St J's Diary & Notices: w/c Sunday, 29/11/2026

			
(5th in month) Sunday, 29/11/2026 Advent 1	09.30	Matins (Church)	
	11.00	1982 Family Eucharist (Church); Youth@11; Godly Play Activity Bags available; refreshments afterwards (Hall)	
	12.45-ish	Rehearsal for participants in the Institution Service, followed by…	
	13.30-ish	Short Vestry Meeting (Hall)	
	Any time*	Service online	www.stjohnsdumfries.org. *Available on website from about same time as actual event & for some days thereafter
Monday, 30/11/2026	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
	All day, off and on	Setting up Xmas Tree Festival	
Tuesday, 01/12/2026	All day, off and on	Setting up Xmas Tree Festival	
	18.30	1982 Eucharist (Lady Chapel)	
	19.15	Short Mat Bowling (Hall)	Just turn up. Last one till after Christmas. Resumes January; watch this space.
Wednesday, 02/12/2026	All day, off and on	Setting up Xmas Tree Festival	
	10.30	1970 Eucharist (Church), followed by refreshments (Hall)	
	19.00	Choir Practice (Church)	
	19.00	Xmas Tree Festival opens	Till 21.00

Thursday, 03/12/2026	14.00	Mothers' Union *Agapé* (Choir Vestry)	See details below
	19.00	Prayer Meeting/ discussion on last Sunday's gospel	At Annette's. All welcom… Church Office can put you i… touch.
	19.30	Bell Practice (Tower)	Please contact bells@stjohnsdumfries.org 07754 596140 if not a regula…
Friday, 04/12/2026	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
	12.00	Friday Prayers for World Peace (Church)	30 mins or so, followed by tea/coffee. All welcom… show up.
Saturday, 05/12/2026			
(1st in month) Sunday, 06/12/2026 Advent 2	11.00	1982 Family Eucharist (Church); Godly Play (Hall); refreshments afterwards (Hall)	
	14.00-16.00	Xmas Tree Festival open	
	18.00	Advent Carol Service (Church)	(16.30 Rehearsal; 18.00 start)
	Any time*	Service online	www.stjohnsdumfries.org *Available on website from about same time as actual event & for some days thereafter

Xmas Tree Festival 10.00-21.00 (Thu-Sat)

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.

INSTITUTION of the Rev Diana Hall as Rector of St J's: Wednesday, 09/12/2026: Every member of the Congregations (St J's & Maxwelton) for whom we have a valid email address should, by now, have had an invitation to the Institution service on Wednesday, 09/12/2026. If you haven't had one, please check your spam folder and, if you still don't find it, please check with the office that we have your correct email address. **And if you're not on email, please accept this (below) as your invitation to the Institution**. It would be helpful, both for seating, and catering, reasons, if we have an idea of how many to expect, **so please would you either reply to the invitation by email, stating numbers attending, or add your name to the sign up sheet at the back of the church.** There's also an apologies sheet and, if you can't attend, please likewise put your name on that, so we can let someone else have your sausage roll. **Replies need to be in by 1st December, please.** Any queries, please ask. *David*



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL: More help needed!

- Thank you to those who have offered to help with either serving refreshments or stewarding but we need more. If you are put off helping with refreshments because you do not know how to work the Buffalo coffee maker or the dishwasher fear not. There will be somebody there who does.
- There are rotas at the back of church for stewarding and for serving refreshments. Please sign for any time you can offer. If a good number of us offer it will be an easy task.
- Any questions to Carolynne Sorrell for the stewarding arrangements and Margaret Morton about the refreshments.



MU Notices for Sunday 22nd and 29th November 2026

Our next meeting will take place on Thursday 3rd December at 2pm and will be in the form of an ***Agape***. With apologies to those with mobility difficulties, we will meet in the Choir Vestry – AKA The Green Room – in order not to disrupt the Christmas Tree Festival. Revd Andrew MacKenzie will be presiding. The Agape will be followed by tea and cake as usual and everyone is welcome.

We at MU would like to ask the **Congregation's help in providing Christmas "goodies"** for the women and children being supported by Women's Aid. Chocolates, vouchers for Tesco's or Morrisons, nice toiletries, would all be gratefully received. There is a box at the back of the hall, and we would like to thank you in advance for your generosity, which is always forthcoming.

Our **MU Christmas Meal** will be at the Woodlands Hotel on **Thursday 17th December**. We will gather at 12 pm with lunch at 12.30 and it will be £24.50 for 2 courses, plus tea/coffee and a warm mince pie to finish. If you would like to come along, please just speak to any MU member, and be assured of a warm welcome.

Dear friends at St John's Church,

Please find attached a receipt for the gift which we recently received from the St John's Church towards the work of the Bethany Christian Trust in Dumfries. As we received this gift early in October, my apologies for the delay in getting this receipt to you.

