





St J's Diary & Notices: w/c Sunday, 29/10/2023

			
(5 th in month) Sunday, 29/10/2023 Pentecost 22	09.30	Matins (Church)	
	11.00	1982 Family Eucharist (Church); Godly Play Activity Bags available; refreshments afterwards (Hall)	All Souls' cards (for next week) available in church
	Any time*	Service online	www.stjohnsdumfries.org . *Available on website from about same time as actual event & for some days thereafter
Monday, 30/10/2023	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
	10.30-17.30	UCI Groups (Hall)	
	18.30-22.00	Bridge Club (Hall)	
Tuesday, 31/10/2023	18.30	1982 Eucharist (Lady Chapel)	
	19.15	Short Mat Bowling (Hall)	
Wednesday, 01/11/2023 All Saints	10.30	1970 Eucharist (Church), followed by refreshments (Hall)	
	11.30-15.00	Warm Space (Hall)	Just turn up. Volunteers also welcome.
	18.30	Choir Practice (Church)	
Thursday, 02/11/2023	14.00	Mothers' Union Eucharist (Church)	See notice below.
	19.30	Bible Study: 'Problematic' Bible passages	Zoom: ask Janice for joining details (and see details below)
	19.30	Bell Practice (Tower)	Please contact bells@stjohnsdumfries.org or 07754 596140 if not a regular.
Friday, 03/11/2023	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
Saturday, 04/11/2023	09.30	Silent Prayer@ Elshields	Contact Church Office for details.
(1 st in month) Sunday, 05/11/2023 Pentecost 23	08.00	1970 Holy Communion (Church)	
	11.00	1982 Family Eucharist (Church); Godly Play (Hall); refreshments afterwards (Hall)	
	18.00	Choral Evensong (Church)	For All Souls. Prayer Remembrance Cards will be in church from the previous Sunday.
	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

The **RETIRING COLLECTION FOR HARVEST** from a couple of weeks ago was divided 50/50 between Christian Aid's Flood Relief response in Libya, and St John's. Thanks to everyone who gave so generously, including those who contributed produce which we were able to sell. The final overall total raised was £705, of which 50% goes to Christian Aid's Libyan appeal, and 50% to St J's.

REGIONAL YOUTH CHOIR CONCERT:

Thank you to everyone who attended, and supported, the Regional Youth Choir Concert, hosting the choir from Gifhorn. It was an evening of spectacular music and performance and was much enjoyed by everyone. Thanks, in particular, also, to the St J's musicians who hosted, and facilitated, it. Approximately £560 was raised, to be divided between the Gifhorn Project and St J's.

GROUP DISCUSSION & REFLECTION

On Thursday evenings we are planning to look at some difficult Bible passages. The series began on Thursday 19th October at 7:30pm via Zoom. Just because you missed the first one doesn't mean you can't come to subsequent ones! This discussion and reflection time will run, weekly on a Thursday, from 19th October to 16th November. If you have any passages, you'd like to suggest, speak to Janice. If you would like to attend, please let Janice know for Zoom contact details. Note that some of these will run end-on with the Prayer Meetings (below), but you don't need to attend both, although you'd be welcome to do so.

PRAYER MEETING

After the summer and a lengthy break, we resume our prayer meeting via Zoom monthly on Thursdays from 6:00pm-7:00pm. The next one will be 9th November. For contact details for Zoom please contact Janice.

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- Friday, 19/01/2024: Burns Supper
- Thursday, 14/03/2024 Pamper Session
- Saturday, 16/03/2024 Men's Breakfast
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The **Sept-Nov 2023 Magazine had landed!** Please pick up your copy from the back of the church and tick your name on the list when you have done so, so you don't get duplicates. If you wish to contribute to the cost (year's sub £12 recommended), you can do so via the Church Office on Mondays and Fridays, or on Sundays after service. Distributors please note: there have been one or two small alterations to some of the lists, to take account of recipients moving house etc. Most of these you will already be aware of, but please ask the Church Office in the event of any queries. And thank you for all your efforts.

