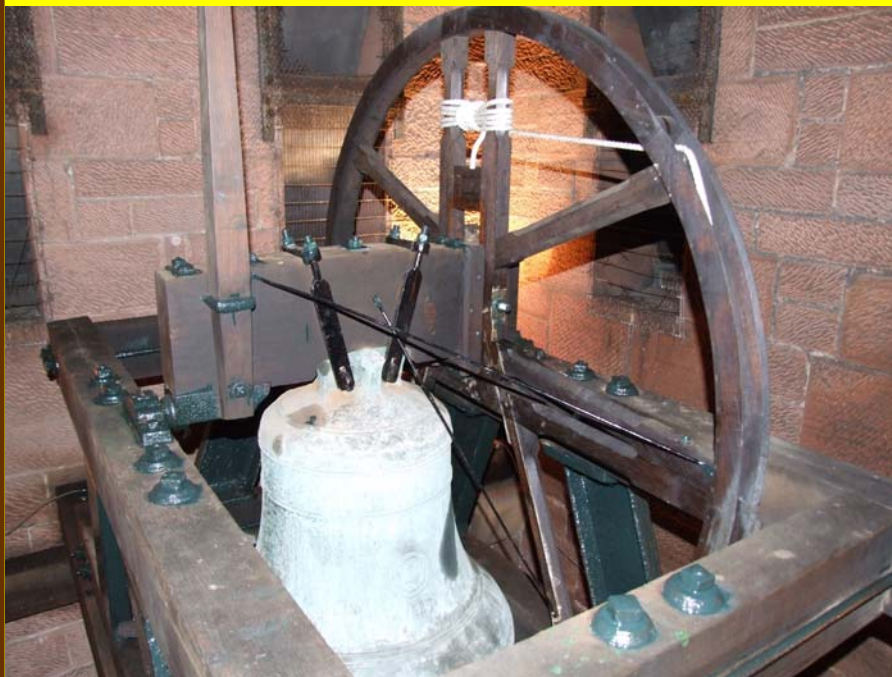


# The Eagle



***Up in the Bell Tower***

*Photo by Bill Cussons - the article on page 8 describes the scene*

## **St John's Magazine**

### ***May to July 2010***

**The Scottish Episcopal Church of St John the Evangelist, Dumfries  
(Anglican/Methodist)**

[www.stjohnsdumfries.org](http://www.stjohnsdumfries.org)

Scottish Charity Number: SC007742

© 2010 St John's Church, Lovers Walk, Dumfries

# St John's Pattern of Services and related Groups

at St John's in Lovers' Walk unless otherwise stated

<b>Sundays:</b>	8.00am	Holy Communion (Scottish Liturgy 1970)
(1st Sunday)	9.30am	All-age Worship (Godly Play format) <i>(not in January, July or August)</i>
(2nd Sunday)	9.30am	Mattins (Scottish Prayer Book 1929)
(3rd Sunday)	4.00pm	All-age Worship <i>(not in December)</i>
(4th Sunday)	9.30am	Holy Communion (Scottish Liturgy 1970) <i>at Maxwellton Chapel, Moniaive</i>
(5th Sunday)	9.30am	Informal Communion (Scottish Liturgy 1982; Prayer V)
	11.00am	Sung Eucharist (Scottish Liturgy 1982) & Children's Church
(1st & 3rd Sundays)	6.00pm	Choral Evensong (Scottish Prayer Book 1929)
(2nd & 4th Sundays)	6.00pm	Evening Prayer (Iona or Taizé style)/Discussion/Healing service <i>(see weekly notices for details on a particular Sunday)</i>
(5th Sunday)	6.00pm	Compline (Scottish Prayer Book 1929 or Daily Prayer 1990)

**Daily Prayer** (*September to June, omitting the school holiday periods at Christmas and Easter*)  
(Daily Prayer 1990)

**Monday to Thursday**

8.30am Morning Prayer

5.30pm Evening Prayer

**Friday**

8.30am Morning Prayer

4.45pm Evening Prayer

**Tuesdays:** 6.30pm Holy Communion (Scottish Liturgy 1982)  
*(usually with incense)*

**Wednesdays:** 10.30am Holy Communion (Scottish Liturgy 1970)

(3rd Wednesday) 1.45pm Holy Communion *at Charnwood Lodge Nursing Home*

4.00pm Youth Group meeting in the hall  
*(fortnightly in term-time; see weekly notices for schedule)*

**Thursdays:** 11.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer 1662)  
*at the Crichton Memorial Church, Crichton Campus*

6.00pm A Time for Meditation  
*(pattern as indicated in weekly pewnotes)*

(1st Thursday) 2.30pm Holy Communion (Scottish Liturgy 1982)  
*(September to May) - Mothers' Union service, all welcome.*

**3rd Friday:** 10.00am Praise & Play Service for parents/grandparents &  
pre-school children (*September to June*)

**House/Study Groups:** Groups meet at a variety of times to study the Bible and discuss other faith-related material. More details are available from the Rector.



