

## St J's Diary & Notices: w/c Sunday, 22/03/2026

			
(4th in month) Sunday, 22/03/2026 Lent 5 / Passion 1	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); Youth@11; Godly Play Activity Bags available; refreshments afterwards (Hall)	Including Ministry for Healing; listen for announcement.
	18.00	Contemporary Worship (Church)	
	Any time*	Service online	<a href="http://www.stjohnsdumfries.org">www.stjohnsdumfries.org</a> . *Available on website from about same time as actual event & for some days thereafter
Monday, 23/03/2026	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
	10.00-17.00	Sculptor in Residence (Church)	
	09.30-11.30	North West Community Campus P4-7 Visit (Church & Hall)	
	19.15-21.00	Study Group (Rectory)	Currently studying: <i>The Prayers of Jesus</i> . 07754 596140 for details. Joiners welcome.
Tuesday, 24/03/2026	<b>09.00-12.00</b>	<b>Malory Nursery Visit (Church &amp; Hall)</b>	<b>Depending on Simon's availability: TBC</b>
	18.30	1982 Eucharist (Lady Chapel)	
	<del>19.15</del>	<del>Short Mat Bowling (Sep- Mar) (Hall)</del>	Finished now until September.
Wednesday, 25/03/2026	10.30	1970 Eucharist (Church), followed by refreshments (Hall)	
	19.00	Choir Practice (Church)	
Thursday, 26/03/2026	10.00-17.00	Sculptor in Residence	See info below.
	19.00	Prayer Meeting/ discussion on last Sunday's gospel	At Peter MacKenzie's. All welcome. Church Office can put you in touch.
	19.30	Bell Practice (Tower)	Please contact <a href="mailto:bells@stjohnsdumfries.org">bells@stjohnsdumfries.org</a> or 07754 596140 if not a regular.

Friday, 27/03/2026	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
	19.30	St J's Quiz Night	Last one until September! And marks Ashley & Carolynne's retirement!!
Saturday, 28/03/2026			
(5 <sup>th</sup> in month) Sunday, 29/03/2026 Palm Sunday / Passion 2	09.30	Matins (Church)	
	11.00	1982 Family Eucharist (Church); Godly Play Activity Bags available; refreshments afterwards (Hall)	
	Any time*	Service online	<a href="http://www.stjohnsdumfries.org">www.stjohnsdumfries.org</a> . *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](mailto: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](mailto: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.
- There was be no Forest Church gathering this month (March); however the usual resources are available online ([www.ancient-pathways.co.uk](http://www.ancient-pathways.co.uk)) for people to use wherever they are. Pray for our mothers; earth, human, and spiritual!
- This year the Lenten meditation in St John's Dumfries will take on the challenge of the struggle between light and dark. For Christians the Friday when we remember Jesus being crucified is an encounter with darkness, balanced by every Sunday where we wait for the light to emerge. This will be an afternoon reflecting on our passionate search for daylight. ...[Read more](http://www.ancient-pathways.co.uk) at [www.ancient-pathways.co.uk](http://www.ancient-pathways.co.uk)
- 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 have to vary a bit. **Next one is Monday, 23/03/2026. 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 were delighted to welcome **Lincluden PS' Primary 2 class** on a visit to the Church (Easter themed) recently; now their **P3** wants to come (next term); and we're also expecting all of **P4-7 of North West Community Campus** tomorrow, 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 LUNCHES**

- Last call for lunch! Lent seems to have passed quickly but the last lunch will take place on Friday from 12noon until 1.30pm. If you've not done so already 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.
- 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!
- Any questions please ask Margaret Morton 01387 262734
- I have a small white plastic container with a pink lid which was left after the first lunch. I thought I knew whose it was but I was wrong. If it is yours, please get in touch. *Margaret*

**APOLOGIES** about the Disco Inferno continuing 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, I'm promised by the end of the 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*

**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! Meantime, there'll be one last Quiz this season: on **Friday, of this week, 27/03/2026, 19.15**, in the Hall.

#### **MU:**

- Please note there will be **NO MU Eucharist on Thursday 2nd April**. Members and friends are encouraged to join with other churches at our Maundy Thursday Eucharist in the evening, here in St John's.
- Our next lunch- time meeting will be on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026**. Our speaker is our globe-trotting Branch Leader, Carolynne Sorrell, whose return will be greeted with joy! Her talk is entitled ***All Together Now***. 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.

- A big thank you to Juliet and the Clark-Maxwell family for allowing the harvest of some 400 daffodils and greenery to form the Mothering Sunday posies handed out last week.

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 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> December inclusive, with setting up on the afternoon and evening of

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

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 7 trees for St J's: for the MU, the Youth/Children, for Quartz and for the church in general/vestry, the Choir, Ukraine and the Friday Peace Group. Other organisations within, or external to, the church are welcome to do likewise. The Church Office has forms.

Below are posters for various events scheduled for **Holy Week** in Dumfries. Preparations are in hand for our observance, in St J's, of **Good Friday**. More detail of that when we have it.

**EDITH BROWN IS 100!** There's a card at the back of the church: please sign it and Suzanne Hayward will deliver it, along with some flowers from all of us at St J's.



# Holy Week

29th March - 5th April 2026

## at St John's

sung by the choir  
of St John's Church, Dumfries

### Palm Sunday 29th March

11am Eucharist service

### Maundy Thursday 2nd April

7.30pm Eucharist service and vigil

### Good Friday 3rd April

12-3pm Observance & talks and time for reflection

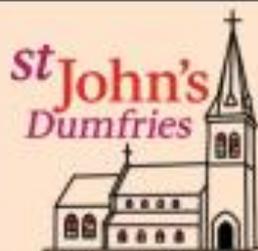
7.30pm the choir will sing music for Holy Week

### Easter Eve 4th April

8.30pm Eucharist service for Holy Saturday

### Easter Day 5th April

11am Eucharist service



*A Church for Everyone*



All very welcome  
St John the Evangelist,  
Newall Terrace, Dumfries DG1 1LW  
pastadmin@stjohnsdumfries.org  
07754 596140  
<https://www.stjohnsdumfries.org>

Holy  
Week



## DUMFRIES HOLY WEEK SERVICES 2026

Everyone very welcome to all events

Mon 30th 7.00pm	St Andrew's RC Church
Tues 31st 7.30pm	Troqueer Church of Scotland
Wed 1st 7.00pm	Lighthouse Church (at YMCA)
Thurs 2nd 7.30pm	St John's Episcopal Church (communion)
Good Friday 10am	Walk of Witness; Troqueer to Fountain
Good Friday 3pm	Maxwelltown West Church
Good Friday 7.30pm	Glen Aros Church
Easter Morning 8am	Sunrise Service on the Mill Green

DUMFRIES CHRISTIAN NETWORK  
[dumfrieschurches.org.uk](http://dumfrieschurches.org.uk)



Holy  
Week



## GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS

Begins 10am in Troqueer Churchyard. Ends around 11.30am at the Fountain Square. Join along the route, or at the start



Remembering Jesus' death: His loving sacrifice for our sins  
Dumfries Christian Network. [dumfrieschurches.org.uk](http://dumfrieschurches.org.uk)