

			
(5 th in month) Sunday, 29/05/2022 7 th of Easter	09.30	Matins (Church)	
	11.00	1982 Family Eucharist (Church); Godly Play Activity Bags available; refreshments afterwards (Hall)	
	Any time*	Service online	www.stjohnsdumfries.org . *Available on website from about same time as actual event & for some days thereafter
		No Interweave	
Monday, 30/05/2022	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
	10.30-17.30	UCI Groups (Hall)	
Tuesday, 31/05/2022	17.45	A Time for Meditation (Meeting Room)	
	18.30	1982 Eucharist (Lady Chapel)	Observing the Visit of Mary to Elizabeth
	Any time*	Meditation online	www.stjohnsdumfries.org . *Available on website from about same time as actual event & for some days thereafter
Wednesday, 01/06/2022	10.30	1970 Eucharist (Church), followed by refreshments (Hall)	
	18.30	Choir Practice (Hall)	
Thursday, 02/06/2022	14.00	Mothers' Union Eucharist	None now until September, but see notices below for other MU activities.
	19.30	Bell Practice (Tower)	Please contact bells@stjohnsdumfries.org or 07754 596140 if not a regular.
	20.00	Jubilee: Gardens open & beacon lighting – all welcome(Elshields)	Lifts available: ask Church Office (& see notice below)
Friday, 03/06/2022	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
	16.00	Wedding Rehearsal (Church)	
Saturday, 04/06/2022	10.00	Romanian Orthodox Service	None this week. Postponed till Saturday, 11/06/2022
	14.00	Wedding: Emma Lauder & Michael Fleming (Church)	

			
(1 st in month) Sunday, 05/06/2022 Pentecost	08.00	1970 Holy Communion (Church)	
	11.00	1982 Family Eucharist (Church); Godly Play (Hall); Bring & Share lunch (Hall) & memorabilia exhibition afterwards (Church & Hall)	
	18.00	Evening Service for Queen's Jubilee (Church), sung by the Choir	See posters. This is the last Evensong-type service until September, but see below re Regional Youth Choir concert.
	Any time*	Service online	www.stjohnsdumfries.org *Available on website from about same time as actual event & for some days thereafter

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

Post Covid Arrangements

The common cup was re-introduced a few weeks ago. A few points to make in connection with that.

- Receiving communion at the High Altar involves closer contact with others than we have become accustomed to in church. If you feel that, when moving between your pew and the High Altar, you wish to wear a mask, feel free to do so.
- In any event the Vestry asks that we continue the practice of moving down the centre aisle and back up the appropriate side aisle.
- You are reminded that receiving in one kind, i.e., only the bread, is a valid way of taking communion.
- Dipping your wafer in the wine - known as Intinction - is now once again permitted, for those who wish it. Please be very sure, in that instance, to sanitise your hands thoroughly beforehand.

Finally, the church is now open once again throughout the day (approx. 10.30-16.30) to visitors, and for private prayer and reflection.

New Member of Clergy Team: I am delighted to advise you that the Reverend John McHale, who led our Good Friday talks this year, will be joining us on our clergy team, beginning in June. John has been worshipping with us for about sixteen months on and off, dependent on whether he is needed by the bishop, to cover vacant charges. John's present work commitments restrict his involvement with us in the months of July and August, but thereafter he will be freer to conduct services on Sundays and midweek. John was a Roman Catholic monk for a number of years before teaching music in a Church of England School. His vocation to priesthood was recognised whilst teaching and he went on to Ordination in the Church of England and served for many years as a School Chaplain. We warmly welcome John onto our clergy team, and look forward to serving with him, and wish him every blessing in our midst.
Janice

There is **no MU Eucharist on 2nd June**. However, the **MU Summer Outing** will take place on Thursday 9th June. We will be visiting Ellisland, Robert Burns' farm just outside Dumfries. We will be given a tour of the farm, which will last 1 – 1 ½ hours. We can try to soak up the many poems and songs he wrote there and admire Jean Armour's garden. Afterwards, we will have afternoon tea at nearby Friars' Carse, a beautiful country house hotel on the banks on the Nith, where we will all behave ourselves and not get into an inebriated state, as Rabbie so famously did. The cost for Ellisland and afternoon tea will be £17. Anyone who would like to join us on this outing, should contact Carolynne Sorrell, Kim Tofield or Mary Solley. Please meet at St John's at 1 pm, so that car sharing can be arranged. All welcome.

The **Regional Youth Choir** will have their concert in St John's on Sunday 12th June at 6pm, (this replaces the evening worship that usually takes place on the 2nd Sunday of the month and, as mentioned above, there will be no more Evensong until September).

St John's MU will be celebrating its centenary in November this year. A number of events will take place to mark this - most importantly, a service of Thanksgiving at 11 am on Saturday 19th November (how's that for advance notice?), led by Bishop Kevin and followed by a lunch. Before that, however, we are having **two strawberry teas** this year. One at Jenny and Neale Lawson's home on July 14th, at 2.30 pm and one at Carolynne and Ken Sorrell's home on 21st July at 2.30pm. Twenty tickets are available for each

event costing the grand sum of £2 each. Once they're gone, they're gone!
Further information, and tickets, available from Jenny and Carolynne.

Christian Aid Week: Many thanks to all who gave for the very generous donation of £676.00 for Christian Aid Week. I have had information from Christian Aid saying that, to supplement what can be grown locally, Zimbabwe needs to import both wheat and fertiliser--but much of that comes from Russia. Supplies are likely to be disrupted and domestic food prices increased so the need to help local farmers is intensified.

If you would like to give but have not had the opportunity yet, there are envelopes at the back of church. Please put the donation in the offering or give it to Christopher Pierson-Harvey or myself.