*Photo by Winifred Wilson*

**All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful,  
The Lord God made them all.**

*Mrs C F Alexander*

## **MEET THE NEW DEAN**

The Very Revd Ian Barcroft is Rector of St Mary the Virgin, Hamilton. He was appointed and installed as Dean of the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway by Bishop Gregor on Sunday 25th April. Ian is Convener of the Diocesan Church in Society Group, and is very committed to strengthening links between church and community. His own church has modelled this through excellent family support projects.



# The Rector's Letter



Quite a number of very significant matters will be on St John's Agenda during the currency of this edition of the magazine.

Consideration will be given to the opportunity presented by the Keltek Trust's offer to us of a set of bells so that St John's bell tower could become a change-ringing tower. Only one bell was installed when the tower was built in the 1890s but it was designed to take a peal. The single bell has been chimed over the years as a call to worship and a peal of bells would enable this call to be more appealing.... For more information on this see the article on page 7.

Independent of this, but related to the task of making music with bells is the formation of a hand-bell choir under the direction of Carl Wiltse, a member of St John's Choir who is a composer. His work includes compositions for hand bells. Carl has sets of hand bells on which people can learn and make music and he is generously making them available for use in St John's. The sequencing skills are similar to those needed for tower bell change-ringing and those interested in both could learn the sequencing skills on hand bells first. For more information contact Carl on 01557 331292.

Significant legal matters in regard to St John's Constitution will be under consideration. Scottish law relating to Charities has changed in recent years notably by the formation of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR for short and normally pronounced as Oscar). St John's Constitution dates back to 1987 and does not comply with OSCR regulations. Further to the views on this matter expressed at the Special General Meeting of July 2009, the Vestry has taken advice about adopting an updated Constitution which does comply and which reflects the SGM views. The draft of the new Constitution will be considered at SGMs on 18th May and 29th June, and further information will be given in Pewnotes, on displays in Church and Hall, and on St John's website.

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, we will be moving deeper into our consideration of Christian Stewardship, and Dr Jamie Hill, Convener of our Diocesan Stewardship Committee, will be coming to speak to us, particularly about financial matters. In this regard all members of St John's congregation will receive a letter about this by the end of June. Anyone who regards themselves as a member of St John's, and doesn't receive a letter, is asked to let me or Lea Wilson know. More information will be found in Pewnotes in due course.

*Yours in Christ,  
Robin*

# Retreat in Daily Life

*Paul Wilson*

This was an event offered earlier this year by *Aig Fois* ([www.aigfois.co.uk](http://www.aigfois.co.uk)), based in Kirkcudbright, working with The Epiphany Group, Scotland ([www.epiphanygroup.org.uk](http://www.epiphanygroup.org.uk)), who regularly hold Ignatian retreats at Scottish Churches House in Dunblane. However, it was a retreat with a difference! Normally, to benefit from a retreat, one goes away, usually for several days, and enjoys the benefits of a quiet and peaceful venue, away from home and one's busy daily life, the purpose being to recharge one's spiritual batteries without distractions, with help from a leader, speaker or spiritual director. For example, St John's has organised a retreat at the Franciscan Alnmouth Priory in Northumberland for several years on these lines and many have benefited.

The Retreat in Daily Life was open to anyone in the Stewartry and Dumfries areas, advertised through local churches, but did not involve the sometimes complicated and perhaps expensive need to leave home at all! Instead, following an introductory session late on Sunday afternoon in Castle Douglas, one was allocated a prayer guide, someone outside one's usual circle of contact, to meet for about 30 minutes each day for the next 5 days, Monday to Friday, in a local home at a mutually convenient time (in my case, less than 10 minutes' cycle ride away). The rest of the week, one was encouraged to take regular time to pray and reflect in an intentional but manageable way within one's normal daily routine. The prayer guide might suggest ways of praying, or perhaps a bible passage or other material to consider and ponder, specifically for the individual, and then explore at subsequent meetings how this had helped the previous day's prayer and reflection – all, of course, in complete confidence.

Although I have benefited from 'conventional' retreats in the past, I found this a unique and very helpful experience. The venue chosen for me was familiar, but only my prayer guide and I were present, and I felt very secure in those surroundings. Some of the topics I was asked to consider seemed initially more helpful than others; strangely, the bible passage I found least useful on first examination, through the help of my guide actually became very meaningful – to the extent that I was able to use it in a subsequent sermon in St John's. I am still reflecting on it!

The response to the retreat was very encouraging: 27 people took part,

/ with

with 7 prayer guides (2 from this area and 5 from a distance), in 5 different venues (Castle Douglas, Dalbeattie, Dumfries, Kirkcudbright and Palnackie). Participants were from 11 different churches of 6 denominations (including 2 from St John's). The week concluded with a final celebration, with feedback and worship, in Kirkcudbright late on Saturday afternoon. There are plans to repeat the Retreat soon: you might seriously consider taking part.



## From the Editor

*John Walker*



You will notice that Bells figure significantly in this issue: on the front cover, in the Rector's Letter, and in the articles on pages 7 and 8. I am indebted to the Rector and to Bill Cussons for this material. I couldn't resist the photograph of the bell and its wheel - few of us will ever have the opportunity to reach the vantage point from which Bill took this, even if we have the necessary head for heights.

