









## St J's Diary & Notices: w/c Sunday, 10/12/2023

			
<b>FINAL DAY OF CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL: ENDS 16.00 TODAY</b>			
(2 <sup>nd</sup> in month) Sunday, 10/12/2023 Advent 2	11.00	1982 Family Eucharist (Church); Godly Play Activity Bags available; refreshments afterwards (Hall)	
	18.00	Carols for Advent Service	
	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, 11/12/2023	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
	10.30-17.30	UCI Groups (Hall)	
	18.30-22.00	Bridge Club (Hall)	
Tuesday, 12/12/2023	18.30	1982 Eucharist (Lady Chapel)	
	19.15	Short Mat Bowling (Hall)	Last one before Christmas: resumes Tuesday, 09/01/2024
Wednesday, 13/12/2023	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, 14/12/2023	12.00 & 20.00	MU Prayer Space (via Zoom)	Open to all (not just MU members, not just females). See below for Zoom joining details.
	19.30	<i>Waiting in Joyful Hope</i> Advent Group for this week postponed...alternative date being sought	07754 596140 / <a href="mailto:pastadmin@stjohnsdumfries.org">pastadmin@stjohnsdumfries.org</a> if you'd like to join
	19.30	Advent Group: <i>Names for the Messiah</i>	07487 653069 / <a href="mailto:rector@stjohnsdumfries.org">rector@stjohnsdumfries.org</a> for joining details. (Details of book below)
	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, 15/12/2023	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
	15.00	Dumfries Choral setting up (Church)	
	18.00	Mystery Evening (Hall)	
Saturday, 16/12/2023	12.00	Dumfries Choral rehearsals etc (Church)	
	19.30	Dumfries Choral Christmas Concert (Church & Hall)	<a href="https://www.dumfrieschoralsociety.co.uk/christmas-concert-2023/">https://www.dumfrieschoralsociety.co.uk/christmas-concert-2023/</a>
(3 <sup>rd</sup> in month) Sunday, 17/12/2023 Advent 3	11.00	1982 Family Eucharist (Church); Godly Play (Hall); refreshments afterwards (Hall)	Christkindl Bring & Share lunch & Secret Santa in Hall afterwards. Please feel welcome to stay, even if you weren't expecting this! See notice below.
	14.00	Forest Church	Meet outside Crichton Church, dressed for weather
	<del>18.00</del>	<del>Sung Evensong (Church)</del>	No services tonight
	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 clashed 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:**

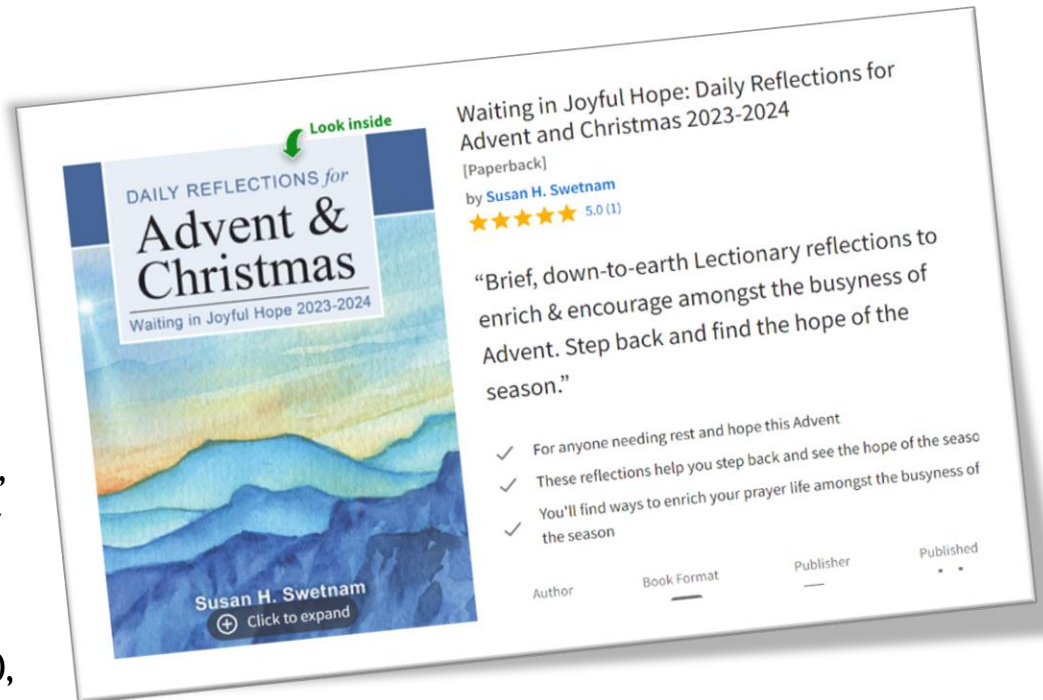
Final day today for you to enjoy the approx. 70 trees, decorated by various groups in the community; a sight to behold! St John's has ten trees, 8 of which tell the Christmas story. The Christmas Tree Festival will close **this evening** with our **Carol Service for Advent at 6pm**.