The continual prayerful support from the members of St John's over so many years truly has truly strengthened our work across the country, and particularly in Dumfries, meaning that we can continue working towards Bethany Christian Trust's aim of ending homelessness in Scotland, one person, one family and one community at a time. This donation will be put

towards our housing and support work in Dumfries, so thank you for your generosity, compassion and partnership in enabling all of this work continue and helping us to support over 9,000 people across Scotland each year.

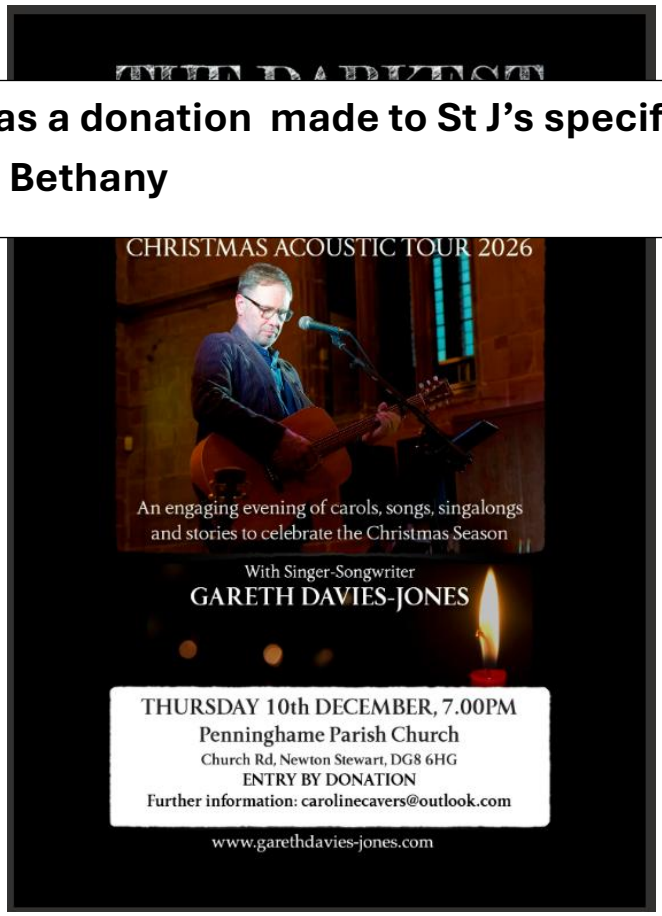
If there is any further information you would like about Bethany's services, literature or fundraising, please do get in touch and let me know as we would love to help your congregation engage even further with our work.

With many thanks,
Rachael

Rachael Gilfillan
Churches and Communities Fundraiser
T - 0131 561 8927
M -
Bethany Christian Trust
65 Bonnington Road, Edinburgh, EH6 5JQ
www.bethanychristiantrust.com

Bethany Christian Trust

Note: this was a donation made to St J's specifically for us to pass on to Bethany



Dear Church Administrator,

I’m contacting you on behalf of Enable Driving Instructors Limited to ask for your help in promoting an upcoming free community event in Dumfries.

On Saturday 5th December 2026, from 9am to 4pm, we’re hosting free driving assessments for people aged over 70 at our office at Platform 2, Dumfries Train Station.

The purpose of the event is to support older drivers in maintaining their confidence, independence and safety on the road.

The assessments are friendly, informal and pressure-free, providing an opportunity for drivers to receive personalised feedback and practical advice from an experienced driving instructor.

We appreciate that churches play an important role in bringing communities together and reaching people who may not otherwise hear about local opportunities.

We would be extremely grateful if you could help us by:

Sharing our attached event poster with your congregation.
Including the event in any church newsletters or weekly announcements.
[…]
Our aim is simply to make this free opportunity accessible to as many local older drivers as possible.

Thank you for considering our request. Any support you can offer would be very much appreciated.

Paul Sharkey

Office Coordinator
Enable Driving Instructors Ltd.
Unit 1 Dumfries Station, Lover's Walk, Dumfries, DG1 1NF
Reception: 07592176223
Adam: 07484309535
Paul: 07740502469
Enable Driving Instructors Ltd.
http://www.enable-driving-school.co.uk



The eagle eyed may notice this is the illustration from the last one, but we're proposing to go again on **Sunday, 13/12/2026**, after church, maybe about 13.15. A nice opportunity, particularly if you don't get one the previous Wednesday, to get to know Diana. There's a sign-up sheet at the back of the church, so, if you'd like to be part of it, please add your name, state any dietary requirements, and whether you'd need transport. Any queries to Annette or the Church Office. **Don't delay: there's a max of 24 places.**