

St J's Diary & Notices: w/c Sunday, 27/09/2026

			
(4th in month) Sunday, 27/09/2026 Trinity 17 / Pentecost 18	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	www.stjohnsdumfries.org . *Available on website from about same time as actual event & for some days thereafter
Monday, 28/09/2026	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
	19.15-21.00	Study Group (Meeting Room)	Currently studying: <i>John's Gospel: Exploring the Seven Miraculous Signs</i> 07754 596140 for details. Course started some time back; now resuming after summer; joiners welcome.
Tuesday, 29/09/2026	18.30	1982 Eucharist (Lady Chapel)	
	19.15	Short Mat Bowling (Hall)	Just turn up
Wednesday, 30/09/2026	10.30	1970 Eucharist (Church), followed by refreshments (Hall)	
	19.00	Choir Practice (Church)	
Thursday, 01/10/2026	14.00	Mothers' Union Eucharist (Church)	See information 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, 02/10/2026	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.
Saturday, 03/10/2026	09.30	Silent Prayer	Not at Elshieshields...see below for more info.

			
(1 st in month) Sunday, 04/10/2026 Harvest	11.00	1982 Family Eucharist (Church); Godly Play (Hall); bring & share lunch afterwards (Hall)	The Congregational AGM will be convened towards the end of the service, adjourned for lunch, and reconvened after lunch
	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.

SALE OF RECTORY etc: Tomorrow, Monday, 28/09/2026, should mark the day where the new purchasers, Ryan & Kelsie Johnston, and their family, take ownership of the former Rectory at 8 Newall Terrace, and we, in turn, take ownership of *their* former home in Summerpark. This gives us some time to get the house in Summerpark adjusted to our

own specifications, so it will be ready for Diana to move in to, in time for when she joins us at St J's. Probably more about this in due course. In the meantime, there are some important points for us, as a Congregation, to note:

- The Rectory driveway will now be mutual (shared) between ourselves and No. 8, from the street effectively to the point where it narrows between the two buildings.
- What this means for practical purposes is that we can still come and go, on foot, as before, via the back gate.
- We also retain a right of access to the part of the Rectory backyard (where the garage is) for inspection, maintenance etc of the hall gable end, windows etc.
- The roughly triangular area which gives access to the boiler room and organ blower shed, and where the bins stand, remains our property.
- The major difference for us is that we can no longer park in the Rectory driveway (though few ever have in recent years). There is an agreement that either we, or No. 8, can temporarily park tradesmen's etc vans there for necessary purposes, but we need to bear in mind that No. 8's new owners are entitled to get in and out via that route by car at any time of the day or night.
- If you're organising something (and mostly this will be me) that requires a van etc to be parked there for unloading, please talk to me first and, if necessary, I'll negotiate. But please don't assume it'll 'probably be fine.' It probably *will*, but only if we act considerately and are, effectively, 'good neighbours'.
- Which also means not parking across the Rectory driveway entrance, or leaving too narrow a gap if you park adjacent to it.
- Any queries or difficulties about this, please do ask.

David

MU NOTICES

- Many thanks to all who contributed in any way and supported the **MU's Produce Stall** last week. We raised around £120 (still counting!) which will be sent to the Prison Chaplaincy to support their Common Good Fund.
- The **MU Programme for 2026/7** is available at the back of the Church, or please ask any MU member for a copy. Please have a look and see if you would like to come along to any meeting. You will be most welcome – men, women, married, single, with or without children. We are an inclusive organisation.
- The next **MU Eucharist** will take place on **Thursday 1st October** at 2 pm in the church. Rev Jim Booth will be presiding. We hope to enrol 3 new members at this service. There will be tea/ coffee and cake and lots of chat in the Hall afterwards. All welcome.

AGM & ALL THAT...

The AGM of St J's Congregation will be held on Sunday, 04/10/2026 (also Harvest Festival) within the context of the 11.00 Eucharist; that is to say that, as usual, it will be convened towards the end of the service, adjourned for a bring & share lunch, resumed after lunch, and then it, and the service will conclude with the Blessing & Dismissal. Papers etc will be available beforehand and you can also ask the Church Office for electronic copies of these in due course (we'll tell you when they're ready). First formal notice was given in church last Sunday; others to follow.. In the meantime, please note that, as well as the sad loss of Maxine Windsor from the Vestry earlier this year, three people: James Clark-Maxwell, Catriona Appleby-Strivens and Andy Bixler, as the three currently longest serving members, will be retiring. There will therefore be a number of places to fill, come the AGM, so would people please start thinking about whether this is a way they might serve our Congregation. You need to have been an actively involved member of St J's for at least a year to be eligible. The Vestry has already agreed to revisit its methodologies and pattern of meeting, and we held a BYAP (Bring Yer Ain Piece) lunch in the Choir Vestry (TBC) after the service last Sunday, (20/09/2026) to discuss that and for general

information, which attracted some interest.. If you're thinking about whether you might stand for Vestry (this may involve a vote, but all will be explained), you're very welcome to ask either of us. *Annette (Chair of Vestry); David (Acting Vestry Secretary)*

In case you missed it in amongst the stuff about the AGM, please note that we will be observing **Harvest Festival** on Sunday, 04/10/2026, and there will be a **Bring & Share lunch** on that day.

