

stJohn's
Dumfries
a church for everyone



P R O S P E C T U S

CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE

St John the Evangelist, Dumfries, is a large, active church within the Scottish Episcopal Church, in the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway. There has been an Episcopal presence in Dumfries since the Reformation and this building was consecrated in 1868. Following the Declaration of Intent between the Scottish Episcopal Church and the Methodist Church in June 1996, St John's developed a Local Ecumenical Partnership with the Methodist Church in Scotland in 1998. This was a ground-breaking event and showed the openness to change of the then Rector, Vestry and Congregation.

As a congregation, we seek, with the Rector, to empower all our members to contribute to, and fully participate in, as many aspects of our worship, mission and collective life as possible.

We are blessed with a group of assisting clergy - a non-stipendiary Priest, two retired Priests, a Lay Reader Emeritus, a Deacon and two Associate Ministers Emeritus (Methodist). We also have, on a part-time stipendiary basis, a Pastoral Administrator and an Outreach Worker. A number of volunteers oversee such items as catering, administrative and other support for various activities, and without them St John's could not function as it does. Revd Jim Booth, a supernumerary Methodist Minister, is our Interim Priest.

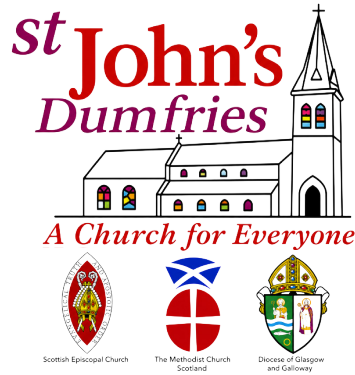
Maxwelton Chapel is a small, independent chapel some 15 miles outside Dumfries. Episcopal services are held there once a month, supported by our clergy. Crichton Memorial Church is owned by the Crichton Trust and functions as a non-denominational church. We offer a service there monthly.

There are 13 Scottish Episcopal Churches in Dumfries and Galloway. Joint regional services are held on a rotational basis, for example, on Ascension Day. Revd Canon Nicholas Bundock was consecrated as Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway on 3rd May 2025. He appointed Revd Dr Elizabeth Breakey as Rural Dean. Her role includes a responsibility to support the charges in the south of the Diocese, including St John's.

Congregation and Communicants

Our Congregation is drawn from Dumfries and surrounding towns and villages. Though part of the worldwide Anglican Communion, we are not bound by parish boundaries, allowing us to welcome all who seek a spiritual home. We strive to be A Church for Everyone, working to identify and remove barriers so that all may feel included and valued in our community.





St John's Congregation numbers approximately 169. This figure may include households. Average Sunday Communicants is currently around 75. Combining Maxwellton Chapel and St John's, gives a congregational roll of approximately 198.



St John's is a broad Church, comfortable with a variety of practice.

Vacancy Committee

St John's Constitution requires a Vacancy Committee, elected by the Congregation, to be responsible for appointing a new Rector (subject to the Bishop's approval). The following Church members were elected at an SGM: Jamie Brand (Chair), Amie Byers, Revd Dr James Clark-Maxwell, David Kerr (Clerk), Annette Beagrie, Billy Riddick and Lizanne MacKenzie. Four are also Vestry members.

Vision

Our overall vision is to nurture one another to develop our personal relationship with God as part of a loving community.

We continue to reach out to our local community and the wider world with the gospel of God's forgiving and transforming love, which is expressed in **Worship & Prayer, Discipleship & Empowerment, Mission, Evangelism & Ecumenism, Communication, Friendship, Hospitality & Social Care, Pastoral Care, St John's Place in the Community**, and a commitment to **Justice & Peace**.

Worship & Prayer

We offer a variety of services and styles of worship, from traditional to informal. We regularly hold services in the Methodist tradition, including Aldersgate Sunday and an annual Covenant Service.

