









## St J's Diary & Notices: w/c Sunday, 26/11/2023

			
(4th in month) Sunday, 26/11/2023	09.15	Sunday Worship: Crichton Memorial Church	Crichton Campus, Dumfries DG1 4ZZ
	09.30	Holy Communion @ Maxwelton 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
Monday, 27/11/2023	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
	10.30-17.30	UCI Groups (Hall)	
	18.30-22.00	Bridge Club (Hall)	
Tuesday, 28/11/2023	18.30	1982 Eucharist (Lady Chapel)	
	19.15	Short Mat Bowling (Hall)	
Wednesday, 29/11/2023	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, 30/11/2023	18.30	1982 Liturgy (Church)	St Andrew
	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, 01/12/2023	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
Saturday, 02/12/2023	09.30	Silent Prayer @ Elshieshields	Contact Church Office: 07754 596140 / <a href="mailto:pastadmin@stjohnsdumfries.org">pastadmin@stjohnsdumfries.org</a> for details.

			
Sunday, 03/12/2023 Advent I	8.00am	1970 Holy Communion (Church)	
	11.00	1982 Family Eucharist (Church); Godly Play (Hall); refreshments afterwards (Hall)	
	<del>18.00</del>	<del>Choral Evensong (Church)</del> (none this week)	Carols for Advent will be on 10 <sup>th</sup> December
	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)

## 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.

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](mailto: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                      Bring and Share Lunch - Christkindl  
see notice below
- 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.

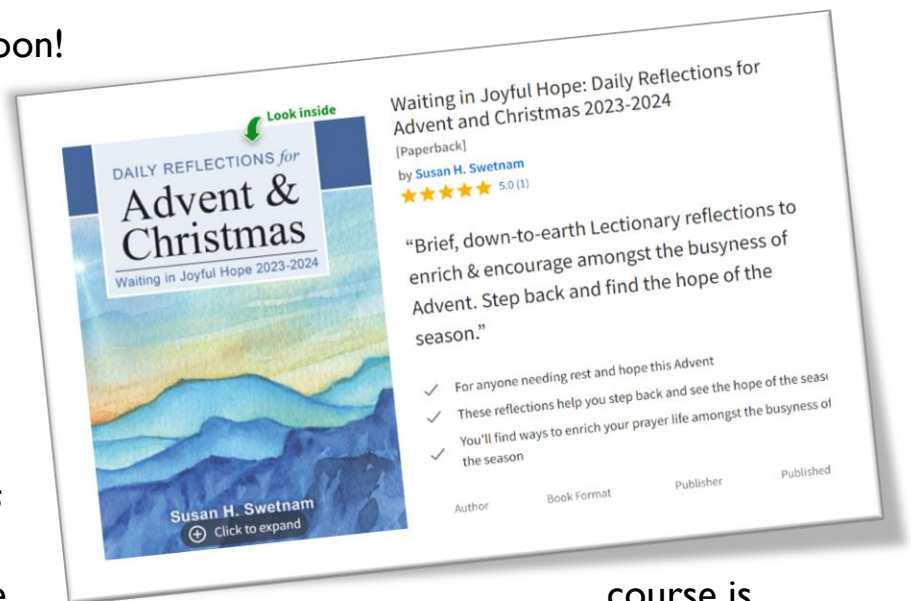
To help make this a successful event we need Volunteers on the Wednesday evening, all day Saturday and on the Sunday afternoon to help with 2 tasks:

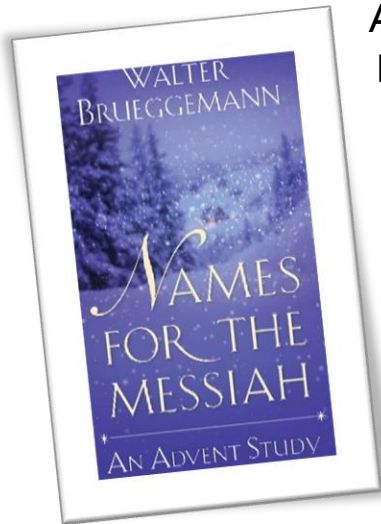
- stewarding in the church
- serving tea, coffee and mince pies as well as serving at the sales table in the Hall

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 above) *Waiting in Joyful 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, on 05/12, 12/12 (*this one subject to negotiation...*), 19/12, 02/01 and 09/01: the course is designed to last to Epiphany. Contact David Kerr (07754 596140 / [pastadmin@stjohnsdumfries.org](mailto:pastadmin@stjohnsdumfries.org)) for joining details.





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. Contact Janice (07487 653069 / [rector@stjohnsdumfries.org](mailto:rector@stjohnsdumfries.org)) for joining details.

## **MU Notices:**

**MU Christmas Cards** will be on sale in the Hall after the service today.

Going, going, gone ..... **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. Bookings will be needed by Thursday 7th December.

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.

As the Christmas Tree Festival is taking place, there will **not be a December MU Eucharist**. Instead, on **Thursday 7 December**, we will meet in the Choir Vestry / Green Room (behind the stage) at 2pm for a Methodist Agapé or Love Feast. An Agapé is not a sacrament, like the Eucharist, but rather it is like an extended grace. We will celebrate the fellowship we have enjoyed over the years, and hope to continue

enjoying in the future. Tea / coffee and cake will follow. As ever, all are invited to attend. Just turn up and you will be made most welcome.

## **CHRISTMAS BRING AND SHARE LUNCH**

December 17th is our **Christkindl** (Secret Santa) Bring and Share Lunch. After our lunch together we will (like last year) have a couple of short fun activities and then share our Secret Santa gifts with one another. Could you please bring with you some delicious food for sharing and also a gift that is no more than £10 to be in the Secret Santa. It is best if the gift can be unisex (ie. either for a man or a woman)- as it makes life easier! We hope to conclude our time with some Christmas Songs and Carols.

## **CAROL SINGING**

*Dumfries Christian Network* says... See posters 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.



