









St J's Diary & Notices: w/c Sunday, 18/02/2024

			
(3 rd in month) Sunday, 18/02/2024 1 st in Lent	11.00	1982 Family Eucharist (Church); Godly Play (Hall); refreshments afterwards (Hall)	Rev Andrew Baker, Visiting Preacher
	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
Monday, 19/02/2024	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
	10.30-17.30	UCI Groups (Hall)	
	18.30-22.00	Bridge Club (Hall)	
	19.30	Lent Group: <i>Sensing Spirituality/Glimmers of Light in Daily Life</i> . [Face to face]	More details on the Quartz page on the St J's website, or speak to Simon or Kate Lidwell
Tuesday, 20/02/2024	18.30	1982 Eucharist (Lady Chapel)	
	19.15	Short Mat Bowling (Hall)	Just turn up
	19.30	Lent Group: <i>Magnificent Jesus</i> [Face to face; venue TBC]	Contact David Kerr (07754 596140) for details. All welcome
Wednesday, 21/02/2024	10.30	1970 Eucharist (Church), followed by refreshments (Hall)	
	18.30	Choir Practice (Church) (except school holidays)	
Thursday, 22/02/2024	19.30	Bell Practice (Tower)	Please contact bells@stjohnsdumfries.org or 07754 596140 if not a regular.
	19.30	Lent Group: <i>Lent in Plain Sight</i> [In person]	At Rectory. Contact Janice 07487 653069 for details.

			
Friday, 23/02/2024	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
	11.00	Lent Group: <i>A Way Through the Wilderness</i> [Face to face]	Meets in the Church, 11.00; contact Steven Ballard for details. All welcome. Concludes in time for Lent Lunch
	12.00-13.30	Lent Lunches (Hall)	Details below
	19.30	St J's Quiz Night	Just turn up: all welcome
Saturday, 24/02/2024			
(4th in month) Sunday, 25/02/2024 2 nd in Lent	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	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
 - 15.45 – 18.00: Programme includes chair yoga; face massage; hand massage; nails; make up demo. Refreshments available throughout the pamper session. Donations on the day to cover costs. A lovely way to relax and enjoy being spoilt. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church.

- Saturday, 16/03/2024 Men's Breakfast
 - 10.00 onwards, at Gardenwise, Dumfries DG2 8PP. Please sign up if planning to attend. Choice of available breakfasts appended to sign up sheet.
- 23/04/2023: Trip to Summerlee Museum of Scottish Industrial Life, Coatbridge.
 - Dep St J's 09.30; Return approx. 18.30. Fare: £13 (assuming minimum of 10 travelling). More details and sign up sheet at the back of the church. This trip is filling up, but there are still a few places. Don't delay!

The Church's Social Planning Group are looking for what events you might like to have from May, 2024 to June, 2025. To help the group plan ahead, please put down your ideas on, yes, *another* sign-up sheet at the back of the church. The sheet will be there for approx. 4 weeks.

Christian Aid in Lent:

Lent Lunches started this Friday! The lent lunches started on Friday and many thanks to everyone who supported the first lunch; particularly those involved from St. John's, as we provided the soup and rolls.

Whether you were on public view or behind the scenes, thank you for your help. Thank you, too, everyone who came and enjoyed lunch with us. This first day raised £671.28! If you couldn't come last Friday there are five more lunches: a minimum donation of £3.50 pays for a bowl of homemade soup, a filled or plain roll and tea or coffee. Cake is available to buy at 50p per slice and there will be a sales table to tempt you with home baking and other goodies. Lunch is served from 12 noon until 1:30 pm in the hall.

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

Lent Groups:

- **Mondays:** Simon Lidwell/Quartz is running a group entitled *Sensing Spirituality/Glimmers of Light in Daily Life*. In person, 19.30. More details on the Quartz page on the St J's website.
- **Tuesdays:** David Kerr is offering a group, following Wendy Virgo's *Magnificent Jesus*. Some copies in stock, or you can order from Amazon or Eden. Group meets 19.30 on a Tuesday, starting 20th Feb; in person; venue TBC. Contact 07754 596140 for details.
- **Thursdays:** The Rector is 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; this is likewise 19.30, in person at the Rectory.
- **Fridays, 11.00:** Steven Ballard is leading a group, following Paula Gooder's *A Way Through the Wilderness*. This is in person, in the church. It actually started on 16/02/2024, but you can still join 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.

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]*

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** (this Friday, 23/02/2024, then one more until we stop for the summer) 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 recently. £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.

MU:

The next **Eucharist** will be on Thursday 7th March at 2 pm in the Church, with Revd Andrew MacKenzie presiding. Please note, this Eucharist 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.

Sally Triggs says... Would you please pass on my sincere thanks to Janice and the St John's family for the lovely card and good wishes for my special birthday. It was so kind, thoughtful and totally unexpected, but very much appreciated. With love, **Sally**