





St J's Notices & Diary – w/c Sunday, 11/02/2024

			
(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
Monday, 12/02/2024	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
	10.30-17.30	UCI Groups (Hall)	
	18.30-22.00	Bridge Club (Hall)	
Tuesday, 13/02/2024	18.30	1982 Eucharist (Lady Chapel)	
	19.15	Short Mat Bowling (Hall)	Just turn up
Wednesday, 14/02/2024 Ash Wednesday	10.30	1970 Eucharist (Church), followed by refreshments (Hall)	Including Imposition of Ashes
	18.30	Choir Practice (Church)	None this week (Ash Wednesday)
	19.30	1982 Eucharist (Church)	Including Imposition of Ashes
Thursday, 15/02/2024	12.30	Mothers' Union Lunch & Guest Speaker (Hall)	Simon Lidwell (See info below)
	19.30	Bell Practice (Tower)	Please contact bells@stjohnsdumfries.org or 07754 596140 if not a regular.
Friday, 16/02/2024	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
	11.00	Lent Group: <i>A Way Through the Wilderness</i> (Church)	All welcome. Contact Steven Ballard for details, or just turn up.
	12.00-13.30	Lent Lunches (Hall)	Begin today: St J's doing the catering this week; see details below.
	18.30	Mystery Evening (Hall)	
Saturday, 17/02/2024			

			
(3 rd in month) Sunday, 18/02/2024 1 st in Lent	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	Sung Evensong (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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

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

Christian Aid in Lent:

Lent Lunches start this Friday and St John's is organising the soup and rolls. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help but it's not too late to offer! There will be a good choice of soups, some familiar and some more unusual so there will be something for everyone. A minimum donation of £3.50 provides soup, a filled or plain roll and tea or coffee. There is also cake to buy to accompany this and a sales table to tempt you. Lunch is served from 12 noon until 1.30pm. Hope you can join us.

Christian Aid has resumed the *Count Your Blessings* sheets this Lent. They give reflection for each day and sometimes a donation suggestion based on counting something we might take for granted but others might not have. The booklets are at the back of the church.

Margaret Morton

Still on the subject of Lent, here's what we know so far about **Lent Groups**; mostly starting **next week**, apart from the one starting this Friday...

- **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, in person at the Rectory.
- **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.

MINISTRY OF HEALING:

It's some time since we were able to offer this in church of a Sunday. We're pleased to announce that, as of Sunday, 25 February (and on the fourth Sunday of the month thereafter) we will be offering the laying on of hands and/or anointing for Healing in the context of the 11.00 service. Although it will take place within the service, this ministry will be discreet and, of course, confidential. Requests for healing for oneself, or someone else, can be made. See the Rector, or Rev Chris Wren for more details.

DIOCESAN LENT APPEAL

This year we are asked to collect on behalf of the Friends of the Holy Land. Watch out for posters etc., coming shortly.

MU:

- 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!
- A letter has been received from Women's Aid, thanking St John's for the generous gifts donated at Christmas. The women who use the service were delighted to receive them. Thank you to all who gave donations. Our support of WA is much appreciated.

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).
- Forest Church Special
 - February Stargazing We will gather as usual at 2pm on Sunday the 18th of February outside the Crichton Chapel to practise #SensingSpirituality. We will also have a spring special. Before the clocks change we will have an evening looking at the stars. Thanks to the hospitality of Ann Shukman we will hold this at Elshieshields just outside Lochmaben. People ...*[more on the Quartz page of the St J's website]*
- Memes
 - The discovery of Genes has revolutionised the way in which the world is understood and changed using science. Have you heard of "Memes" though? Pirate radio, being able to buy music on single you could play at home and share with your friends, disposable income at a young age, and a reasonable economy - these things shaped a generation. What*[more on the Quartz page of the St J's website]*
- Sowing
 - This story might be familiar to you, but what happens if you read it imaginatively? Do you imagine yourself as the seed, the sower, or elsewhere in the farming environment? The story



can be found in the collection

of books here:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+13&version=NIVUK> What was the storyteller thinking of when the story was told, or the writer when it was[more on the Quartz page of the St J's website]

The Butler Family staged a magnificent concert, at the Queen's Hall, Edinburgh, in aid of MND (Motor Neuron Disease) Scotland on the evening of Sunday, 04/02/2024. A really beautiful evening's varied music, and over £10,000 was raised. MND is an issue that is quite close to home for various people associated with St John's, and the St J's Quiz Night supported charity this year is to be *My Name's Doddie Foundation*, which also battles MND. More details about all of this coming.

Ann Shukman says...

- There was a Quiet Morning (for Candlemas) at Elshieshields last Saturday. £75 was raised and sent to Friends of Holy Land [forthcoming Diocesan Lenten Appeal – Ed] so huge thanks to all contributors.
- We greatly appreciated John's three short talks and the time afterwards for quiet prayer and reflection. People were expecting the snowdrops; but the carpet of winter aconites was unexpected and a real treat. Going home, many followed Peter's suggestion and saw the whooper swans and pink-footed geese; another treat but it's doubtful if the farmer whose land they were on would think that!
- Also: a short reminder that we will be meeting in Elshieshields barn at 9:30am for Silent Prayer on the first Saturday in March, which is the 2nd. The next Quiet Morning is planned for the 4th May when hopefully there will be some early bluebells.