



# St Leonard's Church Notices & Order of Service Sunday 18th July, 2021



## Welcome to St Leonard's

**A warm and friendly welcome to our worship service, which will be led by our Minister, Rev Donald Prentice.**

**If you are visiting this morning, we hope that you will feel at home and we pray that together we will enjoy God's blessing. As per current Coronavirus guidelines masks should be worn within the church premises.**

**The words of the hymns will be displayed on the large screens situated either side of the pulpit.**

**The words of the Scripture readings will also appear on the screens - unfortunately we cannot allow access to the pew Bibles at this time.**

**As you will have noted, the offering plate is available for contributions in the west transept as you enter and leave the church.**

**Due to restrictions we are still unable to enjoy fellowship over a cup of tea or coffee in the hall after the service. However, you are welcome to chat to folk outside, but please do so away from the door to ensure appropriate social distancing is maintained.**

## Upcoming Services

Next Sunday's worship service in church will be conducted by Rev John Morrison. The following Sunday (01 August) the service will be led by our Minister.

Online services continue to be available for viewing each week via You Tube or the St Leonard's Facebook page.

## Can You Help?

Around the middle of August we hope to be joined by the Sass family from South Africa - father Steven, wife Marina and children, Freddy and Karl. Steven is currently training for the ministry and will be taking some of our services and helping with some activities.

St Laurence Kirk Session has kindly offered to accommodate the family in their manse. However, due to the pandemic they have not been able to bring anything with them, other than some cases of clothes, so we are seeking your urgent help. **Do you have any bits of furniture, household furnishings or white goods (eg washing machine, fridge), surplus to requirements?** If so, please let the Minister know asap.

Please also pray for their safe journey, no Covid setbacks and a not too expensive quarantine stay in a hotel when they get here.

## Summer Music Recitals

Sadly due to the unavailability of those who may have taken part, we will not be running our popular programme of music recitals this summer.

However, we do have one recital organised for Wednesday 11 August when Roger Lander will be playing the organ..

**Visit [www.stleonardschurchforres.org](http://www.stleonardschurchforres.org)**



## Order of Service

Welcome and Call to Worship

**CH4 521:** Jesus calls us here to meet him

Prayers

**OT Reading:** Jeremiah ch.23 vs.1-6

**CH4 485:** Dear Lord and Father of mankind

**NT Reading:** Ephesians ch.2 vs.11-22

Sermon

Offering Prayer of Dedication

**CH4 363:** We have a Gospel to proclaim

Prayers of Intercession

**CH4 16:** The Lord's my shepherd

Benediction and Celtic Blessing

## Major Changes - New Opportunities

At its recent meeting the Presbytery of Moray agreed that all of the churches in the Forres area (including our own) should be transferred to the Presbytery of Inverness. This is pending the setting up of the new Presbytery Of Highlands next year, which we will then become part of (as agreed by our Kirk Session).

The change of Presbytery heralds an even bigger change, which will be determined by the end of next year. As agreed at this year's General Assembly the number of Ministers in the Church Of Scotland will be reduced to 600 by 2025 - a considerable reduction in present numbers. This has serious implications for every area of Scotland. In short many churches will be uniting with other churches and a significant number will be closing their doors altogether.

The Forres area, which also includes Burghead, Kinloss and Findhorn as well as Dyke and Edinkillie, will be entitled to 2.4 posts under the new Presbytery Mission Plan - to serve 10 existing congregations. It doesn't take a genius to work out that the sums don't quite add up! Our Kirk Session will shortly be consulted on how we view the future (as will all the other churches). A thorough inspection of all buildings will also be carried out. We will keep you updated on the outcome of these happenings.

Whilst major changes are inevitable in the relatively short term we must seek to regard these as opportunities (rather than threats) which will encourage us to spread the gospel with renewed fervour throughout our local community. We already have lots of positive things going on in our church, which will assuredly be recognised. Please continue to pray for a satisfactory outcome from the consultative process over the coming months.

### Minister

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