



# St Leonard's Welcomes You in Jesus' Name

'Come to me, all of you who are heavy laden, and I will  
give you rest' **Matthew 11 : 28**



## We are Back in Church!

Sunday 20th September was a day to celebrate when we returned to public worship for the first time in six months since the start of Lockdown.

Over 30 folk came along for what was a very different service. Not only was there no singing (although Angus played the hymns on the organ), but also no pew Bibles, no pew cushions and no tea and coffee after the service. But everyone was just so glad to be back in church and seeing weel-kent faces (albeit covered) in person once again.

Entry was by the side door and everyone sat in designated seats (appropriately distanced) in the centre area of the sanctuary. Stewards were on hand to guide folk to their seats.

Prior to going in to church everyone had to provide their names and contact telephone number to fulfil the requirements of the Scottish Government's Test and Trace system. Sanitiser was on hand to be utilised on the way in and out and the offering was left in a plate on the way in.

In spite of all these differences everything ran smoothly and it just felt so good to be back in church.

The service on 11th October was also well attended.

## Future Services

Until further notice services will take place in St Leonard's on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at the usual time of 10.30am.

However, online services will continue each Sunday on You Tube and Facebook. These services will also be made available on CD - please let your Elder know if you would like a CD delivered to you.

Church services will also take place in Rafford on the first and third Sundays of the month and in Dallas on the first and fourth Sundays. All are welcome to attend these services.



The Church of Scotland

## Welcome to Church

**For your safety please be aware  
of the following:**

### Symptoms

If you display any of these symptoms please do not enter our building and return home immediately-

- persistent coughing
- high temperature
- loss of taste or smell

### Face coverings

We encourage you to wear a face covering when in our building (unless you cannot do so for medical reasons)

### Contact details

We will ask for your name and contact details to support NHS Scotland's Test and Protect System.

### Moving around

We may ask you to sit in a particular seat and move in a particular direction around our building

### Hand hygiene

Please wash hands regularly and use hand sanitiser when entering or exiting our building

### Physical contact

Please avoid physical contact with people outside of your own household

### Distancing

Please maintain appropriate physical distancing based on current guidelines

### Toilets

Please note that toilets may not be open. If they are entry may be restricted to maintain distancing.

Further information:

[www.churchofscotland.org.uk](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk)

Scottish Charity Number: SC011353

Visit [www.facebook.com/stleonardschurchforres](https://www.facebook.com/stleonardschurchforres)



## Pastoral Letter from the Minister

Well, we have had a wonderful Summer of sunshine so I hope you were all able to sit out and enjoy the beauty of nature and the diversity of life.

We have just managed with a lot of work from office bearers, to start up services in St Leonards. This has had to include social distancing of 2 metres, Track and Trace Register and use of hand gels.

We are not allowed Hymn singing but Angus, our Organist, has kindly come to play. Thanks also to Derek Charteris and John Carson, we can ""Hum" to the Hymn tunes while reading the words up on the screens. The absence of many Church blessings like fellowship after Church make us realise how many blessings we did share before COVID lockdown.

Although the rules for social activities are becoming more constrained, so far, we can still worship in a designated place of worship. Some services have had to be put off, including Remembrance, but there will be an open air service at the War Memorial on 08th November.

Meantime, we will continue to worship at 1030am on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Our Autumn Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday 25th October.

I have to say how impressed I have been by the number of acts of kindness and support our members have made to others in Church and to near neighbours who needed help during the past six months. Keep up the good work - it doesn't go unnoticed. Finally I have to thank all those who have continued to contribute to the Church finances to keep us financially viable.

Among the many benefits of this lockdown period have been TIME TO REFLECT an appreciation of the many good things AND BLESSINGS in life that God sends us. We have had a few taken away, possibly for one year, but there are so many things to be thankful for.

Do take care and stay safe. This virus is still dangerous and can return swiftly any time.

God Bless

**Donald Prentice (Rev)**

### Our Online Presence

Thanks to the sterling efforts of webmaster, Emma Logan, our new website is providing updated information about the church and its activities to a much wider audience in Forres and beyond. If you have not yet done so, do have a look by going to [www.stleonardschurchforres.org.uk](http://www.stleonardschurchforres.org.uk).

