





St J's Diary & Notices: w/c Sunday, 04/02/2024

			
(1 st 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)	
	Any time*	Service online	www.stjohnsdumfries.org *Available on website from about same time as actual event & for some days thereafter
Monday, 05/02/2024	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
	10.30-17.30	UCI Groups (Hall)	
	18.30-22.00	Bridge Club (Hall)	
Tuesday, 06/02/2024	18.30	1982 Eucharist (Lady Chapel)	
	19.15	Short Mat Bowling (Hall)	Just turn up
Wednesday, 07/02/2024	10.30	1970 Eucharist (Church), followed by refreshments (Hall)	
	11.30-15.00	Warm Space (Hall)	Discontinued (lack of demand) for now.
	18.30	Choir Practice (Church)	
Thursday, 08/02/2024	12.00 & 20.00	MU Prayer Space (via Zoom)	Open to all (not just MU members, not just females). Contact Church Office (pastadmin@stjohnsdumfries.org) for Zoom joining details.
	18.30	Prayer Meeting	Zoom (see notice below)
	19.30	Bell Practice (Tower)	Please contact bells@stjohnsdumfries.org or 07754 596140 if not a regular.
Friday, 09/02/2024	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
Saturday, 10/02/2024			
(2 nd in month) Sunday, 11/02/2024 Sunday before Lent	11.00	1982 Family Eucharist (Church); Godly Play Activity Bags available; refreshments afterwards (Hall)	
	18.00	Contemporary Worship (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 continue monthly on Thursdays from 6:30pm-7:30pm. The next one will be this week, on **8th 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

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.

Still on the subject of Lent, here's what we know so far about **Lent Groups**:

- **Mondays**: Simon Lidwell/Quartz will be running a group entitled *Sensing Spirituality/Glimmers of Light in Daily Life*. More details on the Quartz page on the St J's website.
- **Tuesdays**: David Kerr will be offering a group, following Wendy Virgo's *Magnificent Jesus*. Some copies in stock, or you can order from Amazon or Eden. Group will meet 19.30 on a Tuesday, starting 20th Feb; either in person or on Zoom, according to participants' preference.
- **Thursdays**: The Rector will be leading a group; *Lent in Plain Sight* by Rev Dr Jill J Duffield – a devotion through ten objects Jesus would have encountered on his way to Jerusalem; likewise will be 19.30, either on Zoom or in person, according to preference.
- **Fridays, 11.00**: Steven Ballard will be leading a group, following Paula Gooder's *A Way Through the Wilderness*. This will be in person, in the church, starting 16/02/2024, and each session will conclude in time for participation in the Lent Lunches.
- Contact any of the above direct if you'd like more information, or to join. All welcome.

MU:

- MU Prayer Space on Thursday 9th February. All are welcome; you do not have to be a MU member.
 - Midday prayers 12.00 link open 11.45
 - Night Prayer 20.00 link open 19.45
 - Both are for 15 - 20 min.
 - Zoom Link: 81199836403
 - Pass code: 941659
 - OR by phone: 01314601196 when asked dial in link no and then pass code.
- The next MU lunchtime meeting will take place on Thursday 15th February in the Hall. Our speaker is Simon Lidwell - *Quartz, Sparkling Light*. We will gather from 12.30, with prayers at 12.45 and lunch at 1pm. Please bring a sandwich lunch, and soup, tea / coffee and cake will be provided. Despite its name, MU is an inclusive organisation, with 4 million members world- wide, supporting families and projects around the world. Anyone is welcome to come along - you do not have to be a mother, married, or even female. Just turn up and MU members look forward to welcoming you!

- 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...

- Pancakes!
 - Lent starts on the 14th of February this year, which might make for an interesting Valentine's Day.
 - To help yourself get ready you are invited to Simon and Kate's for a Shrove Tuesday Pancake party on the 13th. Please bring your favourite pancake toppings to share (clear out your cupboards?).
 - First batch of pancakes will be ready to eat at 7pm
- CLC group
 - Throughout Lent the Quartz group will continue to meet every second week.
 - We are exploring the theme of #SensingSpirituality in the run up to Easter. If our physical senses inform us about the world we can touch and taste, what senses do we have that can help us experience, explore, and describe all the more than physical experiences which make up being human?

- Glimmers of light in Daily life.
 - If you use WhatsApp and would like to be part of a group which posts "Glimmers" - wee nuggets of joy shared by people #SensingSpirituality in their daily lives - then send a message to +44 777595 7689 (This is also the new Wordsmith Crafts Admin phone number).
- The Blog
 - This site is maintained by Wordsmith Crafts CIC. Content is contributed by Quartz members either directly or through Simon. Other content comes from around the web as a record of the continuing Cyberpilgrimage Simon started here many years ago.