The latter days of May are rich with possibilities. There is a gathering to celebrate the Christian Festival of Pentecost on Sunday 23rd May, which Carol Finlay and Kate and Simon Lidwell are helping to organise - see page 20. This day will include arts, crafts, music, drama, dance, and more.

Around that time there are also numerous musical events for our enjoyment. See Dates for your Diary on page 13; an article by Carl Wiltse on the same page; and a piece on page 15 relating to the D&G Arts Festival. Music is not only something for our pleasure, but it can also be a means to helping us find a sense of inner peace.

As usual, I thank all of you who have provided material for this issue.

**Holidays ahead?** Looking towards the next magazine, may I please remind you that the copy deadline for that is Monday 19th July. If you are likely to have a contribution for the August/September/October magazine, and have holidays planned for July, please could you write yourself a little note in your diary to jog your memory to let me have that contribution early, rather than too late!

With that in mind, may I wish you all very happy holidays when the time comes.

## The Bell Project - Progress Report

The first sound of progress in this project was the ringing of our present bell on Easter Day for the first time in 4 years. The bell was re-hung, and the rope and wheel replaced in February 2010. This report is an update on the October 2008 article in *The Eagle*, and the Special General Meeting (SGM) of 18th November 2008. The conclusion of that SGM was that we should explore the possibility of installing a peal of 6/8 bells in the church tower.

The Keltek Trust, whose objects are to preserve ancient bells, has purchased 5 bells of the peal removed from Mount Zion Church, Quarriers village, Bridge of Weir, and reserved them for St John's project. The Trust will donate one bell and St John's is currently underwriting a loan of just under £6000 to reserve the remaining bells until a decision is made to proceed or not.

As St John's church is a listed building, clearance had to be sought from Historic Scotland, and from the Planning and Building Standards department of Dumfries Council. Both have given permission. Our own Diocesan Property Committee has passed the preliminary Canon 35 (Church Planning Regulations) submission with two provisos.

Firstly that a structural survey be carried out to confirm that the tower is capable of accommodating a peal of bells. The tower has now been surveyed and reported on by a structural engineer, Adrian Dempster, who specialises in bell tower projects, and is coincidentally a bell ringer and ordained minister in the Church of England. Mr Dempster's conclusion is that the tower is suitable for a ring of 6 or 8 bells based on a tenor bell of 10-3-18 cwt (554 kg). The report also contains recommendations on the position of the proposed bell frame in the tower and the layout of the bells within the frame. These recommendations have been incorporated into the project design.

Secondly that there is a meeting arranged to brief the general public on background and aims of the project and receive views from them. This is planned for Saturday 15th May at 10.30 for 11.00am (until about noon). This will be widely publicised in the community and St John's members are particularly encouraged to attend. The Diocesan Architect, Rebecca Cadie, has advised on this process and will be in attendance.

A Special General Meeting is then planned for the following Tuesday, 18th May (7.10pm for 7.30pm, St John's Hall) to consider the outcome of the community consultation and form a congregational view to submit to the Diocesan Property Committee in the next stage of the Canon 35 Planning Process.

If Planning Permission is given, then the progress of the project will depend on funding. It would be helpful if those who might be minded to make in-memoriam donations to sponsor a bell (or bells) would get in touch with Lea Wilson, St John's Treasurer, for more information.

## Edinburgh 2010

The last issue of *The Eagle* carried an article outlining the plans and purpose for an ecumenical conference on mission that takes place in Edinburgh from 2-6 June 2010. This commemorates the centenary of the World Missionary Conference that took place in Edinburgh in 1910, and aims to provide new perspectives on Christian mission today.

The highlight of the conference is a celebratory service on Sunday 6 June. Delegates and about 1,000 local and international guests will gather at the Assembly Hall in Edinburgh, the historic venue of the 1910 World Missionary Conference. The Archbishop of York, the Most Rev Dr John Sentamu, has agreed to lead the three-hour worship, together with representatives of other Christian traditions. It is planned to stream the celebrations online in order to make it accessible to Christians all over the world.

There are various ways of tapping into this project via the Edinburgh 2010 website ([www.edinburgh2010.org](http://www.edinburgh2010.org)). Please pray for all those involved in this conference, and that the outcome may be of value for mission world-wide.

## Up in the Bell Tower

The photograph on the front cover shows the bell after it was refurbished and re-hung. From the camera's viewpoint - on top of scaffolding! - we see the wheel and look down on the bell. The rope that is tied to the vertical spokes of the wheel feeds down through the floor to the ringing chamber below, which is the room above the entrance to the church. The bell is hung for full circle ringing. That means that the bell is swung so that the mouth points almost vertically when it sounds, but does not go right over because the vertical wood stay (on the left of the photo) stops it. The wheel is there partly to guide the rope, and partly to give leverage to help the bell ringers to swing the bell.

