

			
(1 <sup>st</sup> in month) Sunday, 06/03/2022 1 <sup>st</sup> in Lent	08.00	1970 Holy Communion (Church)	Please book (07572 006290) by 16.00 on Fri, if possible
	11.00	1982 Family Eucharist (Church); Godly Play (Hall); refreshments afterwards (Hall)	Please book (07572 006290) by 16.00 on Fri, if possible
	14.00	Zoom Coffee	07487 653069 for joining details
	18.00	Choral Evensong (Church)	Please book (07572 006290) by 16.00 on Fri, if possible
	Any time*	Service online	<a href="http://www.stjohnsdumfries.org">www.stjohnsdumfries.org</a> *Available on website from about same time as actual event & for some days thereafter
Major electrical works this week: scheduled services/events should be unaffected, but there may be some power outages etc. at other times. Please check with Church Office for details. Thank you for your forbearance.			
Monday, 07/03/2022	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
Tuesday, 08/03/2022	18.30	1982 Eucharist (Lady Chapel)	Please book (07572 006290) by 16.00 on Monday, if possible
	Any time*	Meditation online	<a href="http://www.stjohnsdumfries.org">www.stjohnsdumfries.org</a> *Available on website from about same time as actual event & for some days thereafter
	19.15	Short Mat Bowling (Sep-Mar) (Hall)	Just turn up
Wednesday 09/03/2022	10.30	1970 Eucharist (Church), followed by refreshments (Hall)	Please book (07572 006290) by 16.00 on Monday, if possible
	18.30	Choir Practice (Hall)	
Thursday, 10/03/2022	09.30-12.00	Bear Fest Meeting (Hall)	
	19.30	Bell Practice (Tower)	Please contact <a href="mailto:bells@stjohnsdumfries.org">bells@stjohnsdumfries.org</a> or 07754 596140 if not a regular.
Friday, 11/03/2022	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
Saturday, 12/03/2022	09.30	Silent Prayer @ Elshields	<a href="mailto:revann@stjohnsdumfries.org">revann@stjohnsdumfries.org</a> for details
(2 <sup>nd</sup> in month) Sunday, 13/03/2022 2 <sup>nd</sup> in Lent	11.00	Methodist Family Eucharist (Church); Godly Play Activity Bags available; refreshments afterwards (Hall)	Please book (07572 006290) by 16.00 on Fri, if possible
	14.00	Zoom Coffee	07487 653069 for joining details
	18.00	Contemporary Worship (Church)	Just turn up
	Any time*	Service online	<a href="http://www.stjohnsdumfries.org">www.stjohnsdumfries.org</a> , *Available on website from about

			same time as actual event & for some days thereafter
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And, as always, if you need us, you can contact

- The Rector on 01387 254126 / 07487 653069  
/ rector@stjohnsdumfries.org

The Church Office on 07754 596140 / pastadmin@stjohnsdumfries.org

**Welcoming and Belonging:** in preparation for the **discussion** over coffee after the I I am service **today, 6th March**. On some yellow A5 fliers, either with this booklet, at the back of the church, or posted on the website & lit noticeboard, is the list of ideas which were put on to the leaves. The Vestry has reviewed them in the light of the changed circumstances we now live in and is suggesting 6 priorities to follow up. The other ideas are also listed and you may wish to amend the priorities or add new ideas. Whether you have been coming to St John's for a long time or have recently joined us please do **stay for coffee on the 6th and share your views** on how we can improve what we do.

*Margaret Morton*  
*Vestry Secretary*

**MU** – at our meeting on 17th March, Mr Colin Hetherington (and canine friends!) will be speaking about Guide Dogs for the Blind. As he is travelling from Paisley, it would be great to have a good turnout of St John's folk to welcome him. Despite its name, MU is an inclusive organisation, supporting families and projects around the world. Anyone is welcome to come along - you do not have to be a mother, married, or even female. We will gather in the Hall from 12.30, with prayers at 12.45 and lunch at 1pm. Due to general Covid restrictions, we are unable to serve soup as we normally do, but please bring your own sandwich lunch, and tea and coffee will be provided. MU members look forward to welcoming you!

**Smalls for All** is a charity supported by **MU**. It provides underwear to enable girls to attend school during their periods, and can help women and girls escape rape and gender-based violence. There is a box at the back of the hall for donations of new black or dark coloured knickers. MU will be grateful for your additional support for this worthy cause.

**Silent Prayer @ Elshields:** *Ann Shukman writes...* Dear Everyone:  
Sincerely hope and pray you are all safe and well. I do believe we are nearing

the end of the Covid restrictions and I feel confident now to suggest that we should be able to restart our gatherings again on a regular basis on the SECOND Saturday of each month, 9.30 to 10.30 as usual.

The radiators in the barn have been fixed, the stove will be on, so there will be some heat, but I will make sure also there is good ventilation! So please keep your anoraks on! We will sit well spaced out. Please wear a mask if you wish. Coffee urn and usual supplies will be on but please bring your own mug. I have been thinking a lot recently of our Lord's command - which we hear every week in church - that we should love our neighbours as ourselves - what are the barriers we put up to protect ourselves? The ill feelings we shore ourselves up with? Can we risk letting them go? Love and blessings from Ann.

**The Big Bethany Sleep Out is Back:** We are delighted to announce the return of the Big Bethany Sleep Out! Join us on Friday the 11th of March either virtually at home, or in-person at the Edinburgh City Chambers. Give up your bed for one night in solidarity with people experiencing homelessness, and help raise funds towards Bethany's life saving work across Scotland.

