

# Connect

Your Weekly News from St Leonard's & St Mary's  
Sunday 13th march Lent 2

SEE WHAT GREAT

love

THE FATHER

HAS LAVISHED ON US,

@Biblequote7

THAT WE SHOULD BE CALLED

CHILDREN OF

GOD

AND THAT IS WHAT WE ARE

(see 1 John 3:1)

# Praying for Ukraine



## **Psalm 31:21-24**

21 Praise be to the Lord,

for he showed me the wonders of his love  
when I was in a city under siege.

22 In my alarm I said, "I am cut off from your sight!"

Yet you heard my cry for mercy when I called to you for help.

23 Love the Lord, all his faithful people!

The Lord preserves those who are true to him,  
but the proud he repays in full.

24 Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord.

## **Let us Pray**

God of peace and justice,

we pray for the people of Ukraine today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,  
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace.

for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,  
that you would hold and protect them and hear their hearts cry.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of peace.

Amen

**Please consider giving a donation to  
The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC)**

Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal give online at:  
<https://donation.dec.org.uk/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>

Or give a donation on Sunday when you come to worship.



## Groundwork Lent 2

### Preparing and exploring the future of our churches

Last Sunday we launched the first in our series of our Groundwork Lent Studies that we are using as a preparation course leading us onto further discussion about the hopes, dreams and aspirations we have for the churches of St Leonard's and St Mary's. It is good to explore this together as the family of the church because all of us are then involved and given the opportunity to contribute to the preparation, planning, and nurturing the future growth and direction of the church. Your input is valued and appreciated. Some times what is said by one person can spark a thought in another and so on.

Last week we learned that we are known by God. God knows you and more than just knowing you God believes in you. God believes in you and you are worth more than we probably believe in ourselves. This weeks discussion dovetails with last weeks as we renew our understanding that because God believes in us he invest in us. We are so precious to God that he bestows on us the right to become "Children of God". This privileged position comes to us through placing our faith and hope in the gift of Jesus Christ. By believing and welcoming Jesus into our lives we are given this right to become children of God, disciples of Jesus.

Often I am asked about how my children are doing. We all know children are expected to grow and develop and likewise it is with us as children of God. In Church we often use the term disciple to indicate that someone is a follower and student of Jesus. Like all students we have much to learn and so much more to put into practice. God believes in you and is calling you to receive the gift of his Son. God is calling you to be a disciple, a student of Jesus, a child of God, loved and accepted. Like a loving parents, our Father God knows that we his children will face many struggles and challenges. We will grow tired and weary from time to time but by returning to our Father and trusting in the Lord we will renew our strength and passion to be his children living out our calling to be disciples of our saviour.

Peter

## WORSHIP Sunday 13th March Lent 2

### Opening Responses

The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

This is the day that the Lord has made

**let us rejoice and be glad in it**

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen**

**Hymn**      **IT IS A THING MOST WONDERFUL,**  
Almost too wonderful to be,  
That God's own Son should come from heaven  
And die to save a child like me.

And yet I know that it is true;  
He came to this poor world below,  
And wept, and toiled, and mourned, and died,  
Only because He loved us so.

I cannot tell how He could love  
A child so weak and full of sin;  
His love must be most wonderful,  
If He could die my love to win.

It is most wonderful to know  
His love for me so free and sure;  
But 'tis more wonderful to see  
My love for Him so faint and poor.

And yet I want to love Thee, Lord;  
O light the flame within my heart,  
And I will love Thee more and more,  
Until I see Thee as Thou art.

## **Prayer of Confession**

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith

**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.

## **Reading of Scripture**

### **John 1 v1-14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him.

He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

### **1 John 3:1-3**

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

### **Group Discussions.**

*In a small group of 3/4 people take time to reflect upon today's passages of scripture and consider some of the questions being asked. Please note there are two parts to today's discussion. You do not need to cover all the questions being asked but try and cover at least one or two from part 1 and one or two of the question being asked in part 2.*

#### **Part 1**

- What does it mean to you to be called a 'Child of God'?  
How does it affect your daily life?
- How have you personally experienced God's love?  
How have you seen or felt God's love lavished upon you?
- What kind of relationship does God want us to have with him?
- How does being a child of God, affect our attitude to and behaviour with others?

## Part 2

### **Romans 12:1-2 NLT**

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice, the kind he will find acceptable.

This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

### **2 Corinthians 3:2-3 NIVUK**

You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

- Being a child of God involves learning, growing being transformed. In what areas of your life do you think you need to grow and be transformed?
- If you are a letter from Christ, who is God sending you to?
- If God is calling us to be peacemakers and reconcilers, are there practical ways we might make changes in our homes, work or church life?

## **Post it Note—Feedback**

*What one aspect of today's reflection do you want to take forward into the week ahead? Take a note of this for yourself and if you are happy to write a post it note for our feedback.*

### ***Hopes and Dreams Questionnaire***

*What questions about the future of the church should we be asking?*

*We are planning to construct a questionnaire that will be issued in May to help collate some of our thoughts about the churches and the future. Our initial focus will be around our Hopes and Dreams and we welcome you to make suggestions regarding the questions that may be included. Please either email these to the Church Office or place them in the Suggestions Box at Church.*

## Prayer for the Church

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 your vision for the church.  
May we be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading and guidance.  
Help us not to make rash and quick decisions out of fear  
or a sense of urgency, but to humble ourselves  
and to trust that we are held by you  
as we seek Your plans and purposes.  
Draw us closer to each other and to You,  
that as the church vision emerges in our hearts,  
we will know the Holy Spirit at work in us,  
for the glory and praise of your name. Amen.