This bell weighs 690lb (313kg), and was originally installed for the sum of £63-15-0 (£63.75). It sounds the note C. Anyone interested in joining the rota to ring this bell should have a word with the Rector or Bill Cussons.

*These notes and the photograph to which they refer were provided by Bill Cussons.*

# HEALING MINISTRY

*Sermon preached by the Very Revd Paul Burbridge on 11th April 2010*

In my first address on the Church's Healing Ministry in 2007 I left with you three questions, one of which was: "Is there any distinction between healing and curing?" In a later address I attempted to provide some further thinking on this question. In a nutshell, I suggested that healing and curing could be one and the same, but were not necessarily so – and that healing or wholeness was something deeper and more important than the mere curing of outward symptoms.

Today I want to touch on the interlinked question: "Why are some people obviously healed or cured, while others don't seem to be?"

Personally, I believe that wherever Christ's healing touch is given, some measure of wholeness or healing is always imparted – irrespective of whether or not there appears to be a cure. Furthermore, I also believe that all healing has a God-given purpose.

On this matter of purpose, I would particularly like to draw your attention to probably the most outstanding healing in the last century – in 1912 to be exact. Then, on Sunday February 18th, a 22 year old young woman called Dorothy Kerin, who had been bed-bound for many years suffering from multiple serious illnesses, was believed to be dying. But following her experience of a vision in which she was instructed to get up and walk, she did just that – to the utter astonishment of the supporters round her anticipated deathbed! Extensive medical examination subsequently proved that her health was entirely restored. And that was the beginning of a truly remarkable ministry which she began at Ealing in London. Then after the war she moved to Speldhurst in Kent before buying Burrswood in 1948, on the Kent/Sussex border. The healing ministry she began continues to this day at what is now called Burrswood Christian Hospital, in which the healing skills of both medicine and the church are totally interlocked. I personally have had the privilege of being present as an observer of a morning staff meeting there, at which both the physical and spiritual aspects of patients' treatment were treated on an equal footing. We might say that Dorothy Kerin's healing was an outstanding case in which purpose is transparently obvious!

But now I move on to the harder question. Why is it that some people are apparently not healed? One can only honestly say that we don't know for certain. However, Jesus himself did give us certain pointers, of which I will mention a few:

1. The first of these occurs in John 5.6, when Jesus asked the man by the Pool of Bethesda “Do you really *want* to be healed?” Time was when I considered that to be a pretty silly question, but with experience I have learned better! In some cases, sickness or infirmity can itself become a way of life, so that the demands of living a normal healthy life may seem to be too great to be borne. Obviously this can constitute a real barrier to healing.

2. Sin (which again Jesus says can constitute a barrier to wholeness and healing), may be that which we have personally committed, and for which we have not asked forgiveness. But equally, it can also be sin against us (real or perceived) which we have been unwilling to forgive. Remember Jesus taught us to pray: “Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.” Failure to forgive on our part can be very destructive of our own wholeness and health.

3. Related to the last, bad relationships within the community – and most especially within the family – can also impair the possibility of healing, causing blockage within the body’s immune system and its natural healing capacity. There are four areas of necessary right relationships: First: with God; Second: with our neighbour; Third: with our environment; and Fourth: also with ourselves. And here remember Jesus’ instruction that we should “love our neighbour as ourselves” – clearly implying that a right degree of love of self is not so much a self-indulgence, as an actual obligation!

4. Lastly, there is the point that Jesus so often made, when he said “Your faith has made you whole.” By that he was not speaking of “faith-healing” as popularly misunderstood. By faith is meant deep trust: that doesn’t simply mean merely believing intellectually in our minds that God exists, and that he sent his Son to us a couple of millennia ago, but rather it refers to our readiness to trust him for the rest of our lives. It refers to total commitment – not altogether unlike marriage. Could it be that we are sometimes tempted merely to flirt with Christianity rather than take the ultimate plunge of total life commitment?

And so I will finish with some words that Dorothy Kerin herself regularly used at all healing services (which are all the more remarkable because she herself underwent an instant healing): “There is no magic about the healing of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It does not necessarily come immediately, sometimes it does not come at all in the way we hope. Therefore we must come with one prayer in our hearts and minds, and that is that God’s will may be done in us and for us. And he asks that we come in faith.”

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### ***St John's Diary Dates for the Month of May:***

**Saturday 8 May 7.30pm** Gaudeamus in Concert - in aid of 'Let the Children Live!'

**Sunday 9 May - Saturday 15 May** Christian Aid Week

**Monday 10 May 7.30pm prompt** Dumfries Music Club AGM including a short Recital by Gaudeamus

**Tuesday 11 May 7.30pm** Dumfries Flower Club

**Wednesday 12 May 4.00pm** YAHAB Youth Group

**Thursday 13 May 7.00pm** Galloway Regional Ascension Day Service preacher the Revd Mitchell Bunting, Ecumenical Officer, United Reformed Church