ST J'S WARM SPACE is running again, on **Wednesdays, between 11.30 and 14.30**. Volunteers, offers of soup, food etc., also welcome. Please speak to Janice.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 6th - 10th DECEMBER:

To the delight of many, the **Christmas Tree Festival** is happening in St John's this coming **December from 6th-10th inclusive**. The Christmas Tree Festival is being organised by the Dumfries Flower Club and St John's. It begins on Wednesday evening 6th December with the church in darkness except for the Christmas tree lights- a spectacular scene! The church will each evening be in darkness with only the Christmas tree lights on. However, during the day the detail, beauty and creativity of the trees can be admired more clearly. There will be approx. 70 trees, decorated by various groups in the community, and it will be a sight to behold! St John's will have ten trees, 8 of which will tell the Christmas story. The Christmas Tree Festival will close with our Carol Service for Advent on Sunday 10th December at 6pm.

The proceeds of this event, once expenses are deducted, will be divided between the Dumfries Flower Club and St John's. St John's and the Flower Club will retain 50 percent for their own funds and 50 percent will go to a charity. In the case of St John's, the charity chosen is Bethany Christian Trust.

The preparation for such an event, as you can imagine, is considerable and inevitably it will cause some disruption to various groups and services during that week, as both the church and hall will be out of action from Monday 6th to allow set up and the opening of the Christmas Tree Festival itself. The Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning Services as well as the Mothers' Union Eucharistic Service will be held in the Rectory at the normal times. So please be patient with us with these changes for this exciting venture.

To help make this a successful event we need Volunteers on the Wednesday evening, all day Saturday and on the Sunday afternoon to help with 2 tasks:

- stewarding in the church
- serving tea, coffee and mince pies as well as serving at the sales table in the Hall

Rotas are at the back of the church, do please help when you can. If you have any questions about what will be involved, please ask Carolynne Sorrell about stewarding or Catriona Appleby Strivens & Margaret Morton about the refreshments and sales table.

MU Notices

- There will be a Eucharist on Thursday 2 November, the day after All Saints, at 2pm in the Church. This will be followed by tea / coffee and cake in the Hall. Please note this Eucharist is open to all. Just turn up and you will be made most welcome.
- Christmas is coming..... And every year we seem to start getting ready earlier and earlier. However, we would like to give advance notice of our MU Christmas Lunch, which is being provided by Caterbirds. The lunch will be in the Hall on

Thursday 21st December and the congregation is warmly invited to join us. The menu is: Homemade Scotch Broth, Roast Turkey with all the Trimmings, Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce, or Sherry Trifle. The vegetarian options are leek & potato soup and Moroccan Chickpea Tagine. The cost is £28. There will be entertainment organised for the afternoon – once some people's arms have been twisted! Booking will be needed by early December. Please see Carolynne if you are interested. All welcome.

- Still on a Christmas theme, MU will be selling Christmas cards on Sunday 19th and 26th November.

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/648383>

Dear Friends

Please sign the petition to urge the Westminster government to use its influence with Israel in calling for an end to the blockade of water, food and fuel to the already impoverished Gaza Strip.

Numbers matter in lobbying the government.

Thank you for your support.

In solidarity

Jeanette (for D&G Palestine Solidarity Campaign)

Many will remember our one time Associate Rector, Steve Butler. If you'd like to go to this concert (see below), please speak to me and I'll see what we can arrange, in terms of transport. Not a minibus full, I imagine, but we might manage a car or two. Here's the link to the website:

<https://www.thequeenshall.net/whats-on/fundraising-concert-mnd-scotland-featuring-butler-family>

[View this email in your browser](#)

We'd love for you to join us at our
Fundraising Concert for MND Scotland
at the Queen's Hall, Edinburgh



Dear Friends,

We hope this message finds you well.

We're getting in touch to let you know that we're putting on a [concert in Edinburgh at the Queen's Hall on 4 February 2024](#) in aid of [MND Scotland](#). Since mum's diagnosis last year we wanted to recognise the amazing support, guidance and advice they have offered as we navigate this difficult time.

So we're doing what we do best and we're going to put on a wee concert! We would love to see you there if you're around. Tickets are on sale [via the link on the Queen's Hall website](#) and all proceeds are going to MND Scotland to help them in their mission to undertake research and provide support to those with the disease.

A big thanks to David Heavenor for his help in getting this concert off the ground.

We can't wait to see you there!

All the best,

The Butler Family