





## St J's Diary & Notices: w/c Sunday, 19/11/2023

			
(3 <sup>rd</sup> in month) Sunday, 19/11/2023 Pentecost 25	11.00	1982 Family Eucharist (Church); Godly Play (Hall); refreshments afterwards (Hall)	Methodist Rite being used today.
	14.00	Forest Church	Meet outside Crichton Church, dressed for weather
	18.00	Sung Evensong (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
Monday, 20/11/2023	10.00-17.00	<del>Church Office open</del>	Closed today
	10.30-17.30	UCI Groups (Hall)	
	18.30-22.00	Bridge Club (Hall)	
Tuesday, 21/11/2023	18.30	1982 Eucharist (Lady Chapel)	
	19.15	Short Mat Bowling (Hall)	
Wednesday, 22/11/2023	10.30	1970 Eucharist (Church), followed by refreshments (Hall)	
	11.30-14.30	Warm Space (Hall)	Just turn up. Volunteers also welcome.
	18.30	Choir Practice (Hall)	
Thursday, 23/11/2023	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, 24/11/2023	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
	19.30	St J's Quiz Night	
Saturday, 25/11/2023			
(4 <sup>th</sup> in month) Sunday, 26/11/2023 Christ the King Sunday	09.15	Sunday Worship: Crichton Memorial Church	Crichton Campus, Dumfries DG1 4ZZ
	09.30	Holy Communion @ Maxwellton Chapel	Just off B729 between Wallaceton & Moniaive. DG3 4DX
	11.00	1982 Family Eucharist (Church); Godly Play Activity Bags available; refreshments afterwards (Hall)	
	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
- The Church Office on 07754 596140  
/ pastadmin@stjohnsdumfries.org

## **PRAYER MEETING**

Our prayer meetings via Zoom will continue monthly on Thursdays from 6:00pm-7:00pm. The next one will be on 11<sup>th</sup> January (please note no meeting in December as it clashes with Christmas Tree Festival ) For contact details for Zoom please contact Janice.

## **PRE-CHRISTMAS KITCHEN CLEAR-OUT**

Will be happening **soon**. If there is anything of yours in the kitchen (including food in fridge or freezer), please **reclaim** it as soon as possible, for fear it might be disposed of. Any queries, please speak to Catriona Appleby-Strivens or the Church Office.

We are planning to run a trip to the **Christmas Markets in Glasgow** on Saturday, 16 December, departing St J's 09.30 and arriving back approximately 18.30. Cost of bus (assuming a minimum of 10 passengers): £12. Any queries: 07754 596140  
/ pastadmin@stjohnsdumfries.org Sign up sheet at the back of the church.

On the subject of trips, but a very long way ahead, see the *Guardian* article about the **Knitted Bible** at the back of the church. The nearest point to us, as it travels round the country, will be at a church in South Cumbria during the month of September, 2024. Provisionally, we might try to go on **Saturday, 07/09/2024**: keep the date!

## OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- Sunday, 17/12/2023 [NEW-ISH 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

**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

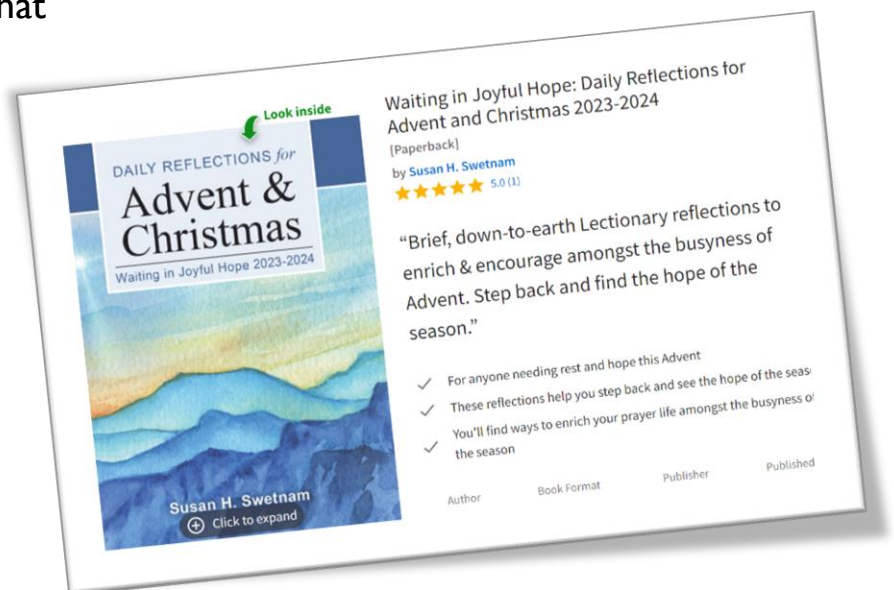
during that week, as both the church and hall will be out of action from Monday 6th to allow set up and the opening of the Christmas Tree Festival itself. The Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning Services as well as the Mothers' Union Eucharistic Service will be held in the Rectory at the normal times. 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:

