

# Connect

Connecting people of faith together across our Church Community  
of St Leonard's and St Mary's



*Your giving helps  
the church grow*

**Sunday 16th February 2025**  
Stewardship Week 3

# The Gathering

Grace and Peace to you from God,  
The Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
**Amen**

**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 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 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:

Let us build a house where all are named,  
Their songs and visions heard:  
And loved and treasured, loved and claimed  
As words within the Word  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
Prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

## **Confession and Absolution**

Most merciful Lord, your love compels us to draw near.  
We are not fit to eat the crumbs from under your table.  
But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,  
for there is no other name in heaven or on earth  
by which we can be saved and forgiven.

**Father God, 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,  
forgives us and free us from our sins,  
he heals and strengthens us by his Spirit,  
and raises us to new life in Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Stewardship Collect**

Let us pray

**God, from whom all good things come,  
you shower us with many blessings  
and make us stewards of all that we have been given.  
Give us generous hearts, and make us cheerful givers,  
filled with the desire to see the advancement  
of the Kingdom of your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

## The first reading A reading from 1 Corinthians 9 3-14

This is my defence to those who sit in judgment on me. Don't we have the right to food and drink? Don't we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Cephas? Or is it only I and Barnabas who lack the right to not work for a living?

Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat its grapes? Who tends a flock and does not drink the milk? Do I say this merely on human authority?

Doesn't the Law say the same thing? For it is written in the Law of Moses: "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain." Is it about oxen that God is concerned? Surely he says this for us, doesn't he? Yes, this was written for us, because whoever ploughs and threshes should be able to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest.

If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you? If others have this right of support from you, shouldn't we have it all the more? But we did not use this right. On the contrary, we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ.

Don't you know that those who serve in the temple get their food from the temple, and that those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

### Hymn **HOLY WORDS LONG PRESERVED**

for our walk in this world,  
They resound with God's own heart  
Oh, let the Ancient words impart.

Words of Life, words of Hope  
Give us strength, help us cope  
In this world, where e'er we roam  
Ancient words will guide us Home.

Ancient words ever true  
Changing me, and changing you.  
We have come with open hearts  
Oh let the ancient words impart.

Holy words of our Faith  
Handed down to this age.  
Came to us through sacrifice  
Oh heed the faithful words of Christ.

Holy words long preserved  
For our walk in this world.  
They resound with God's own heart  
Oh let the ancient words impart.

## **The Gospel    Matthew 17 : 24-26**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

After Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma temple tax came to Peter and asked, "Doesn't your teacher pay the temple tax?" "Yes, he does," he replied.

When Peter came into the house, Jesus was the first to speak. "What do you think, Simon?" he asked. "From whom do the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes, from their own children or from others?"

"From others," Peter answered.

"Then the children are exempt," Jesus said to him. "But so that we may not cause offense, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **A reflection is given**

## **Prayers for Today**

## The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

*Let us offer one another a sign of God's peace.*

**Hymn COME, LET US SING OF A WONDERFUL LOVE,**  
tender and true,  
out of the heart of the Father above,  
streaming to me and to you:  
wonderful love dwells in the heart of the Father above.

Jesus, the Saviour, this gospel to tell,  
joyfully came,  
came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell,  
sharing their sorrow and shame;  
seeking the lost,  
saving, redeeming at measureless cost.

Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet;  
why do they roam,  
Love only waits to forgive and forget;  
home, weary wanderers, home!  
Wonderful love  
dwells in the heart of the Father above.

Come to my heart, O thou wonderful Love,  
come and abide,  
lifting my life till it rises above  
envy and falsehood and pride;  
seeking to be  
lowly and humble, a learner of thee.

## Offertory Prayer

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. 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 thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise.  
Through Jesus Christ your Son,  
you have created us in your own image,  
and made us stewards of your good creation.

**Through him you have taught us to enjoy the beauty of nature,  
the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, the beasts of the earth,  
the lilies of the field, and the precious life-giving crops of the earth.**

**Through him you free us from the slavery of sin,  
giving him up to die upon the cross  
and to rise again for our salvation.**

**Through him, you begin your work of new creation,  
as we look for a new heaven and a new earth  
in which your love and righteousness dwells.**

Therefore, we join with angels and archangels,  
and give voice to every creature under heaven,  
ever praising you and saying:

**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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed,  
the source of all holiness;  
who freely gave us the gift of life  
through Christ your son  
so that we might become holy  
and reconciled to you.

We therefore give thanks,  
and remember that on the night your Son was betrayed,  
He took bread and gave you thanks;  
He broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper He took the cup  
and gave you thanks; He gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ:  
Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life:**

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise,  
Send the Holy Spirit on your people,  
and be on this bread and wine,  
that all who share this bread and drink this wine  
may praise and glorify you for ever and ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

**Amen**



## The Breaking of Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.  
**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

## The Lord's Prayer

As good stewards of God's creation,  
let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

**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.**

## Communion

*All are welcome to come and receive the gifts of God*

## Prayer after communion

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

Here at your table, loving God,  
we have remembered your sacrifice and boundless generosity.  
By your Spirit at work in us, liberate us from all jealousy and greed,  
that we may respond cheerfully to your gift of life and serve you  
with generous hearts through Christ our Lord, Amen.

# The 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 **TELL OUT, MY SOUL, the greatness of the Lord!**

Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
Tender to me the promise of His word;  
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name!  
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;  
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
His holy name—the Lord, the mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of His word!  
Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure:  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
To children's children and forever more!

## Sending out

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

*Please do join with us for a cuppa and fellowship after the service*

## Newbyres Knitting Group

Our Knitting Group meets on Thursday 27th February at the Newbyres Nursing Home Gorebridge at 10.30am.

