

St J's Diary & Notices: w/c Sunday, 08/03/2026

			
(2 nd in month) Sunday, 08/03/2026 Lent 3	11.00	1982 Family Eucharist (Church); Youth@11; Godly Play Activity Bags available; refreshments afterwards (Hall)	And Baptism of Maya Kurto
	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, 09/03/2026	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
	10.00-17.00	Sculptor in Residence	See detail below
	19.15-21.00	Study Group (Rectory)	Currently studying: Cover to Cover's <i>The Prayers of Jesus</i> . Joiners welcome. 07754 596140 for details.
Tuesday, 10/03/2026	10.00	Lincluden PS P2 visit (Church & Hall)	
	18.30	1982 Eucharist (Lady Chapel)	
	19.15	Short Mat Bowling (Hall)	Just turn up
Wednesday, 11/03/2026	10.30	1970 Eucharist (Church), followed by refreshments (Hall)	
	19.00	Choir Practice (Church)	
Thursday, 12/03/2026	10.00-17.00	Sculptor in Residence	See detail below
	19.00	Prayer Meeting/ discussion on last Sunday's gospel	At Peter MacKenzie's [note change of venue]. All welcome. Church Office can put you in touch.
	20.00	MU Prayer Space (via Zoom) [Note: evening session only now on offer]	Open to all (not just MU members, not just females). See joining instructions below.
	19.30	Bell Practice (Tower)	Please contact bells@stjohnsdumfries.org or 07754 596140 if not a regular.
Friday, 13/03/2026	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.
	12.00-13.30	Lent Lunches (Hall)	See details below
Saturday, 14/03/2026			

(3 rd in month) Sunday, 15/03/2026	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	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 weekdays besides, except Wednesdays, 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
- **Our usual meeting time** is 7.30 till 9. We take it in turns to host and lead so let Simon know if you would like to join us!

- **St Michael and the Dragon:** Sculpture artist Ildiko Malovecz (Dee Art and Design) is publicly creating a half size papier mache statue design of the patron saint of Dumfries. We are blessed that she has chosen St John's Church as one of the venues for this project. We are glad to support her in inviting and involving the local community to visit St John's. Dee will be working on her sculpture in St John's on Mondays and Thursdays in March in St John's. Please drop in and say hi - and let your friends know too! This is an opportunity to use visual art to think about light and dark as well as the wrestling match between them.
- For all Quartz information: <https://www.ancient-pathways.co.uk/>

BISHOP'S LENT APPEAL: +Nick has advised us that this year's Bishop's Lent Appeal will be in aid of The Daisy Project, a Glasgow based charity which helps women and girls heal from domestic abuse. (See more information on the Diocesan website: <https://www.glasgow.anglican.org/bishops-lent-appeal-2026-the-daisy-project/>). A Collecting Box will be available at the back of the church at service times and the Church Office can also receive donations (clearly marked as such, if in *specie*), or via the office card machine. The card machine next to the lit noticeboard can only receive donations specifically for St John's.

The Bible study group has paused its study of *Joel: Getting Real With God* (yet again!) and, for Lent, are studying Cover to Cover's *The Prayers of Jesus*. The plan is to follow this course weekly, but days will have to vary a bit. **Next one is Monday, 09/03/2026, 19.15, in the Rectory.** Joiners welcome. 07754 596140 for details.

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.
- These sessions have been held regularly for a number of weeks, now, each attracting about a dozen people; really pleasing. Still room for plenty more.

PRAYER LIST: I know how much people value being prayed for in times of illness, distress or difficulty of any kind. You will all know that we maintain a list in the Sacristy of the names of those who have asked for prayer and whose names we include in our Prayers of Intercession week by week. Not everyone who would like us to hold them in prayer wants their name to be read out in public. So, alongside the prayer list that we already have, another is to be set up for those for whom the pastoral group will commit to pray regularly but whose names will not be included in our public prayers. If you want to add the name of someone to either list – and please, before you do so, make sure that the person concerned has consented to be added to one of our prayer lists, and to which one – then contact Linda Scott, David Kerr in the Church Office, or one of the clergy team.

Thank you.

Jim Booth

Just to say that we will be welcoming **Lincluden PS' Primary 2 class** on a visit to the Church (Easter themed) this Tuesday, 10 March; and we're also expecting all of **P4-7 of North West Community Campus** on Monday, 23 March, again, for an Easter-type service. So, if the traditional Easter garden appears, however transitorily, in the church before the usual time, that's

why! We feel God is really blessing our work with children at the moment, so your prayerful support is/will be much appreciated.

HEALING MINISTRY AT SAINT JOHN'S.

- From Ash Wednesday through to Easter Day the ministry of Laying on of Hands and Prayer will be available on a Sunday Morning at the 11.00 Eucharist. We believe that this ministry is valued by us all in the Church and for it to only be available on the 4th Sunday is very restrictive.
- You will have noticed that this ministry is available during and after the administration of Communion and also the members of the team are happy to stay on a little after the end of the service if you would like to approach them in a less formal setting. Please feel free to come to pray either for yourself, a member of your family or a friend.
- Anything shared during this time is totally confidential. However, should anyone disclose a matter which relates to safeguarding, we all have a responsibility to take the matter further with the appropriate authority. None of the members of the team are trained counsellors though they may offer suggestions of where you might find appropriate help if that is required.
- We will welcome your comments on this new arrangement. Feel free to talk with members of the team about your feelings, responses and ideas. It is important to remember that this is a ministry of prayer with the Lord and not an opportunity for advice and counsel. Anointing with oil for serious illness is, at present, restricted to the clergy to administer.
- During the coming months we will be making available opportunities for anyone in the congregation to share in group discussion and teaching about the Healing Ministry.

