

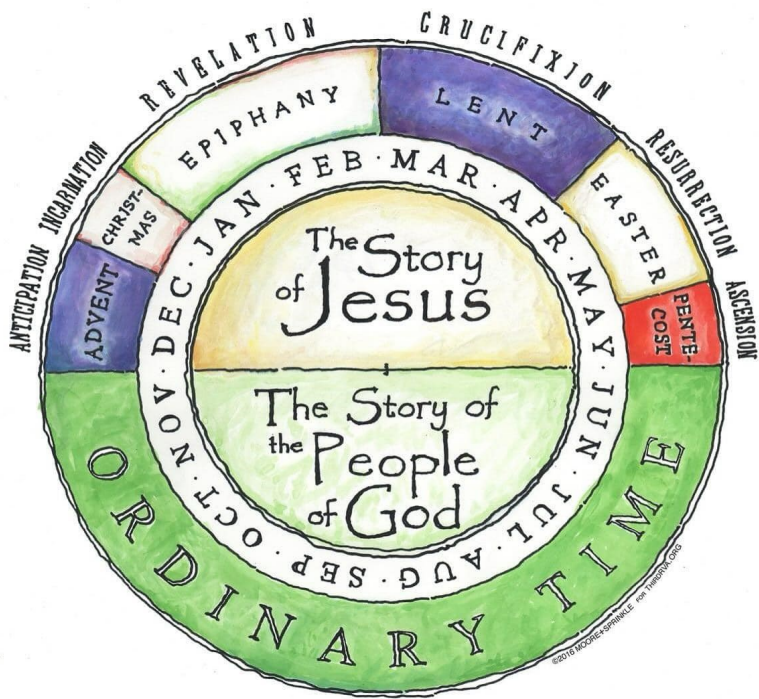


*The Visitation of the Magi  
bearing gifts of Gold, frankincense and myrrh  
for the new born king*

# Connect

Weekly Worship and News from St Leonard's and St Mary's

**Sunday 7th January A Celebration of the Epiphany**



We warmly welcome you to worship as we gather on this first Sunday of the New Year. Our Church year flows from Advent to Advent as we move from season to season around the various seasons of the church. Each season has its own focus. In Advent we prepared in anticipation for the celebration of the birth of Christ at Christmas. Today we move into the season of Epiphany and wonder and ask who is this child born in Bethlehem? Why did some travel a great distance to worship him while others in the more local vicinity were troubled by the revelation that their promised King was born?

Even today people react differently to the Good News of Jesus and the message of hope and salvation he brings. Some long to meet with him and embrace this good news. Others dismiss him as ancient folklore, maybe enjoying the fun and enjoyment of sharing presents around the tale of the child who would be king, but eventually dismissing the story as a childish dream. Sadly, even today, there are those who would seek to destroy the spark of life and the possibility of new life that is offered to all who come worship at the feet of Jesus, the King of all Kings and the Lord of all Lords.

As we journey together through this year I pray that all of us will come to know our Saviour King in a new light, with a deeper and renewed faith in the one who has come and be willing to add our stories of faith and trust to his story of hope and good news.

## Call to Worship

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.  
**Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**

Lord, as we gather for worship at the start of this new year  
help us to follow the Star of Bethlehem.

**Our Lord, Jesus Christ, the light of the world**

## Hymn

**WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE,**

bearing gifts we traverse afar

Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star

O star of wonder, star of night

Star with royal beauty bright

Westward leading, still proceeding

Guide us to thy perfect light

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain gold I bring to crown Him again  
King for ever, ceasing never over us all to reign

Frankincense to offer have I Incense owns a Deity nigh

Prayer and praising, all men raising worship Him, God most high

Myrrh is mine its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom

Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone cold tomb

Glorious now behold Him arise King and God and Sacrifice

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Heaven to earth replies

## Confession

The grace of God has dawned upon the world  
through the incarnation of our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who laid down his life that we might have new life  
So let us confess our sins.

God be gracious to us and bless us, and make your face shine upon us:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

May your ways be known on the earth,  
your saving power among the nations:  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

You, Lord, have made known your salvation,  
and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

*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**

Eternal God, who led wise men to worship 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.

## **Reading: Isaiah 60 v1-6**

“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.

“Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.

**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.

## **The Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12**

Hear the gospel of our Lord according to Matthew:  
**Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, 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. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has 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.""

Then Herod 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 worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

And 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.**

## Sermon

## Intercessions for today

## The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be always with you  
**And also with you**

## Hymn     **KING OF KINGS, MAJESTY**, God of Heaven living in me,

Gentle Saviour, closest Friend,  
Strong Deliverer, beginning and end.  
All within me falls at Your throne,

Your Majesty, I can but bow,  
I lay my all before You now.  
In royal robes, I don't deserve.  
I live to serve Your Majesty.

