



We invite you to come and worship with us at our Sunday service at 11 a.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US

An Easter Message

Easter is the season of hope, renewal, and rejoicing in the glorious truth of Christ's resurrection. As we journey from the shadows of Good Friday to the dawning light of Easter morning, we are reminded that God's love conquers all darkness, and that in Christ, we are given new life. *"He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."* (Matthew 28:6)

In the midst of the uncertainties and challenges of our world, Easter proclaims the steadfastness of God's promises. The risen Christ meets us as He met the disciples – in our doubts and fears, in our sorrow and joy, in the ordinary and the extraordinary moments of our lives. His greeting remains the same: *"Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you."* (John 20:21)

But Easter is not just a message to be heard; it is a call to live differently. If Christ is truly risen, how should we respond?

- **Live with faith and not fear.** Just as the disciples were transformed by their encounter with the risen Lord, so too must we trust in His power and presence in our daily lives. *"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."* (2 Timothy 1:7)
- **Love one another more deeply.** The resurrection proves that love is stronger than death. Let us forgive as we have been forgiven and show kindness in all we do. *"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."* (John 13:35)
- **Share the good news with joy.** Like the first witnesses of the empty tomb, we are called to proclaim the hope of the resurrection to a world that needs it. *"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."* (Mark 16:15)
- **Serve others with humility and compassion.** Just as Christ laid down His life for us, we are called to serve one another. *"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."* (Galatians 6:2)

May this Easter be a time of deep renewal for each of us. *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."* (1 Peter 1:3)

Let us go forward in faith, living as people of the resurrection, bringing Christ's light to the world.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and joyful Easter!

He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

St Leonard's in the Fields

Pulpit supply for April:

6 th	Rev Alasdair Graham
13 th	Joint Service at Moncreiffe (10:30am)
17 th	Maundy Thursday- Joint service at Moncreiffe 7pm
18 th	Good Friday Service at St Leonard's in the Fields 7pm
20 th	Easter Sunday -Mr Ian Roy
27 th	Rev Philip Majcher

In Appreciation of the flower arrangers at the church

*Amongst the unsung heroines who grace this
world of ours,
Are those who give and who arrange
Their church's lovely flowers.*

*I wonder if they realise
The pleasure that they bring
To people who will gather there
To worship and to sing.*

*Or the warm friendship that they send
When given to those who can't attend?"*

St Leonard's in the Fields Walking Group

The walks are well attended with an average of eight people on each one. Come along and join us.

Wednesday 16th April 10:30

Lady Mary's Walk Crieff.
Grade A Circular.
Distance: 3.5 miles.
Start Point: MacRosty Park car park (NN 858 221).

Thursday 1st May 10:30

Maam Road Walk Comrie.
Grade B Circular.
Distance: 6 miles.
Start Point: Outside Church of Scotland, Burrell Street, Comrie.
Parking at several car parks in the town.

The walks are graded A and B for difficulty. A Graded walks are shorter and largely on the flat but may have a few gentle climbs while B Graded walks can be a little longer and involve some parts which are uphill and may have short steep sections. They are not arduous and intended to be within the capabilities of any reasonably fit person.

For more information and a copy of our programme contact Andy Riches sloch69@aol.com or 07792-142446.

Coffee Morning

We would like to thank everyone who supported our Coffee Morning on March 1st - those who helped to set up the Hall so attractively on Friday afternoon and everyone who rushed around serving coffee and cakes on Saturday. Most of all we thank everyone who came on Saturday morning to enjoy the fellowship and 'eats', as well as supporting Alison's laden Stall.

The conversation and laughter in the Hall was a joy to hear!

The sum of £738 was raised that morning and has been passed to our grateful Treasurer.

Well done everyone.

Linzee Lindsay

Christian Aid.

Calling all collectors.

Christian Aid Week starts on **11th May** this year. As usual we are looking for willing collectors for the house-to-house collection. If you can help it would be much appreciated.

Please let me know if you feel able to help.

The annual Christian Aid Quiz is being held at Letham St Mark's on Friday **12th September**. A long way away I know but make a note of it as diaries can get filled up very quickly.

Marion McMillan

Further information about the work done by Christian Aid is available at their website: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

Perth Food Bank

St Leonard's in the Fields received a letter from Perth & Kinross Foodbank thanking the congregation for its help in 2024 – "we could not provide 3*day emergency food parcels, practical support or face to face engagement with our clients without your willingness or demonstration of justice, compassion and generosity. Your commitment to stand side by side with the communities we're rooted in makes our work possible, and for that we are eternally grateful."