Our diet of Worship is as follows:

- Sung Eucharist 11 am (1982 liturgy) – each Sunday, with Methodist liturgies as appropriate
- Matins 9.30 am – (Scottish Prayer Book) – on 5th Sunday
- Choral Evensong – fortnightly
- Contemporary Worship - fortnightly
- Forest Church – 3rd Sunday of the month, with special seasonal events
- Celebration of Saints' Days and other Church festivals - as appropriate
- Tuesday Evening Eucharist (1982 liturgy) – 6.30 pm
- Wednesday Morning Eucharist (1970 liturgy) – 10.30 am
- Friday – Prayers for Peace at 12 noon
- Crichton Memorial Church – 9.15 am, 4th Sunday of the month
- Maxwellton Chapel – (1970 liturgy) 9.30 am, 4th Sunday of the month

During Holy Week, ecumenical services are organised by Dumfries Christian Network in different churches, with St John's being a frequent and willing contributor. We organise a Maundy Thursday Service held in St John's followed by a Vigil. On Good Friday there is a Vigil from 12.00 - 3 pm with a series of talks, hymns and prayers, divided into 30 -minute sections, which people can enter and leave as they are able. There is a service on Easter Eve, and the Eucharist on Easter Day is well attended.

A Cross placed outside the Church on Good Friday, is decorated with flowers on Easter Sunday, witnessing the Resurrection message.



At the beginning of Advent, we have a Carols for Advent Service. At Christmas there is a Christingle Service for children on Christmas Eve afternoon. In the evening, our choirmaster organises a Carol Service at the Crichton Church with about 300 attending and there is a Eucharist at 11.30 pm in St John's. The Christmas Day Eucharist is well attended.

There is a small prayer group and during special events prayer updates and information are given on the church WhatsApp group. Our church is open daily, for those who wish to drop by for prayer or contemplation, and our church office is currently open most days in the week, as part of the arrangements during the Vacancy.

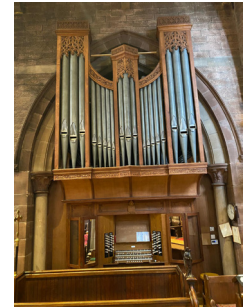


St John's has a long-established and valued musical tradition led by the Choirmaster. There is a group of organists of all ages, who play our Harrison & Harrison organ, which was rebuilt in 2008. The Choir has around 20 core members, and sings at Sunday Eucharist, Evensong, and many special services. We reach out to other local singers who cannot commit to the full diet of services,



but are keen to be involved in our Choral tradition.

Our organ is often made available for Charity recitals and concerts. Other groups use our church for concerts, namely Music in Dumfries, Dumfries Choral Society, Dumfries & Galloway Regional Youth Choir and Annan Town Band.



Discipleship & Empowerment

A number of small groups meet for fellowship, discussion, bible study, and prayer both in church and in people's homes, throughout the week. In Lent, over the past few years we have had 4 or 5 Lent Study Groups, meeting weekly and in Advent a similar number of groups meet.

Two of our younger members are Provincial Youth Leaders. They lead the Provincial Youth Week (Yeek) at Glenalmond College. They help lead at other youth sleepovers throughout the year across the Province. Both sit on the Provincial Youth Committee, one as the Youth Officer for Glasgow and Galloway and the other as the 18+ Youth Rep. They help support young people to have a voice in their own church, Provincially at Synod, and other world-wide gatherings or meetings. The Youth Officer is also the Youth Rep for the Europe region of the Anglican Consultative Council and a member of the Anglican Youth Network.

We are blessed with a large number of talented lay people who lead and support us in worship and ministry – as intercessors, readers, stewards, Eucharistic Assistants, Acolytes, worship leaders and so on. Collaborative ministry has long been a very important feature of St John's work, which we would wish to see continued and strengthened.

Mission, Evangelism & Ecumenism

Quartz

The Outreach Worker organises Quartz - a partnership with Wordsmith Crafts (WSC), a Community Interest Company that supports heritage engagement. This enables the Outreach Worker to contribute one day per week worked flexibly. This collaboration also provides access to studio facilities, an online presence, and opportunities for St John's to engage with Dumfries & Galloway's artistic and heritage communities through projects like "Current Weaving" and "The Union of Riverside Animals." <https://www.ancient-pathways.co.uk/fresh-expressions/forest-church/riverside-animals/> Quartz invites people, especially non-churchgoers, to explore spirituality generally and enter into their Christian heritage. "Whether by folding paper marigold flowers in a café or creating Haiku and weaving meaning together at a festival we invite people to experience and express #SensingSpirituality (try an internet search). This sparks conversations with "spiritual seekers." Outreach worker time is used to build a team of both St John's attendees and members of other congregations. This maintains a presence at local craft fairs, festivals, and community events.