Earth and heaven worship You,  
Love eternal, faithful and true,  
Who bought the nations, ransomed souls,  
Brought this sinner near to Your throne.  
All within me cries out in praise!

## Offertory Prayer

God of love and giver of all good things,  
we pray that you would accept these gifts  
and use them for the glory of your name. Amen

## Eucharistic Prayer

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 Father in every place and at all times.  
You made us, all the people of the world and everything that is.

You give us the daylight. Your Word lights up our minds.

Jesus was born among us to be light in our darkness.

Your Spirit lives in us so that we can look at the world with your eyes.

One day we will be with you in heaven,  
but already we laugh with the saints and angels and sing their song:

**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.**

Father you never forget us or turn away from us even when we fail you.  
You sent your Son, who gave his life for us.

**He healed those who were sick,  
and cared for those who were poor  
He cried with those who were sad.  
He forgave sinners and taught us to forgive.**

For all your love we give you thanks  
in the way that Jesus showed us.

For on the night before he died,  
while he was having supper with his friends,  
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.'

**So, as we do what he commanded us to do,  
we open our hearts to him; we remember  
how he died and rose again to live now in us.  
Together with him we offer you these gifts:  
in them we give you ourselves.**

Send now your Holy Spirit on us and on this bread and this wine;  
that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ,  
and that, sharing your life,  
we may travel in your company to our journey's end.

**With all your people we give you thanks and praise  
through the Son and in the Spirit, now and for evermore.  
Amen.**

## **Breaking of Bread**

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



## Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour Christ has commanded and taught us, we are bold to say:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## Invitation to come and receive

*All are welcome to come and receive communion or a blessing at this time*

## Thanksgiving and sending out

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious.  
**And his mercy endures for ever.**

## Prayer after communion

**God of all the nations, guide us by your redeeming love  
and empower us by your Spirit to reveal Christ to the world.  
Amen**

## Blessing

Christ the Son of God gladden your hearts and minds  
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 now and 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.

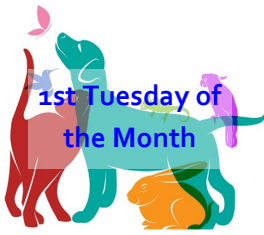
As they offered gifts most rare  
At Thy cradle rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy,  
Pure, and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.

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.

## Dismissal

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



### **PET FOOD BANK      Tues 6th Feb**

from 10am to 12 Noon on the first Tuesday of each month we give away gifts of Pet Food to those seeking aid and support at this time. While your there have a cuppa and share your pet tales. Well behaved owners and their pets are welcome.



### **COFFEE AT ST MARY'S      First Saturday of each month Next on Sat 3rd Feb with Swap Shop**

Pop in to St Mary's for a blether and catch up with friends old and new. We meet monthly on the first Saturday of each Month from 10.30 to 12Noon.



### **HOME GROUPS & REFLECTIONS**

A great way to help you grow in faith is to join in with one of our Home Groups or Reflections Group. Each offer an opportunity for friendship and opportunity to explore the Scriptures and discuss matters of faith.



### **BEACON OF HOPE      St Leonard's** *Making Monday a day of Hope.*

*Each Monday is different*

- 1st Mon: Cake and Chat,
- 2nd Mon: Songs of Praise,
- 3rd Mon: Cuppa Prayer Reflection
- 4th Mon: Grief and loss Cafe.



### **BOOK CLUB      meets every six weeks or so.**

Our last read was ON JAVA ROAD By Lawrence Osbourne. Written in the first person by a jaded English journalist who has been in Hong Kong for decades, this murder-mystery is set in the era post handover to the Chinese. The descriptions of HK, its atmosphere and

food are excellent. The story follows the relationships between the narrator and his very wealthy Chinese friend who has had an affair with a young student involved in the pro-democracy demonstrations. She mysteriously disappears and we are left wondering – was she murdered or did she commit suicide or did she die at all? The group was split on these possibilities!

Our next read is "Finding Treasure Island" by Robin Scott and we are meeting in St. Mary's on Friday January 26th all are welcome to come and join in



Creative  
family  
fun



We look forward to the start of a new year and a year of Messy Activities offering opportunities for family and friends to gather and explore some familiar Bible Stories through arts, crafts, song and story. Finishing off with a family meal together at no cost.

**Last Saturday of each Month from 4pm at St Mary's.**

January 27th Moses, The Prince of Egypt,

February 24th Joshua and the Walls of Jericho

March 30th EASTER Celebrations

*Everybody's Welcome, anyone can come.*

**St Mary's Sunday at 10am**

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



**St Leonard's Sunday at 10am**

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



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Both Churches are registered Charities

St Leonard's Episcopal Church: Lasswade SC014151

St Mary's Episcopal Church: Dalkeith SC001677

Please note that Monday is our Rector's day off