





## St J's Diary & Notices: w/c Sunday, 21/01/2024

			
(3 <sup>rd</sup> in month) Sunday, 21/01/2024 Epiphany 3	11.00	1982 Family Eucharist (Church); Godly Play (Hall); refreshments afterwards (Hall)	
	14.00	Forest Church	Meet outside Crichton Church, dressed for weather
	18.00	Choral 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, 22/01/2024	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
	10.30-17.30	UCI Groups (Hall)	
	18.30-22.00	Bridge Club (Hall)	
Tuesday, 23/01/2024	18.30	1982 Eucharist (Lady Chapel)	
	19.15	Short Mat Bowling (Hall)	Just turn up
Wednesday, 24/01/2024	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 25/01/24	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, 26/01/2024	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
	19.30	St J's Quiz Night	Just turn up; all welcome.
Saturday, 27/01/2024			
(4 <sup>th</sup> in month) Sunday, 28/01/2024 Epiphany 4	09.15	Sunday Worship: Crichton Memorial Church	Crichton Campus, Dumfries DG1 4ZZ
	09.30	Holy Communion @ Maxwellton Chapel	Just off B729 between Wallaceon & 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 continue monthly on Thursdays from 6:30pm-7:30pm. The next one will be on **8<sup>th</sup> February**. For contact details for Zoom please contact Janice.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

- Thursday, 14/03/2024 Pamper Session
- Saturday, 16/03/2024 Men's Breakfast

*Ann Shukman writes...*

Dear Everyone,

The New Year is upon us and with it the restart of our programme here at Elshieshields.

**Silent Prayer** is monthly on Saturdays, from 9.30 to 10.30. It will be lovely to see those of you who can make it. It is a chance to gather together round the fire, to be strengthened by our friendship and to find peace and refreshment in the spirit of Our Lord. Love and blessings,

Ann

### **Programme for beginning of 2024**

- 3rd February: Quiet Morning with Candlemas Theme (see poster below)
- 2nd March: Silent Prayer
- 6th April: Silent Prayer

- 4th May: Quiet Morning

The silent Prayer sessions are from 9:30am-10:30am. We gather in the Barn at 9:30am for tea/coffee. After a short 'thought for the moment' we sit round the wood burning stove in shared silence for 20 minutes. Afterwards, stay for another coffee, or stroll through the woods or simply depart.

Enquiries etc to Ann Shukman on 07884 256913  
or [ann.shukman@gmail.com](mailto:ann.shukman@gmail.com)

## **CHRISTMAS DONATIONS/FUNDRAISING:**

Thanks to a lot of generosity from a lot of people, we can report the following amounts raised to support the following causes over the Christmas period:

- Aberlour: £778.15
- First Base: £153.83
- Christian Aid: £265.27
- Christmas Flowers £106.00

St J's share of profits from the **Christmas Tree Festival** amounted to £3,370, of which £1685 comes to St John's, and £1685 will go, as agreed, to **Bethany Christian Trust** in Dumfries.

Once again, thank you so much to everyone who supported these causes in any way. A truly wonderful effort.

**Forest Church: 2pm Sunday the 21st of January:**

Meet outside the Crichton to practise #SensingSpirituality outdoors.  
Dress for the weather!

Before you know where you are it's fast approaching Lent and so.....**Lent Lunches.**

The Christian Aid Committee is grateful to St John's for continuing to host the Lent Lunches--an institution in Dumfries and a major fund raiser for us. As Easter is at the end of March the Lunches will start on the 16th February and be held each Friday until the 22nd March. The format

doesn't change. The lunches are held between 12 noon and 1.30pm and for a minimum donation of £3.50 (adults) or £2 (children) you can have a bowl of homemade soup with a cheese or plain roll and tea or coffee to follow. There will be cake to buy at 50p a slice to go with your drink; a sales table with home baking and other temptations and a quiz to keep you occupied during Lent.

### **St John's is providing the soup and rolls on the 16th February.**

**Can you help?** We need soup makers, roll spreaders, help with setting up the hall at the beginning and tidying up at the end (not the tables) and people to serve.

All offers of help to and any more information from Margaret Morton.

### **MU Eucharist**

There will be an **MU**

**Eucharist** on

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February at 2 pm in the Church, with Revd Janice Aiton presiding. This Eucharist, the day before Candlemas, is open to all. Just turn up and be assured of a warm welcome. Tea/coffee and cake will be served in the Hall, following the service.

### **News of the Butler Family:**

See the lit noticeboard for a more legible version of this. →

The concert is at the Queen's Hall, Edinburgh on Sunday, 04/02/2024 at 19.30. Tickets are around the £27 mark, and there will be at least some transport available from St John's. Speak to David, if interested.

[View this email in your browser](#)

## 2 weeks to go to our MND Fundraising Concert!



Dear Friends,

Firstly we'd like to thank all of you who have bought tickets for our [fundraising concert for MND Scotland](#). We have been very busy rehearsing for the big night on Sunday 4th February. The concert starts at 7:30pm and doors open at 6:30pm.

Since my diagnosis, [MND Scotland](#) have been a wonderful help to me. Everything from helping me make a Will to giving me a grant for my chair yoga classes. Over the past 15 years MND Scotland have committed £5.87 million to MND research. I am so grateful to everyone who is coming along to support this great charity.

**Auction of a painting**  
I am still painting but only for short periods ([annebutlerart.com](#)). My recent painting *After The Rain* (see below - acrylic on canvas 100 by 100cm) is being auctioned at the concert and ALL the money raised will go to MND Scotland. It will be on display at the concert and the gallery price for this painting would be £1500. You will be able to bid online in advance and on the night. The successful bidder will be announced after the interval on the night of the concert.

**Celebrating Creation**  
**at**  
**Elshields**

**A Quiet Morning with a Candlemass theme**

**Saturday 3rd February 10am-1pm**

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available from 9:30am. Starting at 10am, the morning will comprise three short talks, interspersed with breaks for silent exploration of the woods and garden, or a quiet reflection either in the tower, barn or the Oratory. The morning will close with informal worship. Participants are welcome to bring lunch for a friendly picnic.

Donations will be forwarded to charities.

The log burners in both the tower and the barn will be kept fully fuelled. Elshields (DG11 1LY) is about two miles from Lochmaben on the Nethermill Road. Enquiries etc to Ann Shukman on 07884 256913 or [ann.shukman@gmail.com](mailto:ann.shukman@gmail.com)

**A time to enjoy the beauty of the Snowdrops at**  
**Elshields**