Regular activities include: Assemblies at Dumfries High School; large scale seasonal art installations in St John's building – such as canopies of flames, stars, and angels; visual arts responses at the contemporary service; monthly Forest Church; CLC which is a bi-weekly house group with seasonal themes, such as Lent.

Work with Children

Godly Play provides age – appropriate activities for young children once a month during the 11.00am service, with activity bags available the other Sundays. Youth @11 meets at all other Eucharists. Between 10 and 15 Nursery children come monthly to St John's for themed sessions, a Bible story and activities. Mystery Evenings are held once a month for around 10-12 children aged 5 – 12 and a new group, Senior Investigating Officers has begun for upper primary and lower secondary age children, again with around 10-12 children.

The Summer Holiday Club, begun by the previous Rector, runs each year for one week. Last year's theme (2025) was based on Toy Story with 45+ children attending. The previous incumbent also built relationships with staff and pupils at 4 local primary

schools, and conducted one assembly in each per term. We are also seeking to build on the Chaplaincy work of the previous Rector with local primary schools (4 in number), and have, in recent months, added a fifth – or, rather, re-connected with – the primary section of North West Community Campus, a large, all-through school in Dumfries, which, forming an amalgamation of various schools in north west Dumfries, includes what was St Ninian's Primary School, with which St John's has long historic connections.



Our current Pastoral Administrator, part of our newly reconstituted Children and Youth Team, has taken on the primary Chaplaincy work, following the previous Rector's retirement, and is keen to extend the care St John's can offer both to pupils and to staff. He contributes to assemblies on a termly basis and, with a couple of schools, has established (and is working on doing so with the others) a practice of spending the whole day in the school in question, more or less as a classroom assistant, getting to know pupils and staff better, and building relationships.

All these activities are continuing in the vacancy thanks to the work of dedicated volunteers.



We hope to develop this work further with children and families. The previous incumbent proposed the appointment of a Children & Families' Youth worker, and this was accepted at an SGM. The Vestry has begun planning and raising funds for this initiative. However, it now awaits the appointment of a new Rector.

Other links:

Since 2023, on the initiative of the previous Rector, St John's has routinely hosted the World Day of Prayer service. Our Deacon currently organises the service, in conjunction with the other churches in Dumfries. The Congregation actively supports joint activities with other denominations. The Scottish Episcopal Church is moving towards ecumenical recognition of ministry and 2 of our assisting clergy currently offer locums to the Church of Scotland.

St John's plays an active part in the Dumfries Christian Network (DCN), with 2 representatives on its Committee. The DCN involves 16 Trinitarian churches, namely, Church of Scotland, Scottish Episcopal, Roman Catholic, Baptist and the Salvation Army, 4 independent churches as well as the YMCA and Alive Radio, the local Christian radio station, all based in Dumfries town and the surrounding area.

The DCN was set up to share information with member churches and Christian organisations as well as the wider community through the DCN's website; www.dumfrieschurches.org.uk. The DCN organises several ecumenical services throughout the year, especially in Holy Week.

Communication

Our website gives information about St John's. We maintain our Facebook presence which includes a dedicated Creative Worship page. Our quarterly award-winning magazine and our website, keep everyone informed of what's going on.

People enjoy fellowship over tea & coffee after the morning service on Sundays and Wednesdays. Round table discussions are sometimes held to gauge congregational response to key issues and themes.

The assisting clergy are investigating, and keen to promote, the live-streaming of our Sunday Eucharist.

A new illuminated external noticeboard has been designed and

made by a member of the congregation.



Friendship, Hospitality & Social Care

St John's is well – known for its hospitality. We hold bring and share lunches after the Eucharist on a Sunday to mark special occasions / events such as Harvest. There are Quiz Nights on the last Friday evening of the month in the winter, (money raised goes to various charities), a Burns' Supper in January, Indoor Bowling – Tuesday evenings, September – March. We organise outings in a community mini-bus to places of interest for members and friends.