They write that, "In Perth and Kinross we are witnessing, hearing and feeling deepening levels of hunger, hardship and despair. In 2024, we distributed 4,019 3*day emergency food parcels, feeding 5,402 adults and 2,290 children and young people. A total of 7,692 people were fed ranging from Aberfeldy to Auchterarder, Crieff to Coupar Angus and everywhere in between. No ward was immune. Of the 1,600 unique households served, 55% were first timers - people

driven to Foodbank use for the first time for a myriad of different reasons including rising costs of essentials, unexpected expenses, debt, benefit delays and the ongoing impacts of physical and mental health conditions."

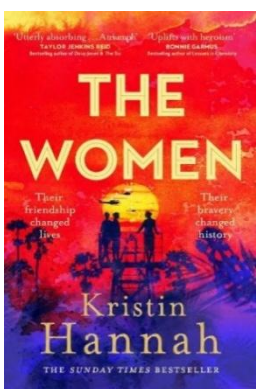
If you would like to help or have feedback, ideas, or suggestions to help the Foodbank in their work, please contact Lori Hughes at 01738 626 799, or info@perthkinross.foodbank.org.uk or perthkinross.foodbank.org.uk

The Book Group continues to grow in numbers with new members taking a full part in the discussion. With such a big group we decided to look at two books per month so that everyone got an opportunity to speak about a book.

The discussed in March were *Homecoming* by Kate Morton and *Confession* by Jessie Burnett.

The members who read *Confession* did not rate it very highly at all and would not recommend it as a good read. On the other book, *Homecoming*, the comments were much more positive, with good character descriptions and an interesting storyline. The main criticism was that the book was just too long.

Kate Morton is a favourite author of many of the group and although *Confession* did not go down well a previous book of Jessie Burton's, *The Miniaturist*, had been enjoyed by those in the group who had read it.



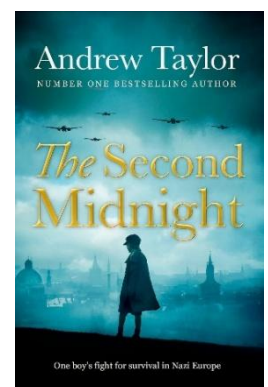
After a long discussion about recent books, we decided to read *The Second Midnight* by Andrew Taylor and *The Women* by Kirsten Hannah for our April meeting; both books are available in Waterstones.

We ended an enjoyable afternoon by asking some of our new members why they wanted to come back to the Book Group. They all agreed that, even if they had not enjoyed the recommended read, they did enjoy hearing other people's views on the book. It also had the benefit of taking us out of

our comfort zone in book choices and reading books that we would not have chosen if we were not members of a book group. And Val reminded us that we should not judge a book by its cover ... good advice.

Happy reading. Next meeting **29th April** at 2pm.

Liz Stewart



Craigie & Moncreiffe Churches <http://www.candmchurch.org/>

6 th	April 10.30 a.m.	Moncreiffe
13 th	April 10.30 a.m.	Moncreiffe (joint service with St Leonard's in the Fields)
17 th	April 7:00 p.m.	Moncreiffe (joint service with St Leonard's in the Fields)
18 th	April 7:00 p.m.	St Leonard's in the Fields (joint service)
20 th	April 10.30 a.m.	Moncreiffe
27 th	April 10.30 a.m.	Moncreiffe

Easter Services around Perth

St John's Kirk of Perth Holy Week Services

13 th April Palm Sunday 10.00am	18 th April Good Friday 7.30pm Tenebrae
16 th April 1.00pm	20 th April Easter Sunday 10.00am
17 th April Maundy Thursday 1.00pm North Church Communion	

For anyone not able to get along to St Leonard's services on a Sunday, the 10 a.m. St John's Kirk Sunday service can be followed online at [youtube.com/@stjohnskirkofperth6605/streams](https://www.youtube.com/@stjohnskirkofperth6605/streams)
Also, St John's kirk has a short Wednesday service at 1pm. <https://www.st-johns-kirk.co.uk/>

St John's Episcopal Church in Princes Street hosted a Lenten series in March and the final one is on Sunday **6th April**, which will include the service of Compline and a short Lenten reflection - a warm invitation to the service is extended to all.

St John's RC in Melville Street follow the Stations of the Cross each Friday in Lent at 9.30 a.m.

St Ninian's Cathedral has a Stations of the Cross service on Fridays at 11 a.m., and also, during Lent, have a discussion group at 10.30a.m. on Monday morning in the Lady Chapel.

The North Church is holding Lenten cafes on Saturdays **12th and 19th April**, from 11.30 a.m. – 2 p.m., comprising a soup and roll lunch with coffee and cake and an Easter theme. All welcome.

The Walk of Witness on Good Friday (18th April) will be led this year by Rev Gordon Campbell; gather at St John's Kirk for a 10.30 a.m. start. Please contact Mary Wright if you would like to be a volunteer readers or steward for this.