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.

**Thank you** to everyone involved, in any way, with this...and there have been lots of you, doing lots of things. More next time.

## Advent Groups

One of them is following this book (see above) *Waiting in Joyful Hope*. Currently in stock at [Eden.co.uk](http://Eden.co.uk), and no doubt other retailers, too. This group meets on **Tuesdays**, at 19.30, via Zoom, on 05/12, **Press: postponed; alternative date being sought**...



14/12 (this one is a **Thursday [Stop 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 is 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 meets on **Thursdays** via Zoom at 19.30.

Contact Janice (07487 653069 /

[rector@stjohnsdumfries.org](mailto:rector@stjohnsdumfries.org)) for joining details.

## MU Notices

- 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=WmlPQl dOWndPQlptL2JHZmh2RzEwdz09>
- Meeting ID: 811 9983 6403
- Passcode: 941659
- Or dial in by phone: 0131 460 1196
- MU Christmas Lunch – those who have booked, please gather at 12 for 12.30 in the Hall on Thursday 21st December.

## 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:** Thank you to all who contributed items to this. The organisers (and obviously those to whom the goods are passed on) are most appreciative. *David*

**Quartz say...**

*'All things are lawful', but not all things are beneficial. 'All things are lawful', but not all things build up. (1 Corinthians 10:23)*

*There is a shift in thinking from living bound by law to one where faith provides your rule.*

*Those who have been brought up Christian often feel frustration as Christmas approaches and the streets fill up with tinsel, and advertisers ramp up the pressure to consume – all with the branding of Christendom.*

*How should a follower of the way respond?*

*Everything is permissible. Laugh in the market place with those who love joy, weep with those who mourn. We are free from the need to moralise or preserve the worthless religious practices\* of even our recent ancestors. But we must prayerfully consider what choices are most beneficial... Read on about this, and more besides, on the Quartz page of the St J's website, or at [www.wordsmithcrafts.co.uk/Quartz/](http://www.wordsmithcrafts.co.uk/Quartz/)*



# Christmas Services

## Christingle

in St John's Church,  
Christmas Eve at 4pm

## Festival of Carols

in the Crichton Memorial Church, Dumfries,  
Christmas Eve at 6.30pm  
sung by the choir of St John's

## Midnight Service

in St John's Church  
Christmas Eve at 11.30pm  
sung by the choir of St John's

## Family Service

in St John's Church  
Christmas Day at 11am  
sung by the choir  
of St John's

St John's  
Dumfries



All very welcome

John the Evangelist Newall Terrace, Dumfries DG1 1LW

[enquiries@stjohnsdumfries.org](mailto:enquiries@stjohnsdumfries.org)

## SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Newall Terrace/Lovers' Walk, Dumfries DG1 1LW

### Christmas 2023

#### Sunday, 24/12/2023 (Christmas Eve)

- 🌲 09.15: Sunday Worship: Crichton Memorial Church
- 🌲 09.30: Holy Communion @ Maxwellton Chapel
- 🌲 11.00: 1982 Family Eucharist (St John's)
- 🌲 16.00: Christingle Service (St John's)
- 🌲 18.30: Festival of Carols (Crichton Memorial Church)
- 🌲 23.30: Midnight Eucharist of the Nativity (St John's)

#### Monday, 25/12/2023 (Christmas Day)

- 🌲 11.00: Christmas Morning Family Eucharist (St John's)

#### Tuesday, 26/12/2023 (St Stephen, Martyr)

- 🌲 10.30: Eucharist (St John's. The Church will be open for this service only)

#### Wednesday, 27/12/2023 (St John, Evangelist)

- 🌲 10.30: Eucharist (St John's. The Church will be open for this service only)

#### Thursday, 28/12/2023 (Holy Innocents)

- 🌲 18.30: Eucharist (St John's. The Church will be open for this service only)

#### Sunday, 31/12/2023 (1<sup>st</sup> after Christmas)

- 🌲 11.00 : 1982 Family Eucharist ('as normal')
- 🌲 No Evening Service

**WISHING YOU ALL A BLESSED CHRISTMAS**

For more information about St John's, please visit our website:

[www.stjohnsdumfries.org](http://www.stjohnsdumfries.org)

