

# connect

*The Scottish Episcopal Churches of*  
***St Leonard's & St Mary's***  
Sunday 8th September 2024



**Season of Creation Week 2**  
**Faith in Actions of Love**



## September Messy Church

Saturday 28th Sept 4-6pm

Come and join us for a variety of crafts and activities as we explore this months theme  
"So what is God like?"

We will then have some songs and story followed by a meal together.

*All provided free of charge - donations are welcome*

## Season of Creation - Celebrating Harvest



Harvest Celebrations this year shall take place on Sunday 6th October at both churches.

Donations of Tinned or Dried foods will be most welcome and will be donated to our local Storehouse Foodbank. Financial offerings are also welcome.



## Welcome

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ  
**Amen.**

Praise the Lord O my Soul

**Blessed are those whose hope is in the Lord their God**

He is the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea and everything in them.

**He remains faithful forever, and forever the Lord our God reigns.**

*verses from Ps146*

**Hymn      AMAZING GRACE! how sweet the sound**

That saved a wretch like me;  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear,  
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,  
His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.

Yes, when this heart and flesh shall fail,  
And mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess within the veil  
A life of joy and peace.

## Confession and Absolution

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 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, he heals and strengthens us by his Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Prayer of the day**

**Stir up, O Lord, the will 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. Amen.**

### **Reading from the book of James 2 v1-10 & 14-17**

Brothers and Sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favouritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," have you not discriminated and become judges with evil thoughts?

Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbour as yourself," you are doing right. But if you show favouritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?

Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

**Hymn      LET US BUILD A HOUSE WHERE LOVE CAN DWELL**

and all can safely live  
A place where Saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions  
Rock of faith and vault of grace  
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions

All are welcome, all are welcome  
All are welcome in this place

Let us build a house where prophets speak  
And words are strong and true  
Where all God's children dare to seek  
To dream God's reign anew  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
And a symbol of God's grace  
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus

Let us build a house where love is found  
In water, wine and wheat  
A banquet hall on holy ground  
Where peace and justice meet  
Here the love of God, through Jesus  
Is revealed in time and space  
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us

**Gospel      Mark 7.25-37**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord according to Mark  
**Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

A woman whose little daughter was possessed by an impure spirit came and fell at Jesus feet. The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter.

He told her "First let the children eat all they want, for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs." Then she replied "Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Jesus then told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter." She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went into the region of the Decapolis. There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him. After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" which means "Be opened! At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.

Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.  
**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

## Sermon

## Intercessions

## Peace

We meet in Christ name  
**Let us share His peace.**

**Hymn      GOD IS LOVE, LET HEAV'N ADORE HIM;**  
God is Love, let earth rejoice;  
Let creation sing before him  
And exalt him with one voice.  
God who laid the earth's foundation,  
God who spread the heav'ns above,  
God who breathes through all creation:  
God is Love, eternal Love.

God is Love; and love enfolds us,  
All the world in one embrace:  
With unfailing grasp God hold us,  
Ev'ry child of ev'ry race.  
And when human hearts are breaking  
Under sorrow's iron rod,  
Then we find that selfsame aching  
Deep within the heart of God.

God is Love; and though with blindness  
Sin afflicts all human life,  
God's eternal loving kindness  
Guides us through our earthly strife.  
Sin and death and hell shall never  
O'er us final triumph gain;  
God is Love, so Love for ever  
O'er the universe must reign.

## Offering

Let us present our offerings to the Lord.

**Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,  
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;  
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.  
All things come from you, and of your own we give you.**

## Eucharistic Prayer for the Season of Creation

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 our thanks and praise.**

Worship and praise belong to you, O God,  
by your holy Word you brought order out of chaos.  
you divided light from darkness  
and caused all life to come into being.

In Christ your holy Word became flesh,  
took our human form, lived among us,  
and, through dying on the cross, overcame sin and death,  
that creation might be restored in him.

As children of your redeeming purpose,  
we offer you our praise, together 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, God our creator,  
for the gift of your Son born in human flesh.  
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.  
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 the Spirit's 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 Bread**

Look, the Bread of Heaven is broken for the life of the world.  
And the wine of heaven is poured out for the healing of the nations.

**The gifts of God for the people of God.  
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.**

## Distribution of Communion

*This is the table not of any one church, but of the Lord.  
It is made ready for those who love him  
and for those who want to love him.  
So come you who have much faith and you who have little  
Come you who have tried to follow,  
and you who have failed  
Come, not because I invite you  
but because the Lord invites you to come to his table.*

## THANKSGIVING AND SENDING OUT

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

**Father God in receiving the gifts of the Kingdom empower us by your Holy Spirit to be people of faith and action, loving and serving you.  
Amen**

## Blessing

God give you grace to be faithful stewards of his Creation,  
to be people of faith, hope and love  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit  
be upon you, and remain with you always. **Amen**

## Hymn **BROTHER, SISTER, LET ME SERVE YOU**

Let me be as Christ to you;  
Pray that I may have the grace  
To let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,  
We are brothers on the road;  
We are here to help each other  
Walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christlight for you  
In the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
Speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping,  
When you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
Till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven  
We shall find such harmony,  
Born of all we've known together  
Of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, Sister let me serve you,  
Let me be as Christ to you;  
Pray that I may have the grace  
To let you be my servant, too.

## Dismissal

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

# Upcoming EVENTS

## October

**Saturday 5th October - Harvest Supper**  
with entertainment at St Leonard's

**Sunday 6th October Harvest Celebrations 10am**  
Pet Blessing Service 3pm at St Mary's

## November

**Sunday 3rd November Memorial Service**  
a service to remember those we love but see no longer 4pm at St Leonard's

**Friday 15th November - Scots/Ukrainian Evening**  
come and enjoy a night with our Ukrainian friends  
at St Leonard's, 7pm

## December

**Saturday 7th December -  
Christmas Fair**  
at St Mary's, 10am-2pm



**St Leonard's Sunday 10am**

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

**St Mary's Sunday 10am**

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

Find us on  @StLandM

### Church Office & Rectory

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Both Churches are registered Charities

St Leonard's Episcopal Church: Lasswade SC014151

St Mary's Episcopal Church: Dalkeith SC001677

Our Rector's day off is usually a Monday