A Fashion Show with Afternoon Tea held in late April 2025 as a fundraiser, had over 80 people attending. Entrance to the Hall was through the church and from the many comments received



about the beauty of the church building, it was apparent this event had reached out into the wider community.

We have hosted three Christmas Tree Festivals, the last one in December 2023, with much of the work being done by Dumfries



Flower Club. All have attracted people from other churches – and none – into the building. Approximately 100 trees were decorated by various groups in the community. Refreshments were offered in the hall. A further Christmas Tree Festival is planned for December 2026.



In 2023 there was a Bear Fest, with many displays of teddy bears engaged in various activities like wheelchair bowling, golf, karate etc, as well as displays with Christian themes. We also had a labyrinth in the heart of the church for prayer and reflection. A by – product was £1748.30 raised – divided 50% between St John's and Aberlour Childcare Trust.

Pastoral Care

We are currently seeking to expand our team of Pastoral visitors to offer telephone support and home, hospital and care home visiting, including the provision of Home Communion. We have contact with the homes of members through the delivery of our

quarterly magazine and our diary.

We offer the Ministry of Healing regularly at Sunday Eucharists and plan to develop this further. In January 2026, the Pastoral Group agreed to commit to a confidential prayer list, praying for those who wish to be held in prayer privately, rather than at the Sunday Eucharist.

St John's Place in the Community

With other churches, we work with a drop-in centre for the homeless, providing finance, support and volunteers. We collect food for First Base, a local foodbank. Individual members also support the foodbank. St John's supports the Fairtrade Fortnight organised by the Dumfries Fair Trade Group which is held in the Autumn. We also support the Bible Society.

St John's is situated next to the principal War Memorial in



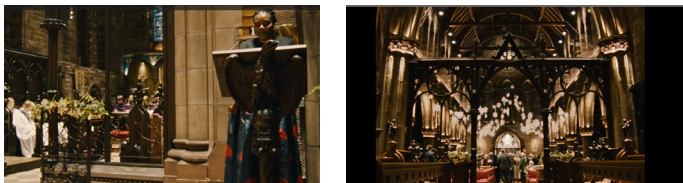
Dumfries. We host the main civic Act of Remembrance for the town every year, attended by the Lord Lieutenant, civic dignitaries as well as our own congregation who gather at the memorial for the ceremony, mid-way through the morning service. Our choir is a special feature of this Act of Remembrance. On VE Day 2025, an act of commemoration was held to mark the 80th anniversary, attended by the British Legion, members of the community and children and young people from the local nursery, primary and secondary schools. The service was led by the British Legion Chaplain and the Lord Lieutenant spoke. Some 80 – 100 people were given refreshments in the Hall by Mothers' Union members. Similar hospitality was given for the VJ anniversary. On Armistice Day, after a very wet Remembrance Sunday commemoration, the service was held in the church as the weather was again very wet.

It was well attended and refreshments were served afterwards to around 100 people, including school and nursery children.

We welcome other organisations who use our premises, including, Music in Dumfries, Dumfries Choral Society, and the Dumfries & Galloway Regional Youth Choir. The facilities and buildings are appealing to out of D & G users – for example, Leeds Male Voice Choir visited in summer 2025.

We support Christian Aid by hosting ecumenical 'Lent Lunches' – held in our church hall each Friday in Lent. This involves the Church of Scotland, the Roman Catholic and Baptist Churches in Dumfries, and also some from outlying areas. The sum raised in 2026 was £5,200 after expenses, an increase on last year, despite the higher cost of supplies.

In early December 2025, a Princess of Wales Carol Service was held in St John's, serving the Dumfries and Galloway community, with the three Lord Lieutenants in attendance, and 260 people invited sent by the Royal Household. Parts of the service were included in the BBC broadcast on Christmas Eve. St John's provided hospitality in the Hall.