Margaret Morton

There will be an **Open Garden Evening**, with the lighting of a traditional **Jubilee Beacon**, one of a series across the whole country, at **Elshields** from 8pm on **Thursday, 02/06/2022**. Entry is free, but donations towards relief efforts in Ukraine will be gratefully accepted.

- Gardens open from 8 pm
- Beacon lighting at 9.45pm to coincide with national event
- Live music, refreshments
- In aid of Ukrainian charities
- RSVP if possible: please text 07884 256913 or email ann.shukman@icloud.com
- Please bring picnic seating if appropriate

Lifts should be able to be arranged. Ask the Church Office.

Programme of outings. There was insufficient uptake for either of the outings proposed for this month, but we'll try again in July. We need a **minimum of 10 people** (max 15) to make booking the minibus viable and, if you haven't been before, the bus is fully accessible (ie has a lift) and you'd be very welcome to come along. There have been suggestions of going to see the Viking Hoard in Kirkcudbright and there are plenty of other destinations, near (Threave) and far (Alnwick Castle, Dundee V&A...) we could do as well. In the meantime, suggestions of any other destinations welcome.

Thornhill Community Transport and Cairn Valley Community Transport are both participating in **Spring Fling** this year, over the Jubilee weekend, and covering all the studio tours throughout the whole of D&G. See

<https://www.spring-fling.co.uk/whats-on/bus-tours/> for more info and to book. You can also phone 07787 299 487 and book that way. I can provide you with general information about the tours, but I can't take bookings.

David

Use of High and Nave Altars: the Vestry has taken account of the views expressed at the recent Special General Meeting. It was unanimously concluded that to make the receiving of communion accessible to as many people as possible and to respect the sincerely held views of members of the congregation **both** altars would be used regularly; that the High Altar would be used at Christmas and Easter and that the Rector would have discretion, on rare and special occasions, to amend which altar was to be used.

- In summary:
 - the Nave Altar will be used on the 1st and 3rd Sundays
 - the High Altar will be used on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays
 - the High Altar will be used at Christmas and Easter and
 - the Rector has discretion, on rare and special occasions, to amend that pattern.

The Vestry also took account of comments made about the administration of communion in both kinds at the Nave Altar and the need for a **slower pace**. This will be discussed with the Stewards, who will help to facilitate it.

Platinum Jubilee: We are planning to mark the Jubilee with a **bring and share lunch** on Sunday the 5th June together with an exhibition of any memorabilia people may have from the 70 years of the Queen's reign-- coronation mug, card to mark a wedding anniversary or 100th birthday etc. They will be on display in the locked showcases in the War Memorial Chapel. If you have any such items you'd be willing to lend for the display, please speak to Ashley Cross or Margaret Morton.

Bear Fest 7-9 July: we will need **stewards** in both the church and the hall to welcome people coming to the Bear Fest. If you can **help** with this, please will you sign up on the sheet at the back, near the door to the Hall.

The Congregation will be sorry to hear of the death of Bishop Ted Luscombe, long a friend of St J's, on Wednesday, 04/05/2022, at the age of 97. There was a private funeral in Friockheim, but there will be a Memorial Service on **Tuesday, 07/06/2022** at St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee at 11.30am. I don't imagine there will be enough people for the minibus, but, if you're interested in going, please talk to me. We could, at least, hope for better travelling weather than was the case for Bishop John Taylor!

David Kerr

MOOL (Massive Outpouring of Love) tell us...

International Street Food Festival

Thanks to a grant from the New Scots Refugee Integration Delivery Project, we will be running an International Street Food Festival in Dumfries Dock Park on 5th June 2022. We're really excited about the prospect which we hope will showcase all the benefits which our society and area receive from the arrival of people with other cultures, skills and outlooks. In addition to sharing different kinds of food we also want this to be a chance to share other aspects of our cultures. Whether it's music, dance, storytelling or any other part of life, we want to share and celebrate our diversity. If you've got any suggestions skill sharing, please get in touch. If you know anyone who might be able or willing to contribute by sharing a skill from another culture please ask them to get in touch too. <https://www.mool.scot/>

Some of you may be aware that a small Women's Group (the group, not the members!) have been meeting in the Hall on Monday mornings, since the beginning of April. People may have heard of 'Men's Shed', a similar type of men's group, which meets in various small halls and the like, to share and offer skills, support, friendship and the like. The group that meets at St J's is called the Hens' Den and St J's is glad to be able to provide a space for them to meet.

Following a successful funding application, there will now be **three** groups (a men's group and an art therapy group, as well as the existing women's group...snappy names, I'm assured, to follow) meeting, all on a Monday, for 2 hours each, from 10.30am until about 17.30, from 30/06/2022 onwards. This is a 'double win', as we are able to welcome new people into our premises...and the groups will also be making a contribution, in consideration of the use of the hall. Please bear in mind, though, that it puts the main Hall out of action on Mondays during the day, though there would be no objection to using the toilets, kitchen, flower cupboard and Choir Vestry. The groups may very occasionally be using the kitchen for more than just teas & coffees, but we'll try to provide advance warning of that. If you expect this to cause you, or your group, a difficulty, please talk to me, and we'll try to find a way round it.

What this points up, however, is that we need to create some space in the hall basement, for them to store equipment, materials etc. There is an enormous amount of material down there; some of it probably no longer needed, but, if you, or any group you're associated with, have 'stuff' down there, please would you start thinking about what we need to keep, and what can be disposed of. It doesn't mean that 'everything must go'; I'll approach all the people I can

think of before disposing of anything and you can, of course, arrange to come and look before deciding, but we do need to make a start on this quite soon.

David

Minutes from the SGM about the use of Nave and High Altars are available at the back of the Church.

Margaret Morton