
(3 <sup>rd</sup> in month) Sunday, 17/12/2023 Advent 3	11.00	1982 Family Eucharist (Church); Godly Play (Hall); refreshments afterwards (Hall)	
	14.00	Forest Church	Meet outside Crichton Church, dressed for weather
	<del>18.00</del>	<del>Sung Evensong (Church)</del>	None today
	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, 18/12/2023	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
	10.30-17.30	UCI Groups (Hall)	
	18.30-22.00	Bridge Club (Hall)	
Tuesday, 19/12/2023	18.30	1982 Eucharist (Lady Chapel)	
	<del>19.15</del>	<del>Short Mat Bowling (Sep-Mar) (Hall)</del>	Resumes Tuesday, 09/01/2024
	19.30	Waiting in Joyful Hope Advent Group	07754 596140 / <a href="mailto:pastadmin@stjohnsdumfries.org">pastadmin@stjohnsdumfries.org</a> if you'd like to join
Wednesday, 20/12/2023	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, 21/12/2023	12.00 for 12.30	Mothers' Union Christmas Lunch (Hall)	You must, please, have pre-booked.
	18.30	1982 Eucharist (Church)	St Thomas the Apostle
	19.30	Advent Group: <i>Names for the Messiah</i>	Via Zoom. 07487 653069 / <a href="mailto:rector@stjohnsdumfries.org">rector@stjohnsdumfries.org</a> for joining details.
	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, 22/12/2023	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
Saturday, 23/12/2023	10:00am	Christingle making in the hall & flower arranging in the church	
(4th in month) Sunday, 24/12/2023 Christmas Eve	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)	
	16.00	Christingle Service (Church)	
	18.30	Festival of Carols (Crichton Memorial Church)	Crichton Campus, Dumfries DG1 4ZZ
	23.30	Midnight Service (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)

## 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.

Sorry the trip to the **Christmas Market in Glasgow** didn't run: we needed a minimum of 10 people to make the bus viable. Watch this space for other trips in the New Year (and suggestions also welcome)  
*David*

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:**

- 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 still running, 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:**

Thank you to everyone involved, in any way, with the Christmas Tree Festival: so many people from St John's, from other churches, and other organisations and individuals in the community, contributed such a lot to make it such a success. At the moment it looks as if approximately 1500 people came through the doors, but we'll bring you final figures when we have them.

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.

## **CHRISTINGLE MAKING**

We are planning to make Christingles (for our service at 4pm on Christmas Eve) on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December in the church hall at 10:00 am ... all help most welcome.

## **MU NOTICES**

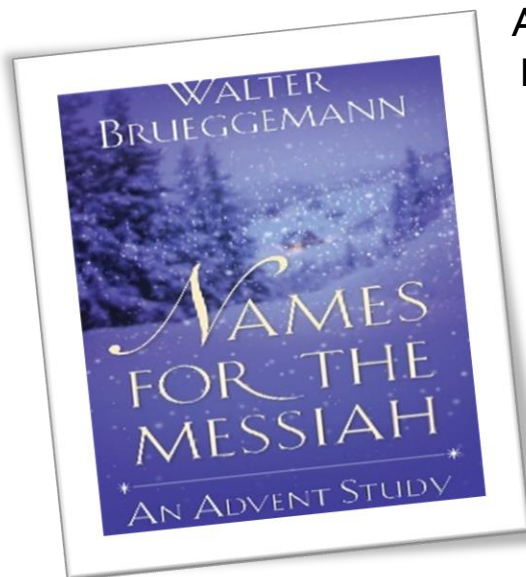
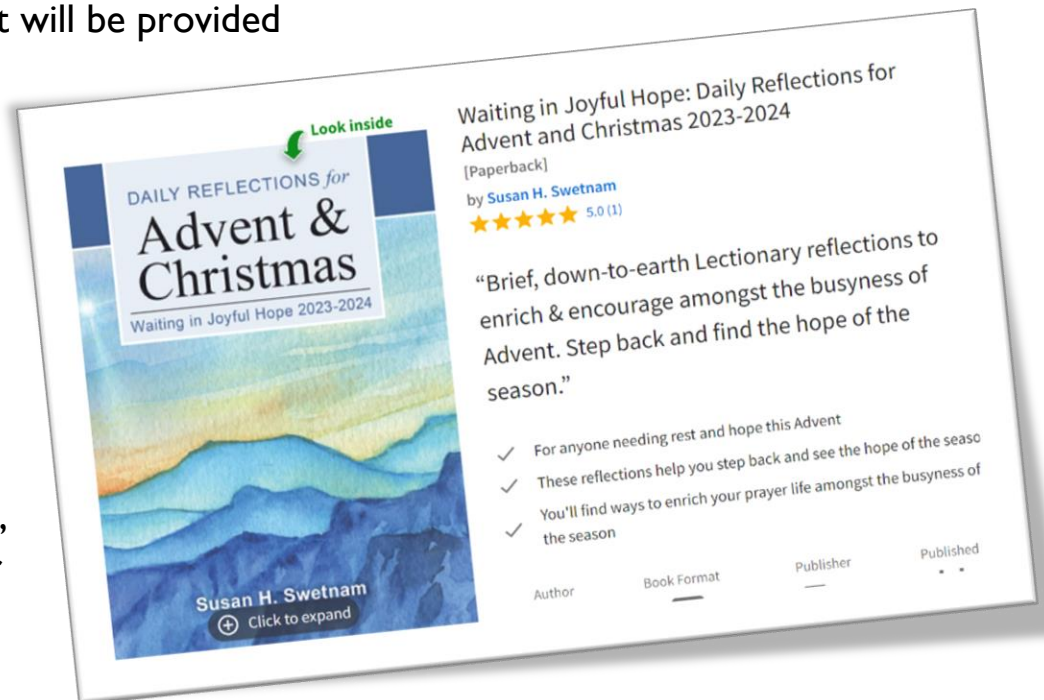
- Christmas gifts have now been distributed to Women's Aid and The Bethany Trust. Many thanks from MU to those who contributed to a substantial donation of goodies and useful items.

- At our last meeting, after the Agapé, MU members and friends set about writing 200 Christmas cards for the prisoners at HMP Dumfries.
- Our final get-together of 2023 will be our Christmas lunch on Thursday 21st December. Those who have booked, please arrive at the Hall at 12 noon, ready for a 12.30 start. BYOB! An afternoon's entertainment will be provided

## 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 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 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.

## CHRISTMAS BRING AND SHARE LUNCH

Today, Sunday, 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. Please feel free to join us at this, even if you weren't expecting it! 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!

### **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/)*

*Angels on the High Street:*

Drop in and say hi to Terri and the rest and have a look at the angel display.

*Forest Church 2pm today, Sunday , 17/12/2023:*

Meet outside the Crichton. There is also a *Christmas bring and share lunch* after the 11 O'clock service in St John's. So please drop in to that service if you haven't been for a while (or at all). The lunch will conclude with some Christmas Songs and Carols. More details on the [pew notes](#). We will head up the Crichton after that, so meet you there if not before. To give more time to share refreshment with each other we will go to Simon and Kate's instead of the café after Forest church, as a final gathering opportunity for everyone before the Feast of Christmas really gets going. It will be somewhere between afternoon tea and a party, bring treats to share if you are able.

For *other activities happening over Christmas* have a look on the [St John's website](#) and the [Dumfries Christian Network](#)

*The Christmas Tree Festival:*

The technology worked, the messages in the decorations were appreciated and many people have commented about how much they appreciated the tree. There have also been enquiries about Forest Church. So thank you for all your hard work!



# 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)