**Saturday 15 May 10.30am for 11am - 12noon meeting**

Public Consultation Meeting on the Installation of a Peal of Bells

**Sunday 16 May 4.00pm** All-Age Worship Service

**Tuesday 18 May 7.30pm Special General Meeting:**

St John's Draft Constitution and Bell Consultation

**Thursday 20 May 1.00pm** Mothers' Union Lunch and speaker: Jim Logan on 'Razor Shells, Queens & Pelicans Feet - shells of the Solway Coast'

**Friday 21 May 10.00am** Praise & Play

**Saturday 22 May 10am - 4pm** Vestry Away Day

**Wednesday 26 May 4.00pm** YAHAB Youth Group

**Wednesday 26 May 7.30pm** Dumfries Fairtrade Group

**Sunday 30 May 9.30am** All-Age Informal Communion

### ***St John's Diary Dates for the Month of June:***

**Saturday 5 June 2.00pm** Wedding: Emma Halliday and Andrew Clingan

**Sunday 6 June** Fairtrade Stall between & after the services

**Sunday 6 June 11.00am** Aldersgate Sunday - preacher: Derek Bibb, Superintendent Minister of the Methodist Circuit in Scotland

**Tuesday 8 June 7.30pm** Vestry meeting

**Wednesday 9 June 4.00pm** YAHAB Youth Group

**Wednesday 16 June 6.30pm** St John's Choir's last practice before summer recess

**Thursday 17 June** Mothers' Union Outing - place and time to be arranged

**Friday 18 June 10.00am** Praise & Play

**Sunday 20 June 4pm** All-Age Informal Worship

**Tuesday 22 June 7.30pm** Solway Sound AGM (Talking Books)

**Wednesday 23 June** Choir Outing to Annan Academy musical *Anything Goes*

**Wednesday 23 June 7.30pm** Dumfries Fairtrade Group

**Tuesday 29 June 7.30pm Special General Meeting:**

St John's Draft Constitution and Bell Consultation

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### ***St John's Diary Dates for the Month of July:***

**Please note:**

**Public Morning and Evening Prayer** services will **NOT** take place during July, but the Church will continue to be open from 9.00am to 5.00pm for personal prayer and visitors

**Thursday 1 July** Schools close for summer recess

**Sunday 4 July** Fairtrade Stall

**Thursday 29 July** 6pm 'A Time for Meditation' – last meeting before the summer recess

### ***St John's Diary Dates for the Month of August:***

**Please note:**

'A Time for Meditation' and **Public Morning and Evening Prayer** services will **NOT** take place during August, but the Church will continue to be open from 9.00am to 5.00pm for personal prayer and visitors

**Sunday 1 August** Fairtrade Stall between and after the services

**Saturday 14 August 1.00pm** Wedding: Lisa McDackan and Mike Bell

**Tuesday 24 August 7.30pm** Vestry meeting

**Wednesday 25 August 7.30pm** Dumfries Fairtrade Group

**Wednesday 25 August 6.30pm** Choir Practice resumes

**Thursday 26 August** Pupils return to school

**Friday 27 August 2.00pm** Wedding: Jennifer Russell and David Howat

### ***St John's Diary Dates for the Month of September:***

**Tuesday 21 September 7.30pm** St John's Annual General Meeting

*Further details of all events can be found in the Weekly Pew Notices, on St John's website ([www.stjohnsdumfries.org](http://www.stjohnsdumfries.org)), on posters on the Hall noticeboards, or by email to St John's office ([office@stjohnsdumfries.org](mailto:office@stjohnsdumfries.org))*

### ***Magazine Deadline***

The deadline for the **August/September/October 2010** magazine is **Monday 19 July 2010** but earlier submission would be much appreciated.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### ***What's Happening In and Around Dumfries Churches in 2010***

**Saturday 8 May 8pm** Dumfries Town Band in Concert at St Michael's & South Church, Dumfries

**Saturday 22 May 7.30pm** David Currie in Concert, Dumfries Baptist Church (part of Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival)

**Sunday 23 May P.. S.. Pentecost Sunday** at the Barony College, Parkgate - Free entrance for all: see page 20 for more details

**Thursday 27 May 9.30am-3.30pm** Faith in Older People conference (see p.19)

**Saturday 29 May 7.00pm** St John's Choir & the Newton Stewart Singers are performing 'Requiem' by Carl Wiltse plus anthems and songs in Penninghame Church of Scotland, Newton Stewart (see below)

**Saturday 29 May 7.00pm** Rhos Orpheus Male Choir in Concert at Crichton Memorial Church, Bankend Road, Dumfries featuring Hannah Bradbury (Soprano), Alf Gladman (Tenor) and Billy Dewar-Riddick (organist) (part of Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival)

**Saturday 29 May 7.30pm** Bruce Willis in Concert, Dumfries Baptist Church (part of Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival)

**Sunday 13 June 7.45pm** Guid Nychburriss Songs of Praise, Dumfries Academy, organised by Dumfries Christian Network

**Saturday 19 June** Guid Nychburriss Day in Dumfries

**Saturday 26 June** Allanton Peace Festival & Flag Ceremony Auldgirth (tbc)

### ***What's happening in the Wider World in 2010***

**Thursday-Wednesday 20-26 May** Church of Scotland General Assembly, Edinburgh

**Saturday 5 June** Diocesan Celebration of Lay Ministry at Holy Trinity, Ayr.

Lunch at noon, service 1.15pm. (Re-licensing of Eucharistic Assistants)