This provides a lovely opportunity for residents and members of the group to socialise and knit or chat together. It is both a practical caring group as well as a resourceful group often making items of need such as Premature baby outfits, or Trauma or comfort Teddies. You don't need to Knit just come and enjoy the chat and share God's love.



## LENT 2025 On Purpose

This Lent devotional journey invites you to think differently about everything you do. Helping you to get to grips with the Bible's view of our purpose, and read true stories of how that purpose is worked out in all kinds of Christians' lives today.

Each week, you'll explore a different theme:

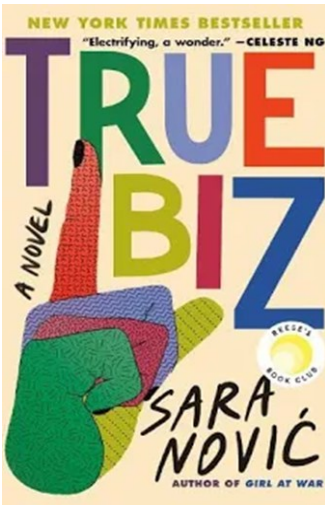
- Our Purpose
- Purpose in work
- Purpose in family
- Purpose in friendship
- Purpose in our interests
- Purpose in our neighbourhoods

Finally, in Holy Week you'll prepare for Easter with an examination of how Jesus reveals his true purpose in the days before his crucifixion.

Small group Lent Courses will be running on Monday and Tuesday evenings beginning from Monday 3rd of March and will meet weekly for seven weeks including Holy Week. If you would like to join a group please do speak to Andrew / Bill for Monday's or Fiona / Vicki for Tuesday's.  
Thank you.

# BOOK CLUB

## TRUE BIZ by SARA NOVIC



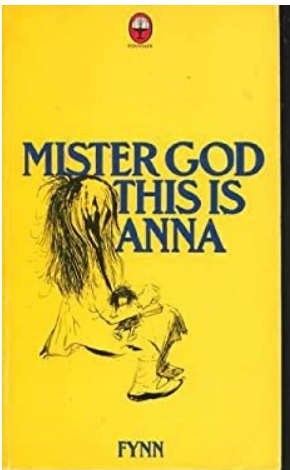
We had our belated Christmas lunch at the Cavalier in January and discussed our latest read.

This novel was probably written for young adults as the language is very “yoof” and “cool”. The main character is a congenitally deaf teenager who had a malfunctioning cochlear implant inserted as a baby.

She was failing in her regular school and so was enrolled in an exclusively deaf school. Here she is taught sign language and a new world opens up for her in terms of communication and friendship.

There was much that we at the Book Club did not appreciate about the deaf world and there were many ethical issues raised e.g. should deaf children be implanted with cochlear implants as they may resent this as they get older, should there be different sign languages for different ethnic group (sign language used by black people is different from that used by white Europeans or even American Sign language).

Overall an enjoyable read altogether.



Our next read is **“Mister God, this is Anna”** by Fynn an alias for Sydney Hopkins.

We meet on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April in St. Mary’s at 7.30pm.

All welcome.

Vicki Clark

# DIGITAL CONNECT

Digital Connect is open most Tuesday's to help those seeking to better connect and uses their technology. Help can be given regarding Smartphones, Tablets and Laptops.

**We meet at St Mary's Church from 2pm  
and welcome all who come with a Cuppa and offer of help.**  
We might not cure every problem but we are here to help.

**Please note that sadly there will be no Digital Connect  
meetings on**

**Tuesday 18th and 25th of February.**

**We are next open on Tuesday 4th March at 2pm**

## Messy Church

**Saturday 22nd March 4pm  
at St Mary's**

Join us for an afternoon of crafts, story  
and song as we explore the theme of

**FORGIVENESS**

Messy Church is open to all families and  
we warmly invite you to come and join  
with us and also enjoy a free meal.

***Please do contact us  
to let us know your coming***



# VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT FAIR

St John's & Kings Park Church Hall,  
Dalkeith, EH22 1HJ (opposite Morrisons)



Thursday 27 February  
10am - 2.30pm

Come in, get warm, and have a chat about  
volunteering opportunities that suit you!

If you are thinking about  
volunteering but not quite  
sure where to begin, this event  
is perfect for you.

**FREE FOOD &  
DRINK!**



Find out more:

 0131 663 9471

 [info@volunteermidlothian.org.uk](mailto:info@volunteermidlothian.org.uk)

 [www.thirdsectormidlothian.org.uk/vm](http://www.thirdsectormidlothian.org.uk/vm)

14th

Midlothian



Bonnyrigg



Scouts



Spring

Coffee Morning

Saturday 1st March

10am—1pm



Cash or card  
accepted

Tombola,  
Raffle

Fundraising event for Scouts and Explorers

**Bonnyrigg Scout Hall**

**Eldindean Road, EH19 2HP**



This Years World Day of Prayer

will take place on the following Days

**Wednesday 5th March at 2pm in Dalkeith Baptist Church**

and at

**Bonnyrigg Parish Church 7pm on Friday 7th March**

A warm welcomes awaits you as we gather to pray

for the world and its people.



# Exploring Faith

An informal gathering and discussion exploring Christian Belief, Church and our journey of Faith.

**Begins Friday 17th March  
at 7pm at the Rectory**

We are planning to meet and have a meal together and discuss our thoughts and questions about the Christian Faith.

Interested? Contact Peter



**St Leonard's 10am**  
stleonardslasswade.org.uk  
**St Mary's 10am**  
stmarysdalkeith.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



Donations  
for  
St Leonard's

**Do you have a Smart Phone?**

To make an online donation to the ongoing work and ministry of the church please scan our QR code and tap the link to our SumUp page



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