






St J's Diary & Notices: w/c Sunday, 28/09/2025

			
(4th in month) Sunday, 28/09/2025 Trinity 15 / Pentecost 16 / Creation 4	09.15	Sunday Worship: Crichton Memorial Church	Crichton Campus, Dumfries DG1 4ZZ
	09.30	Holy Communion @ Maxwelton Chapel	Just off B729 between Wallaceton & Moniaive. DG3 4DX
	11.00	1982 Family Eucharist (Church); Godly Play Activity Bags available; refreshments afterwards (Hall)	Today: Methodist Order for HC during Ordinary Seasons. Including Ministry for Healing; listen for announcement.
	18.00	Contemporary Worship (Church)	See posters
	Any time*	Service online	www.stjohnsdumfries.org . *Available on website from about same time as actual event & for some days thereafter
Monday, 29/09/2025	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
Tuesday, 30/09/2025	18.30	1982 Eucharist (Lady Chapel)	
	19.15	Short Mat Bowling (Hall)	Just turn up
Wednesday, 01/10/2025	10.30	1970 Eucharist (Church), followed by refreshments (Hall)	
	19.00	Choir Practice (Church)	
Thursday, 02/10/2025	14.00	Mothers' Union Eucharist (Church)	All welcome: see detail below
	19.00	Prayer Meeting/ discussion on last Sunday's gospel	At Annette's. All welcome. Church Office can put you in touch.
	19.30	Bell Practice (Tower)	Please contact bells@stjohnsdumfries.org or 07754 596140 if not a regular.
Friday, 03/10/2025	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
	12.00	Friday Prayers for World Peace (Church)	30 mins or so, followed by tea/coffee. All welcome. Just show up.
Saturday, 04/10/2025			

			
(1 st in month) Sunday, 05/10/2025 Trinity 16 / Pentecost 17 / Creation 5 / Harvest	11.00	1982 Family Eucharist (Church); Godly Play (Hall); Bring & Share lunch afterwards (Hall)	Congregational AGM: see detail below.
	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

If you need to contact St John's, for any purpose, you can do the following:

- The Rev Jim Booth, Interim Priest, has the Rector's phone (07487 653069) throughout the Vacancy, and any emails addressed to rector@stjohnsdumfries.org will be received by him (and only him).
- Please do not contact the Rectory landline (01387 254126) meantime; it is currently out of use.
- For most things, you can contact the Church Office (07754 596140) / pastadmin@stjohnsdumfries.org. The Office will continue to be open Mondays and Fridays and most other days besides, but please call before making a special trip.
- So, in general, normal service will continue, under exception of the Rectory landline.

QUARTZ INFORMATION:

- [Forest church](#) once a month in Dumfries
- [CLC meetings](#) every second Monday
- For all Quartz information:
<https://www.ancient-pathways.co.uk/>

QUARTZ: AUGUST 2025 onwards:

- **Season of Creation:** If you haven't heard of A-Rocha before then please visit their website! We went to a presentation by them in Dumfries Baptist Church a few years ago, and have recently been sent a link to some resources for Autumn 2025 <https://arocha.org.uk/the-season-of-creation-2025-peace-with-creation/>
- **Lectio Divina:** Many of those who are involved in Quartz have some familiarity with the way St Ignatius went about things. Here is a handy [website](#) *(if you're reading this electronically; otherwise visit the Ancient Pathways website above to find the link)* and guide for those who are interested. There are Jesuit centres in Glasgow and Edinburgh And the Scottish Episcopal church diocese webpage has a handy ...*[more on the Ancient Pathways website]*
- **CLC:** We have worked out some **dates** up until the October school Holidays:
 - Monday 22/09/2025: Hosted by: Simon and Kate, led by Andy Bixler
 - Monday, 06/10/2025: Hosted by Alison and Andy, led by Kate
 - Monday, 20/10/2025: School holidays, arrangements TBC
 - Monday, 03/11/2025: TBC
- Our usual meeting time is 7.30 till 9. Please let us know if you would like to join us!
- November Forest Church will be on the 16th
- Networking, and linking to the growing Forest Church
 - Simon recently met Alan at a "Faith in Nature" gathering at Kilmaliue retreat centre. On returning Anthony from Church without Walls over at Wigtown got in touch about an online gathering run by Alan titled "Forest Church

Reflections" which is coming up on Wed 1st Oct online at 745pm.

