

St J's Diary & Notices: w/c Sunday, 03/12/2023

			
(1 st in month) Sunday, 03/12/2023 Advent I	08.00	1970 Holy Communion (Church)	
	11.00	1982 Family Eucharist (Church); Godly Play (Hall); refreshments afterwards (Hall)	
	18.00	Choral Evensong (Church)	Only on 10 th Dec this month
	Any time*	Service online	www.stjohnsdumfries.org *Available on website from about same time as actual event & for some days thereafter
Monday, 04/12/2023	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
	10.30-17.30	UCI Groups (Hall)	None this week (to accommodate Xmas Tree Festival)
	18.30-22.00	Bridge Club (Hall)	
Tuesday, 05/12/2023	18.30	1982 Eucharist (Green Room)	Note change of venue (to accommodate Xmas Tree Festival)
	19.15	Short Mat Bowling (Sep-Mar) (Hall)	None this week (Xmas Tree Festival): next Tuesday's will be the last one till after Christmas
	19.30	Advent Group: <i>Waiting in Joyful Hope</i>	07754 596140 / pastadmin@stjohnsdumfries.org for joining details. (Details of book below)
CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL BEGINS...see posters			
Wednesday, 06/12/2023	10.30	1970 Eucharist (Rectory), followed by refreshments (Hall)	Note change of venue
	11.30-15.00	Warm Space (Hall)	None this week (Xmas Tree Festival)
	18.30	Choir Practice (Choir/ Green Room)	Note change of venue.
Thursday, 07/12/2023	14.00	Mothers' Union Eucharist Agapé meal (Choir/ Green Room)	Note change of venue and information in notice below
	19.30	Advent Group: <i>Names for the Messiah</i>	07487 653069 / rector@stjohnsdumfries.org for joining details. (Details of book below)
	19.30	Bell Practice (Tower)	Please contact bells@stjohnsdumfries.org or 07754 596140 if not a regular.
Friday, 08/12/2023	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
Saturday, 09/12/2023			

(2 nd in month) Sunday, 10/12/2023 Advent 2	11.00	1982 Family Eucharist (Church); Godly Play Activity Bags available; refreshments afterwards (Hall)	
	CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL ENDS WITH...		
	18.00	Advent Carol Service (Church)	
	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

PRAYER MEETING

Our prayer meetings via Zoom will continue monthly on Thursdays from 6:00pm-7:00pm. The next one will be on **11th 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 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 as usual on **Wednesdays, between 11.30 and 14.30**. Volunteers are also welcome. Please speak to Janice.

Not this week (Christmas Tree Festival)

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 6th -10th DECEMBER:

To the delight of many, the **Christmas Tree Festival** is happening in St John's this coming week from **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 Service is in Choir/Green Room and the Wednesday Morning Service is in the Rectory. The Mothers' Union's Methodist Agape Service will be held in the Choir/ Green Room at the normal time. So please be patient with us with these changes for this exciting venture.

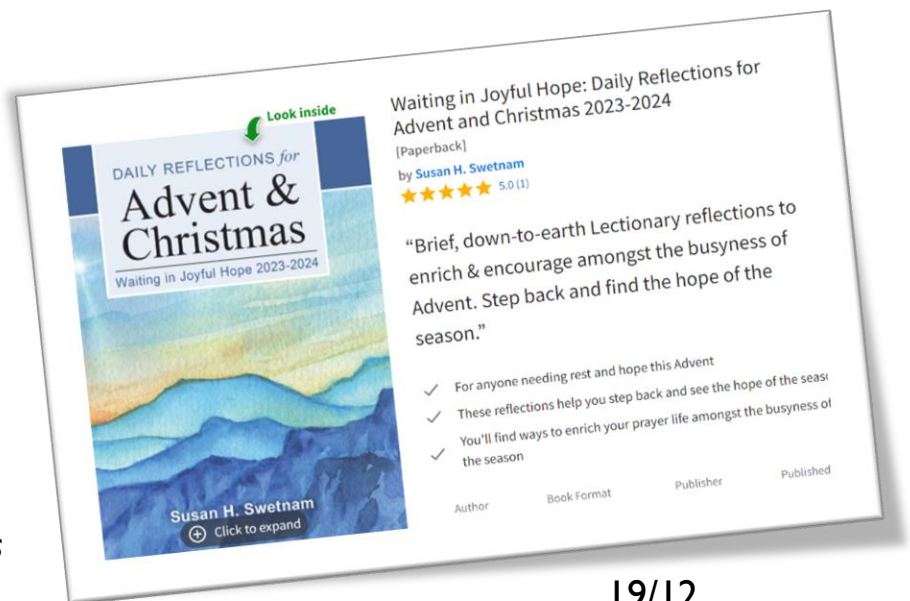
To help make this a successful event we need Volunteers on the Wednesday evening, all day Saturday and on the Sunday afternoon to help with 2 tasks:

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

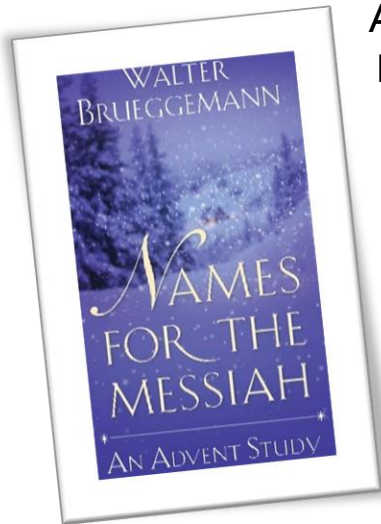
Rotas are at the back of the church, do please help when you can. If you have any questions about what will be involved, please ask Carolynne Sorrell about stewarding or Catriona Appleby Strivens & Margaret Morton about the refreshments and sales table.

Advent Groups

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...*), 02/01 and 09/01: the course is designed to last to Epiphany. Contact David Kerr (07754 596140 / pastadmin@stjohnsdumfries.org) for joining details.



19/12,



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) for joining details.

Alison Wright says...

Dear Christian Aid Contacts,

I would like to invite you and your congregations to Troqueer Church's Pray Together evening service on Sunday 3rd December at 6:30pm in the Church centre (which is next to the church) Included in the service will be material from Christian Aid and *Embrace The Middle East's* Vigil material as well as the chance to pray for people and situations closer to home. I will be leading the service so do ask if any questions.

MU Notices

- Going, going , goneMU'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 or Mary 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. 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 (bread and water!). 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. We will then write around 200 Christmas Cards, as we do each year, for the prisoners in HMP Dumfries. As ever, all are invited to attend. Just turn up and you will be made most welcome.
- The MU Diocesan Prayer Space will take place on December 14th at 12 noon and at 8 pm. The theme for this month is God with us. The details for joining are below. All are welcome.
 - Join Zoom
Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81199836403?pwd=WmIPQldOWndPQlptL2JHZmh2RzEwdz09>
 - Meeting ID: 811 9983 6403
 - Passcode: 941659
 - Or dial in by phone: 0131 460 1196

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.

Andy Brooke has some new work in two exhibitions at Gracefield Art Exhibition

- **Haneen** is an exhibition of work by Scottish Palestinian artist Leena Nemarri on the theme of loss and longing, with 12 local artists responding to the theme in their own way. 18 Nov - 3 Feb.

- **South West Scotland Printmakers'** annual winter show has work by over 50 local artists plus guest artists from Fife, Dunfermline Printmakers. 18 Nov - 22 Dec.
- Both exhibitions are full of beautiful and thought-provoking work, mostly for sale, and well worth a visit. And the cafe serves excellent coffee!



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