**Thursday - Saturday 10-12 June** Scottish Episcopal General Synod, Edinburgh

**Sunday 1 - Saturday 14 August** Glen'10 (Youth Camp) Glenalmond College, Perth

## **WILTSE REQUIEM REPEAT PERFORMANCE**

### ***Carl Wiltse***

Our St John's Choir and the Newton Stewart Singers are joining forces to perform a repeat performance of my Requiem, which was given its UK premiere at St John's a year ago. This year's performance will take place at Penninghame Church in Newton Stewart on Saturday, 29 May at 7.00pm (note earlier time). Admission will be £5, which will offset the expenses of producing the concert. The mezzo soprano soloist will again be Marion Ramsay from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. Organist will be Nigel Mearns, a well-known area performer. If you missed last year's concert, or want to hear the work again, this is your chance. The two choirs will also be performing short songs and anthems individually. The concert is expected to last about an hour and a quarter. Speak to either Jamie Brand or Carl Wiltse if you wish any further details.



Caring for seafarers  
around the world

## **The Revd Canon Robin Underhill and Mrs Eve Preece**

On 24th March the usual 10.30am Communion Service at St John's took on a somewhat nautical air, as people locally and from much further afield gathered to celebrate the work of Robin Underhill and his wife, Eve Preece. Robin had retired at the end of February after six years as Secretary to the Scottish Council of the Mission to Seafarers, in which role he had been significantly supported by his wife.

Bishop Elect Gregor, who presided at the Eucharist, read out a letter of thanks to Robin and Eve from the Primus, who was unable to be present. Other eulogies and presentations were given by Commander Jim McRae, the Mission to Seafarers' Director of Development in Scotland; the Revd Tom Heffer, Secretary General to the Mission to Seafarers; Captain Jim Middleton, on behalf of the Merchant Navy Welfare Board; and the Very Revd Richard Kilgour, Provost of St Andrew's Cathedral, Aberdeen.

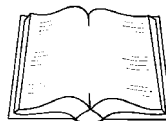
Mr Kilgour put the icing on the cake when, on behalf of the Cathedral Chapter, he invited Robin Underhill to become an Honorary Canon. Robin, who had already voiced his thanks for previous eulogies and the presentations of various certificates, expressed his surprise and delight at this honour, and said that he hastened to accept before they changed their minds!

The service was followed by refreshments in the hall, especially welcome to all those who had travelled a long way to be present.

The Mission to Seafarers, Scotland, thanked the Rector and congregation for their hospitality in providing for this celebration.

*John Walker*

## The Register



### Baptisms

3rd April

Stephanie & Rachael GRIER

### Admission to Communion

3rd April

Stephanie & Rachael GRIER  
Ellis McKIE

### Funerals

4th February

Doreen PICKERING

12th February

Rose MORLEY

9th March

Edward BREESE

14th April

Isabelle SLINGO

16th April

Ann BOREHAM

## Dumfries and Galloway Arts Festival (21st~30th May)

*Lindsay Florey*

This year the Arts Festival is holding two events in St George's Church, Dumfries. The first at 7.30pm on Saturday 22 May is a truly inspirational evening in the company of the pianist, Derek Paravicini. Although severely learning impaired and blind, Derek is able to inspire and move all those who hear him. Derek recently featured on television and has performed internationally. This will be an inspiring and uplifting evening.

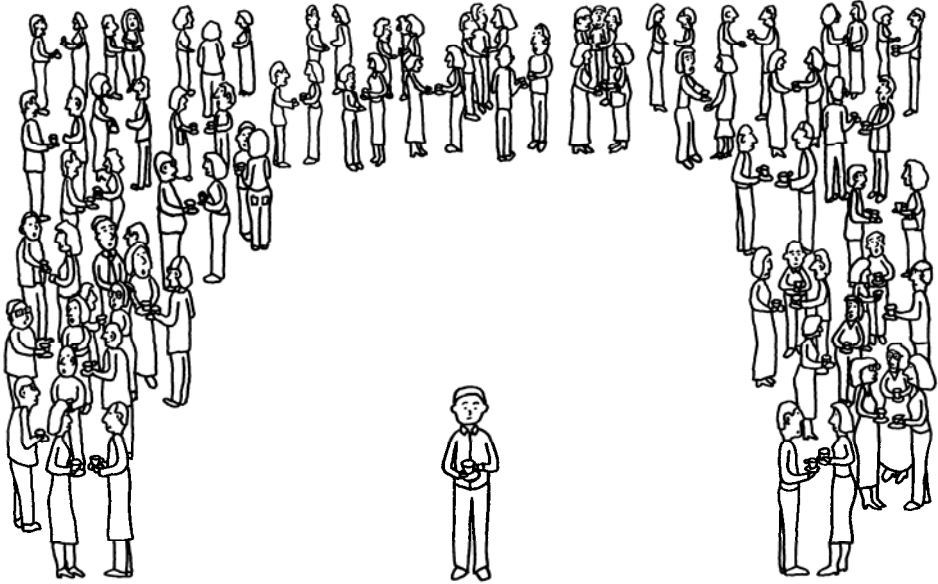
The second event 'Italy comes to Dumfries' stars 3 Italian tenors and the Parma Brass Quintet. This is on Saturday 29th May at 7.30pm and will be an evening of music from opera to ragtime. There will be music for all tastes, young and old.