- Their plan is to have:
 - Brief input on "What makes an outdoor place a sacred space?"
 - Facilitated conversation and sharing of stories
 - Next steps for an online community to support one another in our projects.
- This Autumn we will have a monthly gathering for those who want a more intentional online community to support starting or developing an expression of outdoor church.
 - These gatherings will be about building relationships, sharing learning and listening and discerning prayerfully what our next steps in our project could be.
 - The link to register at is
 - <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/GY3bAaTGTtqUWQtoxj4KjQ>
 - And for more info their website is called "Sacred Spaces", not to be confused with the long running "Sacred Space" provided online by the Jesuits in Ireland!)
- Christmas 2025
 - If you have any suggestions about the star making activity, please get in touch!
 - Our aim is that the star making activity is one that is simple to carry out, but profound enough to provide the opportunity for deep reflection. In community locations this spark off discussions about the similarities and differences between wishes, hopes, prayers, manifesting and many other words.
 - If you are curious but cautious about how this might work, what would help you?
 - Would you be interested in meeting to learn some ideas?

DATES FOR PROVISIONAL SOCIAL ACTIVITIES: GET THE DIARIES OUT...

Note these are provisional meantime, but, subject to sufficient support/interest, here's what we're planning...



Date	Activity	Date	Activity
26/09/2025	Quiz: Were you there? If not, why not? Next one will be 31/10/2025	06/12/2025	Carol Service
28/09/2025 (new date added)	Lunch @ Lockards Farm (see sign up sheet at back of church).	14/12/2025	Bring and Share Christmas Lunch
04/10/2025	Leeds Male Voice Choir Concert at St J's	17/01/2026	Beetle Drive
05/10/2025	Bring and Share Lunch for Harvest Festival	30/01/2026	Quiz
31/10/2025	Quiz	21/02/2026	Film at Burns Centre
08/11/2025	Bus Trip - 10 Pin Bowling (see notice below)	27/02/2025	Quiz
28/11/2025	Quiz	14/03/2025	Crafts - Easter Decorations

MU NOTICES

- Copies of our interesting and varied **new programme** are available at the back of the church. Please take one and feel free to come to any of our meetings.
- There will be an **MU Eucharist on Thursday 2nd October 2025** at 2pm in the Church. Revd Jim Booth will be presiding. It will be followed by tea/ coffee and cake in the Hall. Please note, as ever, this service is open to all. Just turn up and be assured of a warm welcome!

BARCAPLE DAY OF PRAYER:

SATURDAY, 11 OCTOBER: See poster on the lit noticeboard, if you'd like to participate in this free event, which includes the possibility of a free overnight stay (more details on the noticeboard). You may recall that Barcaple hosted the visiting Ukrainian children this year and last.



CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING: a huge thank you to everyone who supported the coffee morning--whether you donated home baking or goods for the cornucopia stall, attended, helped on the day--or all 3. Thank you too for the generous donations on Sunday morning. The final total is awaited but I know that **over £1350** was raised and I hope that those who were there enjoyed the atmosphere in St George's Hall. Thanks again.

ELSHIESHIELDS NEWS:

Dear Everyone

This is to wish you a Happy and Fruitful autumn and to let you know that there will be **no Silent Prayer in October**.

This is because on Saturday 4 October at 1.30 I'll be performing at Wigtown. My son David will be interviewing me about my book published last year, '44 Days in Prague: The Runciman Mission and the Race to Save Europe'. This is the sad tale of my grandfather's failed attempt at appeasement. Perhaps it has some relevance for today

On **Saturday 1 November** at Elshieshields we will host the long postponed **poetry event**, 2 to 5 pm. A time to reflect on poems new

and old, if fine to stroll outside, or to find peace by the log fire in the tower. There might also be a slice of pumpkin pie!

Please RSVP for this event.

For those who appreciate Taize worship; the monthly series at All Saints Lockerbie starts again on Thursday 25 September at 7 pm.

Love and blessings

Ann ann.shukman@gmail.com 07884 256913.