Our ring of eight bells, installed in 2013, has a regular team of around eight to ten ringers, five being the minimum number needed to ring on a Sunday. The bell ringers are keen to recruit some youngsters (aged 9+). Bell ringers enjoy practising their art, and will travel long distances to do so, particularly in Scotland. In 2023, the Scottish Association of Change Ringers' bell striking competition was held in St John's, and ringers came from Inverness, Glasgow and Edinburgh to take part in the competition and the subsequent service. Not all ringers are church goers, but they agree that we ring the bells to call people to worship. Visiting ringers come from all over the UK and beyond, and are always welcome.



Justice & Peace

The Congregation supports in cash, in kind and with voluntary service, a number of charities having broad concerns with justice & peace, at home and abroad. We sponsor a street educator working with homeless children in Medellin, Colombia. We support the Aberlour Childcare Trust, which provides support for local families, through our Advent Appeal and other activities. We support the Mission to Seafarers.

Mother's Union

Our Mothers' Union (MU) Branch, with 18 members, is the largest in the Diocese. We keep in contact with a number of 'indoor members', unable to attend through age or infirmity. In 2022, the Branch celebrated its Centenary with a special service, led by the Bishop, and attended by many of the other churches. At that service, the Sacristan and one of the retired Methodist ministers (all male) became members of the Mothers' Union. Lunch for around 100 was provided by MU.



MU has a Eucharist once a month, taken by the Rector or one of the assisting clergy, and also a monthly lunchtime meeting with a guest speaker. All meetings join in the midday prayers with MU globally and are open to all. Everyone is assured of a warm welcome and hospitality.

St John's MU supports Bethany Trust and Women's Aid, providing toiletries and emergency supplies, along with gifts at Christmas. St John's MU has sent 200 Christmas cards to HMP Dumfries each year, but problems with this resulted in a need to find other ways to support prisoners and staff. St John's MU, therefore, promoted and hosted an ecumenical service for Scottish Prisoners' Week in November 2025. This was organized by the Prison Chaplaincy team, and refreshments in the Hall provided a busy social occasion for people to meet. In Autumn 2026, we hope to have a produce stall and donate the monies raised to the Common Good Fund at HMP Dumfries. MU also supports the Away From It All (AFIA) holidays provided by the Diocese for victims of domestic abuse.

St John's MU participates in the United Nations 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, an international campaign, supported by MU nationally, to raise awareness and protest against gender-based violence and domestic abuse. On the Saturday of the 2025 16 Days, we were loaned the Salvation Army café for a Diocesan exhibition – Soles for Souls. This consisted of pairs of shoes, each with a statement (man, woman or child) from a survivor of domestic abuse. The exhibition was then taken to St John's and set up in the porch and entrance, where it provided a powerful statement to all who entered about the suffering domestic abuse causes.

On Mothering Sunday, 15th March 2026, St John's MU members participated in all aspects of the service to mark the 150th Anniversary of Mary Sumner founding Mothers' Union.

Welcoming visitors

A welcome mat in the porch proclaims our intention to be a church for everyone. We provide information leaflets for those unsure about the service format, but the most important factor is the welcome given by the stewards. We intend to offer further training in this.

We have welcomed and supported a number of Ukrainians since 2022, and provide them with service sheets and pew notes in their language. Members of the wider Ukrainian community

gathered in St John's to mark the first anniversary of the outbreak of the war. Our Ukrainian friends have become valued members, contributing to our Church life and witness, including serving on the Vestry and singing in the Choir. There was a baptism on March 8th 2026 of a child from a Ukrainian family.

In 2024, St John's supported a group of about 25 children who came from Kharkiv for a holiday. There was another visit in summer 2025 and another is in prospect for summer 2026.



The Vestry

Our Vestry is the group which has general oversight of the life of St John's and, as the body of Trustees, has been carefully developed to be much more than a fabric and finance board. We view our Vestry as an elected spiritual eldership. Whilst it is governed by the 2010 version of our Constitution, its activities are informed by the Vital Vestries Local Collaborative Ministry Handbook of 2006, which needs revisiting. The Vestry of St John's traditionally rarely votes formally, aiming to practise discernment and reach consensus.

