







## St J's Diary & Notices: w/c Sunday, 28/01/2024

			
(4th in month) Sunday, 28/01/2024 Epiphany 4	09.15	Sunday Worship: Crichton Memorial Church	Crichton Campus, Dumfries DG1 4ZZ
	09.30	Holy Communion @ Maxwelton Chapel	Just off B729 between Wallaceaton & 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, 29/01/2024	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
	10.30-17.30	UCI Groups (Hall)	
	18.30-22.00	Bridge Club (Hall)	
Tuesday, 30/01/2024	18.30	1982 Eucharist (Lady Chapel)	
	19.15	Short Mat Bowling (Hall)	Just turn up
Wednesday, 31/01/2024	10.30	1970 Eucharist (Church), followed by refreshments (Hall)	
	11.30-14.30	Warm Space (Hall)	Just turn up. Volunteers also welcome. <b>Last one for now.</b>
	18.30	Choir Practice (Church)	
Thursday, 02/02/2024	14.00	Mothers' Union Eucharist (Church)	And see notice 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, 02/02/2024	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
Saturday, 03/02/2024	10.00-13.00	Celebrating Creation @ Elshieshields	See poster below

			
(1 <sup>st</sup> in month) Sunday, 04/02/2024 Epiphany 5	08.00	1970 Holy Communion (Church)	
	11.00	1982 Family Eucharist (Church); Godly Play (Hall); refreshments afterwards (Hall)	
	18.00	Choral Evensong (Church)	Candlemas theme
	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 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

### Elshields 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)

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:**

- 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.
- **Christmas Card from HMP Dumfries:** Each year, after the December Eucharist, MU members and friends write some 200 Christmas cards for the prisoners at HMP Dumfries. A few years

ago, one of the prisoners wrote and thanked the group, saying it was the only card he received, which made MU more determined to continue. This year, we received a Christmas card in reply and would like to share some of the response with the congregation.

- *"I have been in this prison for a few years and every year you send cards to us all. I just want to say that your cards are always appreciated. Not many people think of prisoners at Christmas. Not many people are viewed as less deserving of thoughts at Christmas. But some of us are sorry. Some of us do repent. Some of us value the light that is left. Your card is on my worktop, as it is on many others."*
- Quite a few had a lump in their throat after hearing that. Next session we hope to have the Prison Chaplain come and talk about his work, so we can consider if there is other support we can offer.

If you have any **Palm Crosses** at home, please would you hand them in to the church in plenty of time for Ash Wednesday (which is quite soon – 14 February)

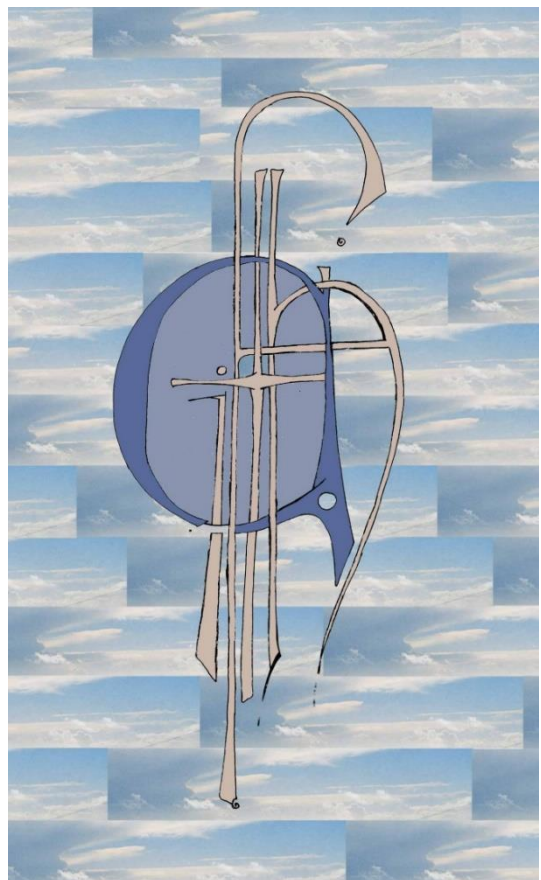
*Quartz says...*

**Symbolist Art:** Paint what you can to see what you can't The word used to describe artists like Mucha takes its meaning from broken pottery! In Ancient Greece a treaty could be recorded using pottery. Each city state held a broken fragment of the whole. If you have ever tried to glue a mug back together you will know how precise and ...

*Read more on the Quartz page on the St J's website*

Thank you to everyone involved in the St J's **Burns Supper** a few days ago. With just over 60 present, the beautifully

decorated hall was pleasantly full, without being overcrowded; the food and entertainment were excellent, so thanks to everyone who contributed to any aspect of it, including the planning, the raffle and the



clearing away. The event made a slight surplus, which is always good, but the main point was our getting together for a fun evening, which it was.

Celebrating Creation  
at  
Elshieshields

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. Elshieshields (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  
Elshieshields