LUNCH AT LOCKARD'S FARM – Sunday, 28/09/2025: That's today, if you've booked. Unlikely they could accommodate those who haven't already booked, sorry.

BOWLING TRIP: 8 NOVEMBER. Some way off, yet, but here is some advance information. This needs to be in the afternoon: say dep St J's at 13.00, start bowling at 14.00, two games and back, as the bus has another job to do in the early evening. We'll need to book and, at present, the maximum number of people we can book for is 12. We will need to pay a deposit, so, on this occasion, I'll need a £12 deposit (non-returnable) from everyone. The bus will be £9, but we can deal with that later. A sign up sheet is now at the back of the church, to gauge interest. You won't commit yourself at this stage, but please only sign up if you're pretty sure you'll be coming. We'll firm things up later. *David*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: formal notice is given of the AGM. Nomination papers [see detail below], the AGM papers and an Apologies sheet are at back of church. There is also a sheet to sign if you would prefer to receive the AGM papers electronically.

The Annual General Meeting of the Congregation will be held on **Sunday, 05/10/2025.** As usual, the meeting will be convened towards the end of the 11.00 service; adjourned for a Bring & Share lunch, and

then reconvened for business thereafter. The whole thing should be over by 2.30pm. Three members of the current Vestry are retiring, and, therefore, three places are available for new members. Please consider prayerfully whether you, or someone you know, might be a suitable candidate. Please do not nominate anyone without having obtained their consent.



LEEDS
MALE VOICE CHOIR
In Concert

Saturday 4 October 2025

14:00
CHRIST CHURCH
SOUTH STREET
COCKERMOUTH
CA13 9RU

19:30
ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST
NEWALL TERRACE
DUMFRIES
DG1 1LW

Tickets
£12

Musical Director: Tim Knight
Accompanist: Lucas Kelly

leedsmalevoicechoir.co.uk | [@leedsmalevoice](https://twitter.com/leedsmalevoice)
Registered Charity No. 1159299

www.leedsmalevoicechoir.co.uk/tickets
Buy in person at the venue

The above promises to be a fantastic evening and will – we hope – be a good fundraiser for us. You can book now, using this QR code or, if the print isn't clear enough, on the poster on the lit noticeboard or

fliers elsewhere in the church. **Or, if you're stuck, come and ask the Church Office – several people already have!** There were *still* places available when I checked the website at time of drafting...but they may go, so don't delay! Also: we'll be looking for help on the evening, serving refreshments and the like...

SENIOR INVESTIGATING OFFICERS: This group, for children in P5-7+, resumed in the Hall, from 18.00-20.00, on Monday, 15/09/2025, under the leadership of David and Kymm, It was great to welcome back seven children, for games, fun and teaching. On the whole, we will be following the themes the church does...so this time, we were looking at **Following Closely, “No matter how bad”, and the Lost Coin** (from that Sunday's readings), as well as **Smart People Follow Jesus** (from the Opening Sentence (and Psalm 14). See the noticeboard in the Hall for an idea of what we made of it all. The plan is for the **Mystery Evenings** (for P1-4) to meet at the same time on the **first** Monday of the month, and for the **SIOs** to meet on the **third** Monday. Your prayerful support of this would be/is appreciated.

GODLY PLAY/YOUTH@11: Due to some changes in availability of personnel, Godly Play will continue to be offered by Joanne and Inna on the **first** Sunday of the month; on the **second, third and fourth** Sundays, **Youth@11** will be offered by a combination of Amie, David & Kymm, to mostly the same groups, except perhaps the very youngest. On Youth@11 Sundays, younger children will be offered Godly Play Activity bags. As things progress, we hope to be able to share the things we have been learning with the rest of the Congregation. Meantime, keep an eye on the lit noticeboard near the Hall door, to get an idea of what's going on. Again, your prayerful support of all of this would be – and is - appreciated.

FRIDAY AT NOON

New Group/activity

- A time of Prayer in St John's for Peace in our world.
- Starting on Friday 26th September we invite you to join us for a half hour time of Prayer.
- If like many of us you despair at all that is happening in our world and don't know what to do, come and join us as we pray for peace. Please do not worry about it, just come and join us in this simple time of prayer and lighting candles. This is open to all, not just members of St John's church family.
- Our time of prayer will be followed by Tea and Coffee.