Chris Wren

LENT LUNCHESES

- The Standard did a good article on the first lunch which St John's hosted. A copy is on the noticeboard in the Hall. Have a look. You may feature!

- The lunches will continue in the Hall every Friday during Lent serving from 12noon until 1.30pm. Please do come and join us. A minimum donation of £4 buys homemade soup with a plain or cheese roll and tea or coffee to follow. You can buy a slice of cake to accompany the drink and also be tempted by the sales table.
- The lunches are organised by the churches in Dumfries and the local area and the proceeds support Christian Aid's work worldwide to help at times of disaster and to improve conditions for the world's poorest people.

Any questions please ask Margaret Morton 01387 262734

Thank you to everyone who came to the **Consultative Special General Meeting** recently and a particular thank you to Jamie Brand and David Kerr for the work they did preparing for it. Following a comprehensive presentation from David we heard the views of many members of the congregation. There was general agreement that the Rectory which had served us well in the past is no longer appropriate for our use. There were no views opposing its sale. The Vestry subsequently considered the views, and the Trustees have voted to sell the Rectory. The process for that will now be started and we will keep you informed of progress. If you would like a copy (paper or electronic) of David's presentation, just ask.

Annette Beagrie	Margaret Morton
Chair of the Vestry	Vestry Secretary

APOLOGIES about the Disco Inferno happening in the **side aisles** at the moment. New parts were fitted recently, which means the lights at least work now...just not all the time! Looks as if one of the replacement parts fitted may, itself, have been faulty. Brian will be back to have another go as soon as we can arrange it. Meantime, don't forget to admire the illuminated external noticeboard; especially after dark. We're also going to get the leak by the back door fixed as soon as the roofers can do it, some time this month. And, feel free to harvest the mushrooms growing on the walls and ceiling, though no doubt we should add that eating them would be inadvisable. *David*

BOWLING: Tuesday 17 March will be the last night...until the autumn. All welcome; just show up in time for 19.30; and you've got a couple more weeks until we stop.

QUIZZES: After many years, Carolynne and Ashley have decided to retire! Thank you to all the quizzers who have supported us and helped to contribute to many charities. One member has volunteered to take over in September, but will need more help. If you can help in any way, please contact Ashley or David. Plenty of quiz books available!

MU:

- **This Thursday (12/03/2026): Zoom Prayer Meeting:** Open to all (not just MU members, not just females).
 - All are welcome; you do not have to be a MU member.
 - Night Prayer 20.00 link open 19.45
 - Lasts 15 - 20 min.
 - Zoom Link: 81199836403
 - Meeting ID: 833 0646 4708
 - Passcode: 062490
 - Dial by your location
 - +44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom
- **MOTHERING SUNDAY:** This year it will be 150 years since Mary Sumner founded Mothers' Union. We will mark this anniversary and the work of MU all over the world in St John's on **Mothering Sunday, March 15th**. St John's Mothers' Union members will be responsible for all aspects of the service. Revd Ann Wren, who sits on the Worldwide Board of Trustees, representing the Province of Scotland, will be preaching. As well as the little flower posies which will be given to everyone, there will be Simnel Cake in the Hall afterwards.
- Our **next lunch-time MU meeting** will take place on **March 19th 2026** in the Hall. Our speaker is Kim Jackson, who will take

us on a tour of the Scottish Episcopal Churches in Dumfries and Galloway.. We will gather from **12.30**, with prayers at 12.45 and lunch at 1pm. Please bring a sandwich, and soup, tea / coffee and cake will be provided. As ever, 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!

Below is an extract from Lindsay Florey's letter concerning the **2026 Christmas Tree Festival (1-6 December @ St J's)**. There wasn't space here for the whole thing, but local organisations, incl St J's groups (MU...Children & Youth...Choir...Study Groups...) are invited to sponsor and decorate a tree. I know Lindsay's already had quite a big response, so, if you're thinking about this, get your skates on. The full letter is on the lit noticeboard and I can provide copies for you to take away and study.

A Forest of Christmas Trees 2026.

Dear Friend,



Following the success of 3 previous Christmas Tree Festivals we are planning to hold another community Christmas tree event this year and wondered if you might like to take part. The festival this year will, as previously, take place in St John's Church, 6 Newall Terrace, Dumfries DG1 1LW from the 3rd to 6th December inclusive, with setting up on the afternoon and evening of

both Tuesday 1st and Wednesday the 2nd December. Dismantling will be on Monday 7th December unless participants wish to dismantle late on Sunday 6th.

We are inviting local organisations/companies/schools and families to adopt a 4 foot Nordmann fir tree at £12 and decorate it in any way they fancy – pictures, home made decorations, calling cards, school or business items, family history etc. If you wish you may name your tree – e.g. **floristree** for the flower club. If you took part previously please use a different theme/decorations in order to avoid a simple repetition of the event. We are looking for inventive and thought-provoking designs. It is also a great opportunity to showcase your organisation.

PS: We have so far reserved 4 trees for St J's: for the MU, the Youth/Children, for Quartz and for the church in general/vestry. Other organisations within, or external to, the church are welcome to do likewise. The Church Office has forms.