

St J's Diary & Notices: w/c Sunday, 30/11/2025

			
(5 th in month) Sunday, 30/11/2025 Advent 1	MU Shoe Exhibition (Porch) – details below		
	09.30	Matins (Church)	
	11.00	1982 Family Eucharist (Church); Godly Play Activity Bags available; refreshments afterwards (Hall)	
	Any time*	Service online	www.stjohnsdumfries.org . *Available on website from about same time as actual event & for some days thereafter
Monday, 01/12/2025	10.00-12.00 (approx.)	Church Office open	Limited hours only (school assembly)
	18.00-20.00	Mystery Evening (Hall)	P1-4 age children. Enquiries to 07754 596140 / 07572 006290
Tuesday, 02/12/2025	18.30	1982 Eucharist (Lady Chapel)	
	19.15	Short Mat Bowling (Sep-Mar) (Hall)	Christmas pause; resuming in New Year.
	19.15	Advent Study Group: <i>A Son is Born</i> (Rectory)	First one. All welcome. 07754 596140 for details.
Wednesday, 03/12/2025	10.30	1970 Eucharist (Church), followed by refreshments (Hall)	
	19.00	Choir Practice (Church)	
Thursday, 04/12/2025	14.00	Mothers' Union Eucharist (Church)	All welcome; see details below
	19.00	Prayer Meeting/ discussion on Henri Nouwen's <i>the Prodigal Son</i>	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, 05/12/2025	John Turner practising most of today		
	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, 06/12/2025	15.00	Princess of Wales Carol Service (Church)	Invitation only event; see details below.
(1 st in month) Sunday, 07/12/2025 Advent 2	08.00	1970 Holy Communion (Church)	
	11.00	1982 Family Eucharist (Church); Godly Play (Hall); refreshments afterwards (Hall)	
	18.00	Advent Carol Service (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/>
- Our usual meeting time is 7.30 till 9. Please let us know if you would like to join us!
- 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?
- **There will be no Forest Church on the 3rd Sunday in December.** We are encouraging everyone to join in the other activities, and send in photos and stories of their encounters with God throughout the season. The next gathering as Forest Church will be on the **18th of January**.

PRINCESS OF WALES CAROL SERVICE: Saturday, 06/12/2025:

St J's is privileged to have been asked to host this event for the Lieutenancies of Dumfriesshire, Stewartry and Wigtonshire. A number of St J's personnel will be involved, conducting the service, providing the music, serving refreshments etc., as well as various 'external' individuals and groups, such as the Regional Youth Choir. It is likely that some St J's people may be invited to attend, but this is entirely at the discretion of the Royal Household, who will issue

individualised invitations and, unfortunately, if you are not in possession of one of these, you will be unable to attend. Some local reporting may have given the impression that the event was either open to all, or that tickets could be booked; however this is not the case. The church is expected to be full to capacity and car parking is likely to be problematic in the immediate area. Thank you for your understanding.

LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD...

Date	Activity	Date	Activity
06/12/2025	Princess of Wales Carol Service @ St J's: please note: this is by invitation of the Royal Household only; more detail above	24/12/2025, 16.00	Christingle Service (see posters nearer the time)
		17/01/2026	Beetle Drive
07/12/2025	MU Shoe Exhibition (Church porch) (details below)	30/01/2026	Quiz
07/12/2025	18.00: Advent Carol Service @ St J's	21/02/2026	Film at Burns Centre
14/12/2025	Bring and Share Christmas Lunch	27/02/2025	Quiz
22/12/2025	19.00: Dumfries Choral Xmas Concert @ St J's (info below)*	14/03/2025	Crafts - Easter Decorations

*Dumfries Choral's Christmas Concert is on **Monday 22nd December starting at 7pm** in St John's. Tickets will be available from the MidSteeple, Dfs Choral members, and maybe at the door on the night, if there are any tickets remaining by then.

Posters detailing all the Christmas Services will appear shortly.

The Bible study group, looking at Cover to Cover's *Joel: Getting Real with God* is going to **pause** that study and, for **Advent**, is going to meet on **Tuesdays at 19.15, in the Rectory**. We agreed upon using Cover to Cover's *A Son Is Born*. I have, or will have, about 4 copies available

(£8). It was out of stock at www.eden.co.uk when I looked, but Amazon, and no doubt others, have it. If you'd like to join this Advent course, please contact the Church Office. There is an existing core group of half a dozen people or so, but anyone else would be welcome to join. More details from 07754 596140, if you need them. *David*

FRIDAY AT NOON

- A time of Prayer in St John's for Peace in our world.
- Happens every Friday at 12noon, for about half an hour.
- 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.
- Several of these sessions have been held so far, each attracting about a dozen people; really pleasing. Still room for plenty more.

MU NOTICES:

- MU Shoe Exhibition: As part of its **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence** campaign, MU is hosting an **exhibition of shoes in the church & porch this weekend**. The exhibition was created by the Provincial Interfaith Group, to highlight the issue of domestic abuse by telling stories. The focus is on pairs of shoes worn by people (women, children **and** some men) who have suffered domestic abuse. There is also a red chair (a Salvation Army initiative) to focus us on those who have actually died as a result of domestic violence.
- The next **MU Eucharist** will be on **Thursday 4th December 2025** at 2pm in the Church. Revd Chris Wren 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!

- **Women's Aid staff** will be coming along for the tea / coffee session after the Eucharist on 4th December to collect the gifts which have been donated by St John's folk. A huge thank you to the congregation for their generous response to our appeal for gifts for Women's Aid and Bethany Trust. **MU** is very grateful for your help in supporting these 2 charities.
- **MU Christmas Lunch, Thursday 18th December** at 12 for 12.30 at the Woodlands Hotel, Newbridge. If you would like to join us, you will be made most welcome. Details and menu are on the MU Noticeboard in the Hall. You have until Thursday 4th December, to let Carolynne know if you'd like to come along, and to give her your menu choices.

ADVANCE NOTICE of the funeral of Jackie Freeman, which will be held at St J's on Monday, 15/12/2025, at 11.00, followed by cremation at Roucan Loch. All welcome.

ELSHIESHIELDS NEWS:

- The last Silent Prayer for the year will take place in the barn at Elshieshields on Saturday December 6th 9:30-10:30am.
- It will be a time to reflect and meditate among friends.
- As usual the urn will be on for tea and coffee, and the biscuit tin will have been replenished.
- The November poetry afternoon was very successful and a special thank you to the Rev John Stevenson for leading it. Thanks to participants' generosity that day I was able to send £225 to the Médecins sans Frontières Gaza appeal.

You're Invited!

**Dumfries & Galloway
Street Pastors**

STREET PASTORS COMMISSIONING SERVICE

Friday 5th Dec, 7pm

St Mary's Church, Dumfries, DG1 1HA

**Moderator of the
Church of Scotland:
Rev Rosie Frew**

**CEO of Ascension
Trust (Scotland):
Chris Jewell**

Everyone welcome
Refreshments



Info: Martin
07510 855086