Our Vestry currently numbers 13, with a good mixture of ages, genders and interests, including a Lay Representative, Alternate Lay Representative and a Regional Lay Representative to Diocesan bodies, all of whom are ex officio members of the Vestry. The Vestry is chaired by the Rector. The Vestry Secretary, Assistant to the Treasurer (an external professional), Pastoral Administrator and Protection of Vulnerable Groups Co-ordinator are all attending officers of the Vestry and non-voting. Every

year, according to the Constitution, the three longest-serving members of the Vestry retire, and are ineligible to stand again for a period of one year. Elections take place at our AGM, which is held at the end of September.

The Vestry aims for transparency in as much of its deliberation and dealings as possible. Vestry Minutes are taken and, once approved, made available. Updates are presented to the Congregation, and items of general interest are published in the Magazine and Service Sheet.

The Buildings

The sandstone church building was consecrated in 1868, with a hall added in the 1920s. There is seating for approximately 350. Both buildings are listed, in good structural condition and well maintained, though work to the hall roof and refurbishment is currently in prospect.

Following a Special General Meeting where the views of the Congregation were sought, the Vestry has decided to sell the current Victorian Rectory. We will now seek to purchase a new-build, energy – efficient and comfortable home a short distance from the church.

Funding and Future Improvements

We are diligent in managing our ongoing expenditure and, in recent years, meeting our obligations with the help of some fundraising initiatives and giving campaigns.

A nearly 160yr old building requires on-going maintenance, improvement and enhancements of its facilities and St John's has done so over the years. Work has included re-ordering the entrance, with provision of office space, repairs to the tower, replacing some pews with chairs to create a more flexible space, installing a low energy lighting system which has enhanced the church architecture, improving the electrics, replacing the gas boilers and upgrading the gas supply.

A significant number of our members use standing orders for their giving, which is maximised by 'Gift Aid' legislation. We ask members to review their giving annually. There is a long tradition of sacrificial giving amongst the people of St John's – of time and talents, as well as money – and we acknowledge God's provision in this by aiming to give away 10% our income to charities and those who are in need. Support in kind is also offered.



Inspecting the tower works



New boilers

Dumfries & Galloway

Dumfries and Galloway (D & G) is one of the best kept secrets in Scotland - the Highlands in miniature – with beautiful scenery, lochs and hills, coastal areas, forests and numerous castles

Transport Links

Dumfries is the principal regional town and has a population of just under 50,000. D & G as a whole covers some 2,481 square miles and has an estimated population of approximately 151,000. Carlisle is forty minutes away by train, for links with the south. The M6 and M74 are around 30 minutes away.

Dumfries

Dumfries, like many towns, has suffered decline in recent years. However, a local group, The Midsteeple Quarter has begun to address the need for regeneration of the Town Centre. Dumfries has much to attract and many connections with the poet Robert Burns. The town boasts a number of parks and open spaces. The River Nith flows through it and it is known as 'The Queen of the South', which is also the name of the football team.



D & G Royal Infirmary is the major hospital serving the whole region. A new hospital was built in 2018, and the 'old' hospital is used for many clinics and Out Patient services. The town is generally well served by GP Practices, Dentists and other medical professionals.

Education

Dumfries has four Secondary comprehensive schools and numerous Primary schools. More details of these, including details of the results of Education Scotland Inspections can be found on the Dumfries & Galloway Council Website:

<http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/schools>.

The Crichton Estate in Dumfries comprises 100 acres, with a business park, Crichton University Campus housing outposts of the University of Glasgow, University of the West of Scotland, D & G College and the Open University as well as the Scottish Rural University College. The site also includes a hotel, a conference centre, and the Crichton Memorial Church.

Entertainment

There is a small, independent cinema in the Robert Burns Centre in Dumfries, and a two screen, independent cinema in nearby Annan. The oldest working provincial theatre in Scotland is the Theatre Royal in Dumfries, and there is a theatre in Castle Douglas which also functions as a cinema and has live screenings of theatrical performances.

Dumfries and Galloway has a wealth of artistic talent with numerous art and craft studios, most of which take part in the annual Spring Fling Festival: <http://www.spring-fling.co.uk>. Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival puts on a wide-ranging programme of theatre, music and cultural activities each May: <http://dgartsfestival.org.uk>. Both attract thousands of visitors each year.

