





## St J's Diary & Notices: w/c Sunday, 05/11/2023

			
(1 <sup>st</sup> 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)	Includes two Baptisms
	18.00	Choral Evensong (Church)	For All Souls'. Prayer cards have been available at the back of the church for the past week (and still are)
	Any time*	Service online	<a href="http://www.stjohnsdumfries.org">www.stjohnsdumfries.org</a> *Available on website from about same time as actual event & for some days thereafter
Monday, 06/11/2023	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
	10.30-17.30	UCI Groups (Hall)	
	18.30-22.00	Bridge Club (Hall)	
Tuesday, 07/11/2023	18.30	1982 Eucharist (Lady Chapel)	
	19.15	Short Mat Bowling (Hall)	
Wednesday, 08/11/2023	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, 09/11/2023	12.00 & 20.00	MU Prayer Space (via Zoom)	Open to all (not just MU members, not just females). See Zoom joining details below
	18.00-19.00	Prayer Meeting (Zoom)	Contact Janice (07487 653069) for Zoom joining details.
	19.30	Bible Study – 'Problematic' passages (Zoom)	
	19.30	Bell Practice (Tower)	Please contact <a href="mailto:bells@stjohnsdumfries.org">bells@stjohnsdumfries.org</a> or 07754 596140 if not a regular.
Friday, 10/11/2023	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
	18.30-20.00	Mystery Evening (Hall)	Primary age children welcome. 07487 653069 for more information.

			
Saturday, 11/11/2023	09.00-12.00	Scottish Church Organ Trust (SCOT) visit (Church)	
	09.00-16.00	St J's Choir Day (Church & Hall)	
	10.00-16.00	Vestry Awayday	Mabie House
	19.30	Music in Dumfries Concert (Church & Hall)	
(2 <sup>nd</sup> in month) Sunday, 12/11/2023 Pentecost 24 <b>Remembrance Sunday (early start!)</b>	<b>10.15</b>	1982 Family Eucharist (Church); Godly Play Activity Bags available; refreshments afterwards (Hall)	Including Act of Remembrance <b>(note earlier start time and that parking may be difficult)</b>
	18.00	Contemporary Worship (Church)	
	Any time*	Service online	<a href="http://www.stjohnsdumfries.org">www.stjohnsdumfries.org</a> *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](mailto:rector@stjohnsdumfries.org)
- The Church Office on 07754 596140  
/ [pastadmin@stjohnsdumfries.org](mailto:pastadmin@stjohnsdumfries.org)

## GROUP DISCUSSION & REFLECTION

On Thursday evenings we are looking at some 'difficult' Bible passages. The series began on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> October to 16<sup>th</sup> 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 **this week, 9<sup>th</sup> November**. For contact details for Zoom please contact Janice.

## OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- Sunday, 17/12/2023 [NEW ENTRY!] Christingle-Themed B&S lunch; Secret Santa (details to follow) etc., after service.
- Friday, 19/01/2024: Burns Supper
- Thursday, 14/03/2024 Pamper Session
- Saturday, 16/03/2024 Men's Breakfast

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:**

- 12-19 November is Inter Faith Week. Rev Andrew MacKenzie is the speaker at our monthly MU meeting on Thursday 16th November reflecting on **Inter Faith – Why Bother?** We will gather in the Hall from 12.30, with prayers at 12.45 and lunch at 1pm. Please bring a sandwich lunch, and soup, tea / coffee and cake will be provided. As an inclusive organisation, MU members look forward to welcoming you!
- MU Global Day of Action – each year MU globally has a **16 Days of Activism** Campaign, focussing on the 1 in 3 women worldwide who experience domestic abuse. Did you know that 108 women were the victims of domestic homicide in the UK in 2022? This year, RISE UP Against Domestic Abuse has been launched by MU throughout Britain and Ireland, so the challenge is to be active 365 days a year against domestic abuse.
- The Global Day of Action is on **Saturday 25th November**, and St John's MU is holding a Vigil, to mark the **16 Days of Activism**, in the Church from 9 am – 5 pm, with a candle being lit after each 30-minute session, making 16 candles in all by the end of the Vigil, one for each day of Activism. The Congregation is warmly invited to attend for any 30 - minute period. Resources for prayer and reflection will be provided, but essentially this will be a day of silence.
- Linked to this, the **MU Prayer Space** theme this month is **Gender Justice**. It is open to all and takes place on 9 November at 12 noon and 8 pm, by Zoom. You can join the Zoom meeting using this link:
  - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81199836403?pwd=WmlPQl dOWndPQlptL2JHZmh2RzEwdz09>
  - Meeting ID: 811 9983 6403
  - Passcode: 941659
  - Or you can dial in by phone: +44 131 460 1196
- Lastly, two Christmas - themed notices:
  - **MU's Christmas Lunch** will take place on Thursday 21st December at 12.30 in the Church Hall. The cost for a 3 - course meal is £28 per head. An afternoon's entertainment will follow. Everyone is invited. For more information, or to book, please see Carolynne, Mary or Lizanne.
  - **MU Christmas Cards** will be on sale in the Hall after the services on 19 and 26 November.



## **Quartz tell us...**

- The Tabernacles trip was a success! The rain bucketed down while we were traveling and held off (mostly) while we were outside. The views were magnificent and the Isle of Man was always kind of where we knew it would be, but just a little out of sight except for glimpses when the mists cleared. There is more on the review post
- CLC: This is the Quartz house group, we meet every second Monday at 7.30. [More info is on the website.](#) . Please get in touch if you would like dates and directions.
- Forest Church:
  - We will continue to meet at the Crichton of the 3rd Sunday in the Month, so the 19th of November this month.
  - The next seasonal forest church will be around Epiphany and feature star gazing. Please get in touch with your ideas.
  - As well as developing Forest Church, Quartz members also contribute to the contemporary service in the evening at St John's. This takes place on the 2nd and 4th Sundays in the month. We also create whole building installations, and work out "Time for Reflection" activities in schools. Please get in touch for more details. ([www.wordsmithcrafts.co.uk](http://www.wordsmithcrafts.co.uk) or via the St J's website)