The PACT Easter Morning Dawn service (20th April) will be led by Major David Wing (Salvation Army) at Quarrymill at 7 a.m., followed by breakfast at Scone (Old) Church. Parking is available at Quarrymill and at the church.

St John's Kirk of Perth - Open Kirk

St John's Kirk resumed Open Kirk on 31st March and is open between 11am and 4pm, Monday to Saturday. Visitors are met by volunteer Kirk Stewards who are on duty in pairs between 11am and 1.30pm, and 1.30pm and 4pm. New volunteer Stewards are always needed, and if you are interested in learning more, please contact Kay Morrison at kay.morrison@btinternet.com for details.

Concerts at St John's Kirk

Sunday, 6th April at 7.30pm	Perth Choral Society perform Haydn's "The Creation"
Saturday, 12th April at 7.30pm	Chansons Concert perform a Spring Concert
Sunday, 13th April at 3pm	Dunedin Consort – St Matthew Passion (Bach)

Details from perthshireboxoffice.com and perththeatreandconcerthall.com/
Tickets available online and at the door.

Good Friday

1.
Am I a stone, and not a sheep,
That I can stand, O Christ, beneath Thy cross,
To number drop by drop Thy Blood's slow loss,
And yet not weep?

2.
Not so those women loved
Who with exceeding grief lamented Thee;
Not so fallen Peter weeping bitterly;
Not so the thief was moved;

3.
Not so the Sun and Moon
Which hid their faces in a starless sky.
A horror of great darkness at broad noon –
I, only I.

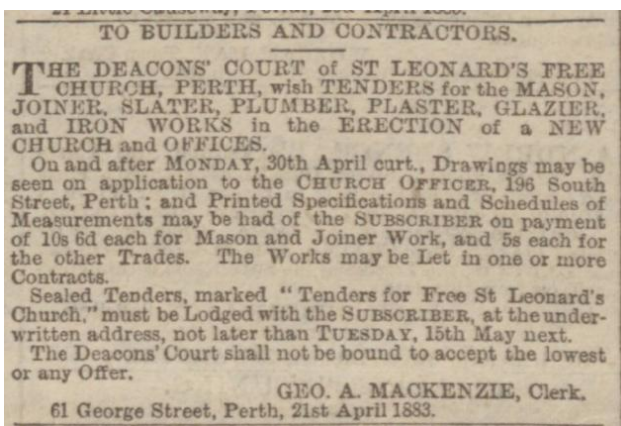
4.
Yet give not o'er
But seek Thy sheep, true Shepherd of the flock;
Greater than Moses, turn and look once more
And smite a rock.

Christina Rossetti

Our Church Building

In the early 1800s, plans were drawn for three Georgian terrace blocks along Marshall Place in Perth, but only two and a half were completed due to construction challenges posed by an old branch of Perth's Lade beneath the site. This left an unsightly gap facing the South Inch for sixty years, which was eventually occupied by the wooden studio of Victorian photographer Magnus Jackson.

In 1882, the congregation of Free St Leonard's acquired this problematic site, demonstrating confidence that any underlying issues could be addressed.



They sought designs from leading church architects and selected John J. Stevenson, a Glasgow-born architect based in London. Stevenson, who had once considered entering the Free Church ministry, was known for insisting on high-quality design and materials, making his churches relatively expensive.

Stevenson's design for Free St Leonard's was rooted in what he termed "later Scotch Gothic," drawing inspiration from notable Scottish churches like St Giles in Edinburgh, St Michael's in Linlithgow, and St Monans in Fife.

His vision featured a distinctive crown tower, which may be the first post-Reformation crown tower in Scotland.

<https://www.slitfperth.co.uk/our-building>

Meet our People

Edna Auld, Organist

My organ playing career started early. I lived in the country just outside Perth with two country churches nearby. Aged around 14, the organist of the two churches would frequently appear on Saturday evenings to say he didn't feel like playing on Sunday so would I play instead - which I did. I ended up becoming permanent organist, destroying a few harmoniums in the process due to the swells, operated by my knees, suddenly breaking.

I graduated to pipe organ through having lessons and becoming organist of St. Paul's Church, Perth. The Choir comprised around 20 members most of whom only read solfa which fortunately I was well versed in. Various oratorios and cantatas were performed and I was also musical director of the Mens' Group. (I have a few amusing stories of concerts relating to that group!)



I qualified as a teacher, and my first post was at St. Ninian's Episcopal School. Every week I would play the Cathedral organ for the school church service. I was appointed 'honorary wedding organist to Bishop Michael Hare Duke' and played for each of his daughters' weddings.

Another memorable wedding I played for in the Cathedral was that of the King of the Gypsies.

I decided that on moving to the Falkirk area to teach music I was not ever going to become a permanent organist. I taught music all day, was musical director of 2 operatic societies so was very happy to have no weekend commitments. I played a few times in one of the local churches as I got to know the minister. He liked it when I played as he seemed to have a running battle with the organist. Hugh appreciated that I was 'no trouble' and would play whatever hymns and tunes he chose.