**Thank You for supporting our Winter Appeal:** *Laura McNamee, Manager of Bethany House had this to share;* "We are really overwhelmed by the amazing and generous gifts from you our Bethany Supporters. This winter has been a challenging time for all the Bethany House residents and the team who are working hard to provide the best possible support. There have been some real heart-breaking moments this winter; however there have also been some beautiful times where we have had the opportunity to play a small part in helping people turn their lives around."

**LENT COURSES:** There are a variety of Lent courses on offer this year, and the Rector is most grateful to all who have kindly agreed to lead. Here are the dates and times of the courses:

- **Monday 7.00pm** Lent Course led by Kay Solaja via Zoom. Contact details 01387 264411 or 07398 814676.
- **Monday 7:00pm** Lent Course led by Simon Lidwell, face to face, begins on 28<sup>th</sup> February with pancakes and sharing spiritual food. Theme- "Tried in the Wilderness." More details are on Quartz tab on St John's website.
- **Tuesday 2:00 pm** Lent Course led by Rev Chris Wren "Lectio Divina"- *Breaking the Word* via Zoom linking with Stranraer and Portpatrick. Contact details 01848 332543 or 07900 006795

- **Tuesday 7:30pm** Lent Course led David Kerr via Zoom. We will be following Michael Baughen's *A Passion for Christ*, available from CWR - <https://www.waverleyabbeyresources.org/product/cover-to-cover-lent-study-guide-a-passion-for-christ/> and no doubt elsewhere also. Contact details 07754 596140 / [pastadmin@stjohnsdumfries.org](mailto:pastadmin@stjohnsdumfries.org)
- **Thursday 7:30pm** Lent course led by Rev Janice Aiton via Zoom. Archbishop Welby's Lenten Book "*Cries for a Lost Homeland*" Reflections on Jesus' sayings from the cross, by Guli Francis-Dehqani. Happy to order books for those coming along. 01387 254126 or 07487653069.
- **Friday 11:00am** Lent course led by Rev Steven Ballard face to face in the church. A five week course beginning 11<sup>th</sup> March, looking at Steven Croft's book, "*Exploring God's Mercy.*" Contact details 07563564695
- **Fridays 12 noon to 2pm** at Elshields The 'I am' sayings of Jesus in St John's gospel. Course led by David Preston. Bring own sandwiches. Coffee provided. Starting Friday 4 March. Please let Ann Shukman ([revann@stjohnsdumfries.org](mailto:revann@stjohnsdumfries.org)) know if you can come.
- If a particular book is used for Lent, we ask you to purchase this via Amazon or some other book shop. Any difficulties in purchasing please do get in touch.

*Christian Aid says...*

Intense conflict in Ukraine is threatening the lives and livelihoods of civilians across the country.

- So far, an estimated 102 [*unfortunately this figure will have increased since CA sent this message*] civilians have been killed with a further 406 [*likewise*] injured - and the true figures could be far higher. Half a million people have fled the country in recent days, and many more have had to leave their homes to escape the fighting.
- Our response:
  - We'll be working with partner organisations in the ACT Alliance (a global faith-based coalition), to offer assistance to Ukraine refugees fleeing deadly violence.
  - So far, 2 of our ACT partners have distributed 28 tonnes of food supplies and other lifesaving essentials to people on the Ukrainian borders.
- Christian Aid was founded in 1945 by British and Irish churches to help refugees after the Second World War. Back then, we worked with partner churches to alleviate suffering by raising the equivalent of £3 million plus in today's money.

- We supported, equipped and enabled partner churches in mainland Europe to provide what people needed. Nearly 80 years later, we are doing the same.
- Act: call on the government to help Ukraine. *There is also a box for retiring collections in aid of relief work in Ukraine at the back of the church. It will be in place this Sunday, and the next two.*

And while we're at it... Dumfries-based charity **MOOL** is also stepping up its efforts in the light of the Ukrainian situation. They can accept blankets, clothing etc (but not household items at the moment) at their premises in the basement of St Andrew's RC Church Hall, Brooke Street; or you can bring things to the Church Office and we'll make sure they're passed on.

Invitation to the **Marking International Women's Day Event 2022** in Dumfries and Galloway which is being held on 11th March 2022 is on the lit noticeboard and the St J's Website.

As most of you will know, **Peter Johnson** is no longer working with us and the Vestry felt it would be nice to express our thanks to him by posting a financial gift, so that he can buy something of his own choice. To that end, there will be a box for your gifts at the back of the church for the next two weeks.

We're very appreciative of the work of the **Holy Dusters**, who regularly clean the church (the hall etc are maintained by a paid cleaner), but we could do with a couple **more volunteers**, many hands making light(er) work! Please don't wait to be invited; we'd love to have you. Good opportunity/excuse to go for coffee/cake afterwards. Usually a Tuesday, but can be by arrangement and it's not a particularly onerous commitment. Speak to Ashley, Margaret, Janice or David.

We're getting some **major electrical work** done in church and hall in the week beginning Monday, 07/03/2022, which, amongst other things, will involve the power being off from time to time. We've provided the electrician with a schedule of the known events, services etc and it is anticipated that operatives will be off site and everything will be 'on' outwith normal working hours, but we all know about the best laid plans of mice and administrators. Please be prepared for some disruption (we hope this will be minimal), particularly, perhaps, to heating schedules, given that the system takes a while to warm up. Also, for 'as and when' activities like flower arranging, there might not always

be power/lights, particularly on the Monday & Tuesday. Thank you in anticipation of your forbearance.

See the additional lit noticeboard at the back of the church (or the St J's website) for details of this year's **Diocesan Lent Appeal**, in aid of **Children in Distress**, a Glasgow-based charity, working in support of children in Romania. This will be a cause particularly close to our hearts, given the connection with our friends in the Romanian Orthodox Congregation, who hold services in St J's on the first Saturday of each month, at which St J's folk (and others) are very welcome. There will be a box for your donations at the back of the church throughout Lent.