Information and tickets for these and the other events are available from the Midsteeple, Dumfries, 01387 253383 or [www.dgartsfestival.org.uk](http://www.dgartsfestival.org.uk)

*Lindsay comments that she considers this to be spiritual care in a non-religious sense, and that all who attend will come away feeling the better for it.*

# AFTER-SERVICE COFFEE

THIS IS THE TIME WHEN NEWCOMERS CAN GET TO KNOW THE CONGREGATION



*This CartoonChurch.com cartoon by Dave Walker originally appeared in the Church Times.*

Something to ponder on, even as we smile, now that the coffee rota has been resumed.

## DOOR OF HEAVEN

An exasperated mother, whose son was always getting into mischief, finally asked him, "How do you expect to get into heaven?"

The boy thought it over and said, "Well, I'll just run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the door until St Peter says 'For Heaven's sake, Dylan, come in or stay out!'"



# FAIR TRADE NEWS

Sandra Watson



Fairtrade Fortnight 2010 was a very busy but enjoyable time for the Dumfries Fairtrade Group, and I hope many of you saw the picture of the 'Flask Mob' in the Standard and the Courier which highlighted Rosie Rutherford's excellent press release. The winner of our Schools Poster competition was Ruaridh McRoberts from Troqueer Primary School, and the winner of our Teaword Quiz was Gus Birkbeck.

The aim of the Dumfries Fairtrade Group is to promote Dumfries as a fair trade town. To gain Fairtrade Town Status recognised by the Fairtrade Foundation we must achieve five goals:

**Goal 1:** *have the support of the local /regional council*

Dumfries & Galloway Council passed a resolution to support fair trade early in our campaign.

**Goal 2:** *produce a directory of shops and cafés selling fair trade goods*

Our group gathered together the information and the Council gave us a grant towards the cost of producing the directory. We also received financial support from the Co-operative Foodstore in this respect. Copies of the directory are available on the information table at the back of church.

**Goal 3:** *produce a list (& add to the directory) of workplaces, educational establishments, places of worship etc. that provide fair trade goods for their staff/members (see below)*

**Goal 4:** *media coverage*

We have established a working relationship with local media representatives and our events are covered by the Standard, Courier and on local radio.

**Goal 5:** *establish a steering group to ensure that all goals are maintained*

The membership of this group will be made up of representatives from a variety of interested parties e.g. our Fairtrade Group, the council, local businesses, schools, churches, etc.

We are currently working on Goal 3. We have a list of the Fairtrade churches in Dumfries (including St John's), and are gathering information regarding fair trade schools etc. We need **your** help to find local businesses that use fair trade products. Does your place of work provide refreshments? Do they (or would they) use fair trade goods? Does any place of business you use e.g. hairdresser, where you are offered refreshments, use fair trade goods? All businesses using fair trade goods will be listed in future directories - great publicity.

Dunscore was the first Fairtrade Village in Dumfries & Galloway, and Wigtown has achieved all 5 goals and is a Fairtrade town. With your help Dumfries will also become a Fairtrade town. Groups in Castle Douglas and Kirkcudbright are working towards Fairtrade status, and when enough towns and villages achieve this, Dumfries & Galloway can apply to become a Fairtrade Zone.

## NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN AID



*Margaret Morton*

The Christian Aid roadshow came to Dumfries on 13th April, and we heard from Kathy Galloway and her colleagues about work in Kenya, to help people living in slums to improve their sanitation and thus their whole quality of life. I particularly enjoyed hearing the thoughts of some of the younger staff who had visited there.

Which brings me to Christian Aid Week---please don't stop reading! It runs from the 9th-15th May and we do need as many volunteer collectors as possible. The more the merrier and the less work!! Across the UK the house to house collection raises about £12million. £30 will pay 1 month's salary for a sanitation cleaner in Kenya, who will ensure good hygiene standards and therefore healthier living for the people in that area, so the good that can come from a couple of evenings' work is enormous.

Please contact me, Margaret Morton (01387 262734), if you can help.

## LIBRARY NEWS

*Winifred Wilson*

The church library is expanding fast into the new shelves, with several interesting donations received recently.

At the moment there is a display of books on the theme of resurrection and new life, to follow on from the Lent studies.

An item which has been missing for some time is Jean Maxwell's *Centenary book of St John's, Dumfries*. Fortunately, another copy has been kindly donated by the estate of the late Bessie Brown, but it would be good to have two copies of this important, now out-of-print book, so if you have it, would you please return it to the library shelves.