Dumfries & District Flower Club tell us...

I thought I would send an email just to let you know things are hotting-up nicely. We have over 60 trees spoken for and there are always some who want to sponsor a tree in the few weeks before the event. Thank you to those who have sent their sponsorship £12. As always we will be selling the trees afterwards (in their block stands) for £10. They certainly last to Christmas especially if kept outside until brought into the house to decorate.. If you wish to purchase your tree/a tree do let me know [church office can put you in touch, if need be] and we will ensure that happens. Payment of the £10 can be made anytime - please just let us know if you BACS it.

We have some very inventive names - I thought I would share 'Ping Pong Merrily On High', with you to spur you on. I wonder who might be sponsoring this tree?? 🎨

Thank you so much for your support. I am sure it will be the wonderful community event it has been in the past.

All the best,

Lindsay Florey (Programme Secretary, Dumfries and District Flower Club)

HEALING IN ST JOHN'S: When we read the gospel passage each week in church (and at any other time!), quite often Jesus heals a person as part of the story. The healings are usually physical, sometimes dramatic, or sometimes he asks the person to stay quiet. At other times, Jesus tells

someone their sins are forgiven. Jesus sent out his disciples to preach the good news, and to heal the sick. Which they did. Sometimes they weren't able to, and Jesus talked with them about faith.

After Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, the apostles, most notably but not exclusively Peter and Paul were involved in healing people. Jesus had told them that they would do even greater things than him.

So there is a mandate for us as Christians to be involved in healing. At St John's we have had healing prayer and anointing with oil offered as part of our 11 o'clock service on and off for many years. This year during Lent, healing prayer was once again offered during that service. The healing prayer team are going to offer this again during Advent in a few weeks' time.

We are also planning to offer a special service of Healing Prayer in November – more information about this later.

When the healing prayer team met together to plan and discuss this most recent offering of healing prayer we were asked to share our experiences of healing 'in mind, body or spirit, physically, mentally or emotionally (whether for ourselves or when we had prayed for others, without naming names, obviously!). It was so wonderful to hear what God has done for members of this congregation over many years.

For now, we are keen to hear your experiences of healing prayer – either in St John's or elsewhere. We would like to share these in a follow-up article next month. You can choose to be anonymous if you wish, but hopefully you will feel able to share your story, and we will all be enriched by hearing about how God has ministered in this particular way to our church family.

If you have something you want to share, please speak to anyone in the healing prayer team or email katelidwell@yahoo.co.uk by 10th October.

Current members of the healing prayer team are:

<i>Chris Wren</i>	<i>Ann Wren</i>	<i>Annette Beagrie</i>
<i>Tracy Temple</i>	<i>Andrew Ratnam</i>	<i>Mark Toner</i>
<i>Kate Lidwell</i>		

CHRISTIAN AID: Many thanks to everyone who supported the coffee morning in any way and to those who gave generously for the "treats" available afterwards. The final total is £1110.97. *Margaret Morton*



Silent Prayer in October (03/10/2026) will be held at Tom & Zara Lochhead's.

- Anyone needing directions, please contact the church office.
- This is the venue for the first Saturday in October; other venues may be used for the rest of the year.
- It will follow the usual format, gathering at 9:30am with tea and coffee served. A meditation topic will then be given and for 20 minutes silence is maintained for prayer and contemplation. Afterwards a short discussion usually takes place.
- Due to the generosity of participants at September's Silent Prayer, £70 was sent to Christian Aid with the request that they use it in Nepal.

WEEKEND RETREAT AT ALNMOUTH (SSF) FRIARY: FRIDAY 14TH TO SUNDAY 16TH MAY, 2027

Last time we did this was in 2020, immediately before lockdown. A provisional booking has been made for the above dates. Theme is as yet undetermined, but this kind of retreat is always a good opportunity both to advance understanding and to deepen relationships.

As things stand at the moment the Friary can accommodate 10 (and 3 more if they are willing to share in twin rooms). Transport can be arranged, whether we all travel in the one minibus (minimum 10 in the bus for it to be viable), or arrange lifts.

Cost (aside from travel) is a recommended donation of £60/night, but don't *not* come on that basis...some sort of subsidy may be possible and, indeed, some others attending may choose to pay more, so it should all work out. Talk to me or to Chris Wren to know more.

David

Quartz tell us... Ildiko (Dee) says that the **St Michael and the Dragon sculpture** which came to life in St John's will be installed in the Dumfries Multicultural Association. (former Littlewoods building in the High Street). It will be on display in the window there to celebrate St

Michael (and All Angels) day which is the 29th of September. Perhaps the congregation would be interested in seeing something St John's helped create in place on the high street of Dumfries. It contributes to the other St Michaels around the town.