For those who enjoy getting out and keeping fit, there are clubs for running, cricket, cycling, rowing, golf, a swimming pool, tennis and squash courts, walking groups and various gyms. The Ice Bowl has a dedicated Ice Hockey and skating rink, and a six - rink curling pad. There are numerous riding stables and sailing clubs throughout the region. There is a u3a Branch in Dumfries with many interest groups.

In conclusion

This profile, completed in June 2025, needed to be updated in February, 2026 and again in May 2026, as the activities and witness of our church have progressed in the last year. St John's has continued to grow in strength and confidence throughout the interregnum, with several additional developments, namely:

- Increased numbers attending the 11 am Eucharist.
- The establishment of an informal Prayers for Peace service on Fridays. This will be developed to form the basis of the 2026 Good Friday service
- Having re established contact with the primary section of Northwest Community Campus we managed to bring to fruition a project to bring the P4-7s to St John's for a special Easter service and activities in the last Monday of the spring term, 2026. This was the first (and very successful) attempt and we are hoping to involve the whole school, staff and some families in due course. They have also expressed an interest in bringing smaller groups, from time to time, to join in our Friday Peace Prayers service.
- A successful application for a Provincial grant of £4000 for further developing work with children and young people. St John's has committed another £1000 to this work.
- Consideration is being given to embarking on the National Church Development 101 programme.

ST JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, DUMFRIES – PRIEST PROFILE



“This is what we are about.

We plant seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds that are already planted, knowing that they will hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a liberation in that.

This enables us to do something and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete but it is a beginning, a step along the way.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future which is not our own.”

Archbishop Oscar Romero

This quote from Archbishop Romero provides a context for our search for an inspirational, aspirational, outward-looking, forward-looking and courageous priest, who is confident and comfortable with a broad and diverse range of styles of worship, liturgy and collaborative learning.

Inspirational – We are seeking:

- A reflective, spiritually motivated leader with vision, enthusiasm, ambition and energy.
- A priest with an appreciation of, and sensitivity to, a variety of liturgies and the importance of music and our choral tradition in worship.
- A facilitator who will manage and empower the established team of ordained and lay people who contribute to the life and worship of St John's.

Aspirational – We are seeking:

- A priest who is a manager and also a team player, who will work prayerfully and sensitively with the congregation to develop and promote a collective and shared vision for growth.
- A priest who will support and help further develop the work of house groups, Mothers' Union and work with children and young people.

Outward looking – We are seeking:

- A priest who will continue to celebrate and develop our established partnership with the Methodist Church in Scotland.
- A priest who will foster and promote our collaborations with other churches and organisations in our local community and beyond.
- A priest who will support and further develop our Pastoral Group.
- A priest with a commitment to social justice.

Forward – Looking and Courageous – We are seeking:

- A priest who will lead us in developing our Hall into a vibrant pastoral centre.
- A priest who will relish the challenge of moving St John's forward confidently in this new chapter, nurturing and securing its place in the local community, Diocese and Province.
- A priest who will listen, discern our skills, gifts and talents and work with us to further develop God's mission in St John's.

St John's commitment to our new priest will be:

- To welcome and care for them and their family.
- To provide a comfortable home and pleasant environment in which to live and work.
- To aid and support the incumbent in their spiritual journey and vocation.
- To affirm and encourage them by prayer and action.

As a result of all the above, in five years' time, we would like to:

- Be a vibrant, diverse, growing congregation, with a wide age range, serving God in this place – a church for everyone – with financial security for our work and witness.
- Have a thriving MU, and extensive work with children, young people and families, including in schools.
- Have a strong position and witness in the community, Diocese and Province, particularly with Diocesan involvement.
- Be a lively pastoral hub, serving the congregation and the community.
- See the continued development of our musical traditions and partnerships.

Next Steps

If you are interested in this Vacancy and wish to know more, please contact the Rural Dean, Rev Canon Dr Elizabeth Breakey.

Email: ruraldean@glasgow.anglican.org Mobile: **07506344747**

Please complete an application form.





