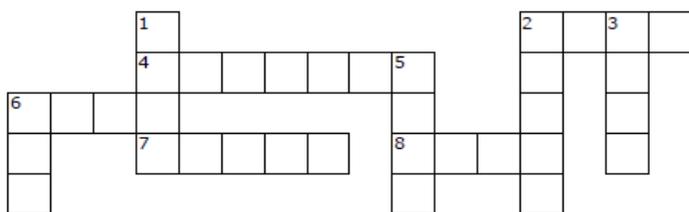
Soap, Toothbrushes and Toothpaste

Storehouse donations can be dropped off at the Full Gospel Church on Dalkeith High Street on a Wednesday Morning between 10 and 10.30am or call the church office and we can arrange a pick up for you.

THANK YOU

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

PRIESTS	MYRRH	BETHLEHEM	KING	CHRIST
GOD	CHILD	HOUSE	INCENSE	MARY
STAR	MAGI	TEACHERS	WORSHIP	MOTHER
WORSHIPED	EAST	SEARCH	BORN	HEROD



ACROSS

- The wise men who visited Jesus and Mary and Joseph shortly after Jesus was born
- A substance that is burned to produce a sweet smell
- To come into existence by birth
- Presents which are given without cost to the one receiving them
- A twinkling point of light in the night sky

DOWN

- A male ruler of a country
- A sticky substance with a strong smell which is used in making perfume
- A valuable, shiny, yellow metal used to make coins and jewellery
- The direction which is opposite to west
- To kneel or bend the head or body forward as a show of respect