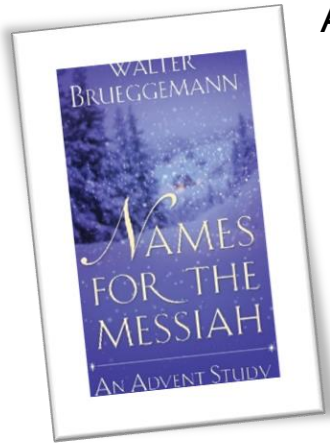
- stewarding in the church
- serving tea, coffee and mince pies as well as serving at the sales table in the Hall

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.

**Advent Groups** coming soon! One of them will be following this book (see *Hope*. Currently in stock at Eden.co.uk, and no doubt other retailers, too. This group will meet on **Tuesdays**, at 19.30, via Zoom.



above) *Waiting in Joyful*



Another group will be exploring Walter Brueggemann's book "*Names for the Messiah*" based on the names for Jesus in Isaiah "Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." This group will meet on **Thursdays** via Zoom at 19.30

### **MU Notices:**

- **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 and this will be a day of silence.
- **MU Christmas Cards** will be on sale in the hall after the service today and next Sunday.
- **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 Lizanne or any MU member.
- The Congregation is asked for help again this year in providing **Christmas treats** for the women and children that **Women's Aid** is working with. Also, **Bethany Trust**, which works with the homeless and which MU also supports, has asked if the Congregation could make **donations towards Christmas gifts** for their clients. They are looking for: hats, scarves, gloves, shower gel, toothpaste, hand wash, hand cream, shaving foam, and, always

acceptable, milk chocolate. Items for these 2 causes can be left at the back of the Hall. Many thanks to everyone for their generosity, which we know will be forthcoming

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

- 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)
- Open Doors: Will music open doors? The Melody singers are a group of young people from the Nineveh Plain who have discovered joy and purpose through making music and sharing the gospel – and now they're helping other young people to do the same. "I want to keep on presenting music that surpasses the noise of war and destruction, wanting to deliver..."
- Collective punishment... can never address the root causes of this violence. If, like many people, you find it difficult to know what to pray when you think about the conflict going on perhaps these resources drawn together by the Quakers will help. If you are not troubled, perhaps they will help you ask questions.  
<https://www.quaker.org.uk/blog/5-solidarity-actions-you-can-take-for-palestine-and-israel-oct-2023> We condemn the targeting of ..."
- There is a lot going on just south of the border. This [map](#)\* shows where fresh expressions activity is happening in Cumbria View the map on the Northern (England) mission centre website
- \* Read more about any of these things on the Quartz website, or on the Quartz page on the St J's website.

See posters (not available at time of printing this) for the **Carol Singing in the Loreburne Centre** once again this year. It will be from 11am to 12noon on **Saturday 2nd December**.

- Michael O'Hagan, the centre manager is excited to be welcoming us again and will have tea and mince pies after, for all the singers! He's kindly offered to play the keyboard for us as well.
- Please muster as many singers as you can, from your congregation.
- Many thanks to Jean Lamb, from Dumfries Baptist Church, for arranging this.

**MOOL COLLECTION FOR REFUGEES:** I'll be helping to transport stuff from Thornhill to Dfs on the Sunday afternoon. If you have anything you'd like to donate, please hand it to me either on the Sunday, after the service, or on the preceding Friday, to the Church Office. *David*