Also thanks to the oversight of Alison Prentice, our Facebook page continues to flag up the latest news and events happening in the church. The page can be found at [www.facebook.com/stleonardschurchforres](http://www.facebook.com/stleonardschurchforres).



### Roof Repairs

As you will have noticed the scaffolding around the church has now moved to the front of the building.

This is the final stage of what has been a very protracted and difficult job repairing the roof of the church. It began prior to Lockdown in March, then had to be abandoned for several months before work resumed in August. It should hopefully be completed within the next couple of weeks.

It will be good to see the church surrounds clear of 'clutter' once again and safe to stand in.



**TRAIDCRAFT**  
Fighting poverty through trade

Dear St. Leonards,

During lockdown I was unable to sell much Traidcraft merchandise - because some of it was going out of date by August this year I donated a lot of biscuits, chocolate, tea and coffee to the Health Centre. However I still have some merchandise left which is dated 2021 so can be kept for a while.

If you would like to purchase any of the goods listed below please contact me on 07876318460 or e mail - [judith.awatts@yahoo.com](mailto:judith.awatts@yahoo.com):

Geo muesli fruit and nut - £3.50

Geo muesli exotic fruit - £3.50

Breakfast blend 80 tea bags - £2.50

Smooth roast freeze dried coffee -£3

Brown rice 1 kg - £3.75

Divine smooth dark 60% cocoa chocolate bar with pink himalayan salt - £2.25

Divine smooth milk 38% chocolate bar with toffee and sea salt - £2.25

Due to the uncertainty of the way forward during this pandemic I have decided not to run a Traidcraft stall in any of the churches. I can, however, order merchandise for people if they would like to look on line on the Traidcraft web site. It would be better if you ordered over £50 or I can wait till I get orders of over that amount. Otherwise you would be charged postage. 10% of any sales would go to the church.

I have sent a cheque to the church for £150 which is the amount that has been raised through sales in the church hall. I have also sent £300 to Traidcraft from sales of masks that I have made and £400 to CLAN cancer support. A big thank you to all who have supported Traidcraft and my mask making.

*Judith Watts*

## Hall User Groups Start to Return

Following a break of over six months our hall is once again in use for part of the week., subject to strict guidelines laid down by the Scottish Government. Only use of the hall and the adjacent toilet is permitted.

The Over 55s Ballet Classes have started again every Monday - there are now three classes during the day, one in the morning, one in the afternoon and one in the evening, with a maximum of eight participants at each to allow for social distancing.

The Boys' Brigade has just started back on Tuesday evenings, again with restricted numbers. The Guides are hoping to resume soon on Wednesday evenings, but only every third Wednesday to allow for the Brownies and Rainbows to meet on alternate Wednesdays. This is because there is insufficient time to clean the hall between two groups meeting on the same evening.

Now that the hall is back in use, Wendy, our cleaner, is going to be kept busy, although with services in the church only every fortnight, this will free up some of her time.

# Financial Update

## Statement of Accounts

The full statement of our accounts will soon be ready for your approval but in the meantime a short statement of the Church accounts as at 30th September is listed below.

General Account Balance	£ 1061.04
Reserve Account Balance	£ 1743.44
Fabric Account Balance	£ 30313.72
Benevolent Fund Balance	£ 1622.25
Youth Ministry Account	£ 2066.61

Some of the Church roof work and stonework have been paid for, however the bulk of the payment has still to be made. It is expected that the work will soon be completed and will required to be paid from the Fabric account, although some of the cost has been met by a £10k grant from the Church of Scotland General Trustees.

## Giving to your Church

As Christians we believe that one way, we thank God for the love he has shown us by making a financial offering to his work. As members of a Church family, we believe that one of the best ways to do this is to give to our Church to enable God's love to be spread by our work in the community.



Derek Charteris, Treasurer



## Remembrance Sunday

Due to the pandemic there will be no Remembrance Sunday service in our church on Sunday 8th November.

Instead there will be an open-air service at the War Memorial starting at 10.45am, to which all are warmly invited.

### Minister

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### Session Clerk

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