### Genesis and politicians

A surgeon, an architect and a politician were arguing as to whose profession was the oldest. Said the surgeon: "Eve was made from Adam's rib, and that surely was a surgical operation."

"Maybe," said the architect, "but prior to that, order was created out of chaos, and that was an architectural job."

"But you forget," interrupted the politician, "somebody had created the chaos first!"



# MOTHERS' UNION

Margaret Bone



The Feb/March lunchtime meetings were very diverse. In February we had Graham Barrie talking about the meaning and benefits of "Tai Chi". To members' surprise we found ourselves taking part in a series of exercises followed by some very peaceful relaxation techniques. Everybody enjoyed the afternoon and a few members expressed interest in carrying on with the experience by attending classes.

The March speaker was Pat Duncan telling us about "Mercy Ships". These are former ferry boats kitted out as floating hospitals and visiting deprived areas of the world. The ship Pat spoke about was based off the west coast of Africa (Liberia). The ships are staffed by volunteers, and a lot of the equipment used is defunct NHS. There are mini operating theatres on the ship, and clinics are run on land. Huge support services are required to run the services on board the boats, e.g. as many as 400 people needing to be catered for in the dining room. Lizanne thanked Mrs Duncan for a very interesting and informative talk.

There will be the usual Eucharist service held on the first Thursday of the month at 2.30pm followed by tea in the hall. For details of lunchtime meetings and speakers please see "Dates for your Diary" in the magazine.

Some special dates for the MU diary:

**Saturday 15th May 11am.** The festival service will take place at Ayr. Commissioning of new Diocesan President and secretary.

**Thursday 24th June 10.30am-4pm.**

General meeting, Guild hall, Preston, £8 per ticket.

Details will be given at branch meetings.

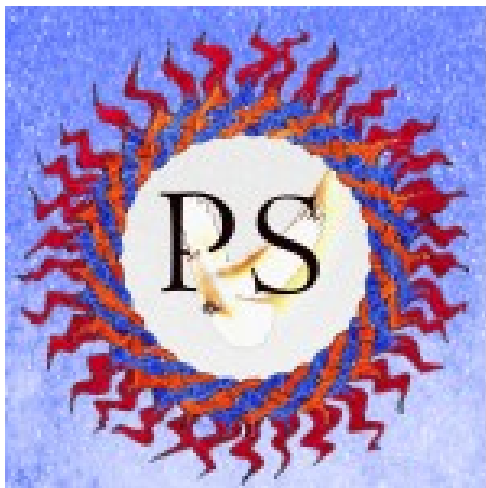
Finally, the summer outing will be held in June, date and venue to be confirmed, details at meetings.

We extend a warm welcome to anyone wishing to attend any of our meetings.

## Faith in Older People

On Thursday 27th May there will be a conference about "The Spiritual Journey and Well-being in Old Age." This takes place in the Rutherford-McCowan Building on the Crichton University Campus in Dumfries, from 9.30am to 3.30pm. The cost is £35 per person, and lunch will be provided.

Further information is available from Faith in Older People, 0131-346-7981, or by email to [info@fiop.org.uk](mailto:info@fiop.org.uk)



**PS ...**

**A GATHERING TO CELEBRATE  
THE CHRISTIAN FESTIVAL OF  
PENTECOST**

**FREE ENTRY**

**SUNDAY 23RD OF MAY**

**2.30 UNTIL 7.30**

**BARONY COLLEGE**

**PARKGATE**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**PHONE 01387 820 245**

**[www.dumfrieschurches.org.uk/ps](http://www.dumfrieschurches.org.uk/ps)**

## **A Gathering for the Whole of Dumfries and Galloway**

50 days after Easter Sunday, Christians remember the day the Holy Spirit filled a whole house with a noise like the blowing of a violent wind from heaven and what seemed to be tongues of fire settled on those who were praying.

Christians from across the whole of the region and from many different denominations are getting together to use arts, crafts, music, drama, dance and more to explore the meaning of this festival.

Everyone is invited – people of faith and people of no faith, the young and the old, the serious and the lighthearted!

The event will take place at The Barony College, Parkgate, Dumfries, DG1 3NE, on Sunday 23rd May. The afternoon programme starts at 2.30 and contains a wide range of activities including painting, making things, space to pray, music workshops, dance and drama, poetry writing, prayer for healing, a labyrinth, and more.

In the evening, the activities will be drawn together in a praise service at 6pm, celebrating the day by incorporating some of the afternoon workshops in the service.

For more information visit the Dumfries Christian Network's website's PS page at [www.dumfrieschurches.org.uk/ps](http://www.dumfrieschurches.org.uk/ps)

If you would like to go and need transport, please leave a message on the Transport Booking Line (07754 596140), or email [transport@stjohnsdumfries.org](mailto:transport@stjohnsdumfries.org) or contact the Church Office (07908 046284).

*Carol Finlay and Simon & Kate Lidwell are all involved with the planning group for the day, which is being organised by the Church of Scotland with the help of Dumfries Christian Network which involves the other denominations in the town.*



A reminder that “the flowers that bloom in the spring” arrived just in time to enable the Easter Cross to be decorated as usual this year.