

St J's Diary & Notices: w/c Sunday, 04/10/2026

			
(1 st in month) Sunday, 04/10/2026 Trinity 18 / Pentecost 19; Harvest Festival	11.00	1982 Family Eucharist (Church); Godly Play (Hall)	Congregational AGM and B&S lunch today; please stay for both if you can. And please sign the Apologies sheet if you can't.
	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
Monday, 05/10/2026	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
	18.00-20.00	Mystery Evening (Hall)	For P1-4 age children. 07754 596140 / 07520 006290 for details.
Tuesday, 06/10/2026	09.00-12.00	Malory Nursery (Church & Hall)	
	18.30	1982 Eucharist (Lady Chapel)	
	19.15	Short Mat Bowling (Hall)	Just turn up
Wednesday, 07/10/2026	10.30	1970 Eucharist (Church), followed by refreshments (Hall)	
	19.00	Choir Practice (Church)	
Thursday, 08/10/2026	20.00	MU Prayer Space (via Zoom)	See details below
	19.00	Prayer Meeting / discussion on last Sunday's gospel	None this week.
	19.30	Bell Practice (Tower)	Please contact bells@stjohnsdumfries.org or 07754 596140 if not a regular.
Friday, 09/10/2026	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, 10/10/2026			

(2 nd in month) Sunday, 11/10/2026 Trinity 19 / Pentecost 20	11.00	1982 Family Eucharist (Church); Godly Play Activity Bags available; refreshments afterwards (Hall)	Fairtrade stall in Hall after service.
	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

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) we no longer have that number
- 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: Monday, 28/09/2026, marked the day where the new purchasers, Ryan & Kelsie Johnston, and their family, took ownership of the former Rectory at 8 Newall Terrace, and we, in turn, took 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

- 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, with a world-wide membership of over 4 million. MU's focus is on prayer and Christian Care for Families, supporting projects all round the world. Our St John's branch is the largest in the Glasgow & Galloway Diocese.

- The next **MU lunch- time meeting** will be on **Thursday 15th October 2026**. Our speaker is David Nielson. David, a member of the St John's Tuesday evening congregation, will be leading us on a writing workshop entitled **Journeys**. *Members and guests are asked to bring a notebook and pen with them.* 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. All welcome.

AGM & ALL THAT...

The AGM of St J's Congregation will be held today, 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 have been available beforehand and you can also ask the Church Office for electronic copies of these. First formal notice was given in church on 20 September; and on subsequent weeks. The closing date for nominations to the Vestry was midday on Friday, 02/10/2026 and, at the time of writing, we are pleased to report that we have five new nominees for Vestry: they are: Amie Byers, Robyn Brotherston, Billy Riddick, Zara Ross and Linda Scott. This notice is being drafted on Tuesday: if more nominations come in timeously, we will need to vote on Sunday; otherwise the Congregation can, if it wishes, simply affirm the candidacy of those listed by acclamation at the AGM. *Annette (Chair of Vestry); David (Acting Vestry Secretary)*

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>		

Mark Smith says... Our Church is planning a celebration to mark the **consecration of the 'Crystal Chapel'**, as it became known as, which Robert the Bruce built, along with his sister, Christiana, in memory of her husband, Sir Christopher Seaton who was earlier hanged on the spot for his support of Bruce.

It's a long story, but spans the centuries and it's wonderful to know we have such a rich heritage, literally under our feet!

We're celebrating and inviting everyone to come along, on Friday 23rd October, from 7pm, in St Mary's Church.

RIVER OF LIFE
CHURCH | DUMFRIES

700 Years Celebration

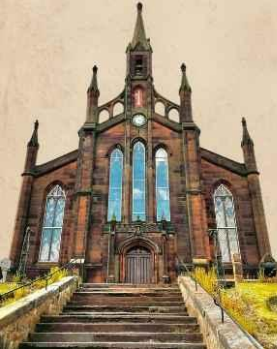
CELEBRATING 700 YEARS OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP ON THIS SITE

1326 - ROBERT THE BRUCE - CRYSTAL CHAPEL
1837 - CHURCH OF SCOTLAND - ST MARY'S
2024 - THE RIVER OF LIFE CHURCH

23rd October 2026
7pm | St Mary's Church
St Mary's Street, Dumfries

AN EVENING OF WORSHIP THROUGH THE CENTURIES, PLUS DANCE & DRAMA

ALL WELCOME | REFRESHMENTS AT 7PM



ST JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
9 NEWALL TERRACE
DUMFRIES

BELL Ringing

The group are keen to recruit more members to ring for a Sunday service, plus a regular weekly practice on Thursdays. Beginner sessions will initially take place on Saturdays.

From age 9 upwards

Please note the church bells are located up a spiral staircase with no wheelchair access.

www.facebook.com/stjohnsbells
Email: dumfries@sacr.org



**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