On moving back to Perth I had no intention of playing the organ again. BUT there was a certain Mr John Scrimger who has been my musical inspiration. In my teens, I got to know John and ended up working with him in pantomime and musicals in Perth Theatre. I used to appear at St. Leonard's when he needed to augment the Choir. I played the organ if he was involved in a Theatre show, or not feeling up to playing.

John retired from St. Leonard's and I was asked if I would take on the post which I declined, but agreed to play until a new organist was appointed and would also be happy to deputise for that person.

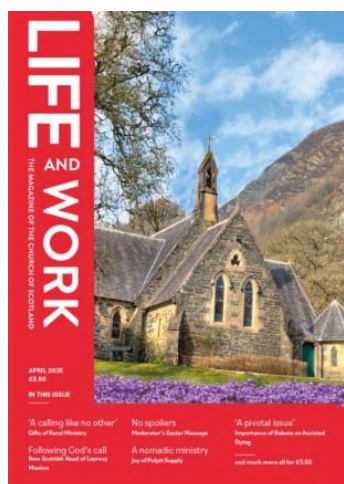
Several organists applied for the post and an excellent organist appointed. After a year he decided to move north, so again, there was a vacancy. I was asked if I would accept the post with one Sunday off each month.

That's the saga of how I became organist of St. Leonard's in the Fields.

I have a gripe ... the Rev. Alex Stewart said he'd enquire about installing a zip wire from the organ to the front of the church when I required to play the piano. Sadly that has not happened.

Edna Auld

The next edition of Life and Work for April is now available.



A Calling Like No Other - The challenges of rural mission

No Spoilers - Easter Reflection from the Moderator of the General Assembly

Following God's Call - Interview with Steven McLeish, poet, mental health and dyslexia advocate, and new Scotland Head for Leprosy Mission

'The Hills Are Alive' - The 60th anniversary of The Sound of Music

A Nomadic Ministry - The Joys of Pulpit Supply

A Day in the Life - New series focusing on chaplaincy.

Regulars

- The Rev Ruth Kennedy on digital church
- Worship column by the Rev Roddy Hamilton
- Reflection by the Rev Dr Richard Frazer
- Bible study by the Rev Richard Baxter
- My Church: Karen Mathers of Prestwick South Parish Church

From the Archive

Dundee Advertiser – Thursday 04 April 1895 **Free St Leonard's Church Annual Meeting -**

The annual meeting of the members of this church was held last night in the church hall, which was well filled. Between seven and eight o'clock tea was served. Thereafter the Rev. Dr Bannerman took the chair, and the business was proceeded with. Mr J. Lyall Bowie, solicitor, submitted the annual report of the Deacons' Court, which showed that all the organisations in connection with the congregation were in a healthy condition. During the past year £1312 19s 1d* had been collected. The report was unanimously adopted. After discussion it was agreed to ask the Session to consider as to the introduction of instrumental music, and it was suggested that they should consult the Deacons' Court and the congregation.

* £146,203 in 2025 value

Perthshire Courier – Tuesday 04 April 1905

St Leonard's U.F. Church membership has increased during the year from 606 to 662. The total income for the year amounted to £2020 15s 7d**.

** £208,157 in 2025 value

Inverness Courier - Friday 19 April 1935 **Presentations at Perth**

The proceedings at the annual meeting the Executive Committee of the Perthshire Branch of the Royal Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children were marked by an interesting presentation to the inspector, Mr George A. Mackenzie, a Ross-shire man, who has been thirty-one years in Perth and forty-two years with the Society. Mr Mackenzie was presented with a wallet of notes and a wristlet watch, the last-named gift being a token of the committee's esteem for Mrs Mackenzie. Lord Provost Hunter said that he had had a long experience of the inspector, and had found him splendid worker. For over forty years he has been engaged in work among poor and neglected children as an Inspector of the Royal Scottish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children. In 1904 he went Perth in order to further the work of the Society, and has remained there since. He has taken an active part in the social and religious life of the community, and is held in great esteem by all classes, especially the poor amongst whom he laboured. He is Session Clerk of St Leonard's-in-the-Fields, one of the leading churches in Perth.

St Leonard's in the Fields, Marshall Place, Perth PH2 8AG

St Leonard's in the Fields Contact Details		01738 ...	e-mail
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Flower Committee	Christeen Siewwright	621509	christeens9@hotmail.com
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St Leonard's in the Fields Newsletter – May

The final date for receipt of articles etc for the April edition of your Newsletter is **Thursday, 24th April**.

Please send anything you think will be of interest to the congregation to **StLeonardsPerth@gmail.com** at any time before then.