## Prayers of Intercession for today

Hymn      **FATHER GOD, I WONDER** how I managed to exist  
Without the knowledge of Your parenthood and Your loving  
care.  
But now I am Your son, I am adopted in Your family,  
And I can never be alone,  
'Cause Father God, You're there beside me.

I will sing Your praises,  
I will sing Your praises,  
I will sing Your praises,  
Forever more.  
I will sing Your praises,  
I will sing Your praises,  
I will sing Your praises,  
Forever more.

## Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here

**His spirit is with us**

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.**

In Christ your Son

enemies are reconciled, debts forgiven  
and strangers made welcome.

Your spirit frees us to live  
as sons and daughters in our Father's house.

We, who by Christ's power follow the way of the Cross,  
sharing the joy of his obedience,  
now 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 Christ in whom the world is reconciled.

Lifted on the cross, his suffering and forgiveness  
spanned the gulf of our sins had made.

Through the dark struggle  
death was swallowed up in victory  
that life and light might reign.

Before your Son our Lord was given up to suffering and death,  
we remember 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 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.**

*All are welcome to come forward  
and receive the bread of communion  
Or a blessing at this time*

*(mask - sanitise - receive - consume - mask - return)*

## Prayer after communion

Give thanks to the Lord for he is gracious  
And his mercy endures for ever  
**Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.  
May we who are partakers of his table  
reflect his life in word and deed,  
that all the world may know his power to change and save.  
We ask this in his name. Amen**

## The Blessing

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,  
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen**

**Hymn**      **TO GOD BE THE GLORY!** great things He hath done!  
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,  
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,  
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!  
Let the earth hear His voice!  
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!  
Let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son;  
And give Him the glory, great things He hath done!

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!  
To every believer the promise of God;  
The vilest offender who truly believes,  
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,  
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son:  
But purer and higher and greater will be  
Our wonder, our worship, when Jesus we see!

### **The Dismissal**

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

**Please do join with us for a time of fellowship and refreshment  
at the close of the service**



# Coffee at Mary's

10.30 — 12Noon

Saturday 2nd April



## Swap Shop

"Tools" is the theme of our April Swap Shop. Maybe you have some spare or ones you would like to give away. Maybe you are looking for something? Then come and join us on the 2nd of April and have coffee and browse our Swap Shop of tools.



# Groundwork

## LENT STUDY GROUPS

We invite you to explore today's topic more fully by joining in with one of our homegroups

**Monday Night 7.30pm**

hosted by Andrew Watt

The Neuk 2 Bridge End Dalkeith

**Tuesday Night 8pm**

Hosted by Vicki Clark's

19 Kingsfield Drive, Newtongrange

*Contact Church Office for more information 663 7000*

# Come and make a difference



## OUR NEXT LITTER PICK

Saturday March 19th, 1pm - 3pm

Starting at St Mary's.

## SPRING CLEAN

at St Leonard's

Friday 1st April 2pm - 4pm &

Sat 2nd April 10 am - 12 Noon



*How do I get it to do that?*

*Now what have I done!*

Does that sound like you? Well don't despair and get yourself along to the

## Digital Connect Group at St Mary's

Organised by Una from Volunteer Midlothian.

**Tue 15th March 2-3pm**

Learn Digital Skills for free

**Pop in with your Laptop or Tablet if you have a question**

**Open to all**



# Where's Izzy!!!

Well I am not in South Africa but my friend Betty is and so are some of my Harris family cousins. With all that is going on in the world I thought I would encourage you with the word "Ubuntu". It is a word derived from Xhosa or Bantu speaking people of South Africa. Ubuntu is the philosophical belief in a universal bond of sharing that connects all humanity.

My heart is still very much with the people of Ukraine at this time and know that they and especially the Russian rulers and troops need to learn the secret of Ubuntu.

Dad told me about this story he had been sent on the email.

There was once an anthropologist who showed a game to the children of an African tribe ...He placed a basket of delicious fruits near a tree trunk and told them: The first child to reach the tree will get the basket.

When he gave them the start signal, he was surprised that they were walking together, holding hands until they reached the tree and shared the fruit!

When he asked them why they did this they answered with astonishment: 'Ubuntu.'

"How can one of us be happy while the rest are miserable?"

It has been heart warming to see individuals and communities coming together to offer aid and help to the refugees fleeing war. Reminding us all that to love God we need to love our neighbour.

I to pray that regardless of where we are from all of humanity would in deed one day learn to be more thoughtful and caring, to have more Ubuntu in our lives.

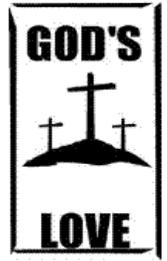
Yours with love, licks and barks,

Izzy

# Measuring God's Love

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,  
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.  
John 3:16 (NIV)

Based on John 3:14-17 (NIV)



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

SON	ONLY	BELIEVES	MOSES	WHOEVER
PERISH	HIM	WORLD	DESERT	LIFTED
CONDEMN	SNAKE	LOVED	ETERNAL	LIFE
THROUGH	GAVE	SEND	GOD	SAVE



**St Leonard's** [stleonardslasswade.org.uk](http://stleonardslasswade.org.uk)

**St Mary's** [stmarysdalkeith.org.uk](http://stmarysdalkeith.org.uk)

**Church Office & Rectory** 11 Peacock Parkway Bonnyrigg EH193RO

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

Both Churches are registered Charities

St Leonard's Episcopal Church: Lasswade SC014151

St Mary's Episcopal Church: Dalkeith SC001677