





St J's Diary & Notices: w/c Sunday, 09/07/2023

			
(2 nd in month) Sunday, 09/07/2023 Pentecost 6	11.00	1982 Family Eucharist (Church); Godly Play Activity Bags available; refreshments afterwards (Hall)	
	Any time*	Service online	www.stjohnsdumfries.org , *Available on website from about same time as actual event & for some days thereafter
Monday, 10/07/2023	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
	10.30-17.30	UCI Groups (Hall)	
Tuesday, 11/07/2023	18.30	1982 Eucharist (Lady Chapel)	
Wednesday, 12/07/2023	10.30	1970 Eucharist (Church), followed by refreshments (Hall)	
Thursday, 13/07/2023	19.30	Bell Practice (Tower)	Please contact bells@stjohnsdumfries.org or 07754 596140 if not a regular.
Friday, 14/07/2023	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
Saturday, 15/07/2023			
(3 rd in month) Sunday, 16/07/2023 Pentecost 7	11.00	1982 Family Eucharist (Church); Godly Play activity bags available; refreshments afterwards (Hall)	
	14.00	Forest Church	Meet outside Crichton Church, dressed for weather
	Any time*	Service online	www.stjohnsdumfries.org . *Available on website from about same time as actual event & for some days thereafter

And, as always, if you need us, you can contact

- The Rector on 01387 254126 / 07487 653069 / rector@stjohnsdumfries.org
- The Church Office on 07754 596140 / pastadmin@stjohnsdumfries.org

Please note that, due to holidays, this Diary & Notices is being prepared rather further in advance and may not be as up to date as we usually aim for. Presiding Clergy will keep you abreast of any breaking news.

Outings:

Thursday (note: not a Saturday, this time) 13/07/2023, we are planning a trip to Edinburgh. Main focus of the visit is the **Royal Botanic Garden**. Entry to this is free, though they'll be hoping for a donation. They also have mobility scooters available to borrow (again, donation invited and subject to availability), but we should book these in advance. Other possibilities, either as well or instead, might include the Royal Yacht Britannia (Entry in the region of £18), Scottish Parliament (Free), central Edinburgh (John Lewis (far from free)...). The recent Glasgow trip offered a number of options but, in the end, everyone was happy to stay in the one place (the Burrell Collection), so we'll see how people feel on the day, though the 'Tannies' are a bit more weather dependent. We'll leave a bit **earlier** this time (**09.30**), to make the most of the day. I'll book any mobility scooters nearer the time: please indicate (by putting a clear 'S' beside your name) if you'd like one. Back here about 18.30-19.00, I would think. Fare: £15; minimum 10 passengers; max 15. *David*

Should St John's be a venue for same sex marriage?

The Vestry considered the matter further at its last meeting (Tuesday, 27/06/2023) in the light of everyone's comments noted at the table top discussion the previous Sunday, and all other representations made by the Congregation, including the 'leaves' placed on the tree or in the box beside it. The Vestry then had a further few days to pray and deliberate on what had been discussed and met before the service this morning, Sunday 9th July in the Rectory at 10:15am. An independent person, John Brown, from the worshipping community at the Crichton Church, has been appointed to count the votes, and receive a postal vote from any vestry member, who was away this morning. All elected Vestry members were entitled to vote, and no casting vote was used. If the vote is even, the status quo will prevail and the matter would not be considered again for at least 3 years. If the vote is in favour of same sex marriages being conducted in the church building, the Bishop will be notified and there is a procedure which will have to be followed. The result of the vestry vote will be announced at the end of the 11.00 service this morning,

9th July. It should be repeated, perhaps, that the final decision-making process (ie that it is the Vestry, not the Congregation that votes) was prescribed by the Province, not St J's

Dates for your Diary:

- Summer Holiday Club: For children in Primaries 1-7: Themed on Disney's The Lion King: Monday, 07/08/2023 – Friday, 11/08/2023. NO CHARGE. Details: ask Rector, or see posters
- Friday, 06/10/2023: Beetle Drive
- Friday, 19/01/2024: Burns Supper
- Thursday, 14/03/2024 Pamper Session
- Saturday, 16/03/2024 Men's Breakfast

Grace on the Wireless...

You may be interested to know that the Rev Grace Siromony recently led the service on BBC Radio Scotland's *New Every Sunday*, and which is available, for a limited time, on BBC Sounds:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001n7f8>

Christian Aid Week:

Thank you very much to everyone who gave to Christian Aid Week. The total from St John's is £1199.22, and this comes from the envelopes in the church, together with envelopes delivered in Park and Glencaple which are returned to central points and a donation from the MHA residence which Tracy Temple visits. I am very grateful to Tracy and particularly to Raymond Budd and Jenny Lawson who have delivered in their areas for a good number of years. As an example, our total is enough to buy 120 2kg bags of seeds to plant pigeon peas which featured on the posters and are a hardy crop. They are not only drought resistant but also survived in the recent floods better than other crops. The peas can be used as an

important source of food and sold to help pay, for example, for school fees.

Margaret Morton